



ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Sacred Space for Your Busy Life

Sunday, November 27, 2016, the First Sunday in Advent

We especially welcome visitors and newcomers today. Please fill out the newcomer card in the pew and place it in the collection plate or give it to a member of the clergy. Following the service, the clergy will be standing near the doors to greet you. We encourage you to join us for coffee hour in Duncan Hall. For more information about St. Paul's, please visit www.StPaulsSanRafael.org or call our office at 415.456.4842.

At St. Paul's we are all called to follow Jesus together in worship, prayer and service.

WORSHIP

The service begins on page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP)

Prelude	No Longer Settled	Kimberly Williams
Opening Hymn	56 vs. 1, 3, 8	Hymnal
Gloria	S-86 <i>(S)ervice music found in front of hymnal</i>	Hymnal
Psalm	122	BCP p. 779
Gradual	S-247	Hymnal
Te Deum	S-286	Hymnal
Prayers of the People	Form VI	BCP p. 392
Offertory Hymn	Everywhere I Go	<i>Insert</i>

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome to receive initiation into the church through the sacrament of baptism.

Eucharistic Prayer B		BCP p. 367
Sanctus	S-130	Hymnal
Fraction Anthem	S-161	Hymnal
Communion Hymn	The Song of the Supper	<i>Insert</i>
Closing Hymn	Stay Awake, Be Ready	<i>Insert</i>
Postlude	Some Children See Him	Alfred Burt

The Altar Flowers are given by Wm. Elliott to the glory of God
and in loving memory of his father, Wm. Oswald Elliott.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Anne's Christmas Lunch is at noon on Thursday, December 8th in Duncan Hall. Our parish friends are all invited to come and enjoy our party.

The O Antiphons are an ancient practice for preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. They are each a verse or image from the Old Testament that reveal something about Jesus. They are best known as the verses of the hymn 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel.' Each Sunday until Christmas we will be celebrating a different O Antiphon with a chant and a banner.

St. Paul's Death Row Ministry, instituted more than 20 years ago, currently visits and communicates with seven condemned men. Eight members of the church and one other person are actively involved. One other Episcopal Church, St. Luke's in San Francisco, has expressed interest in collaborating with St. Paul's in the ministry. The next meeting of St. Paul's Death Row Ministry is 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 7 in Duncan Hall. You are welcome to come and see what it's about and if it might be a fit for you.

Gifts for the Homeless. We have two barrels from Ritter Center in Duncan Hall for Christmas presents, one for the homeless and one for teens. There are lists for ideas. We return them December 9th.

Sunday Afternoons have just gotten richer in ministry with the addition of a 5pm Eucharist. This shared ministry of St. Paul's, Redeemer and Nativity is at Nativity.

Re-Finance Your Spirituality. Invest in a 3-Day Weekend of discussion, laughter, music and superlative food. In return you get a lifetime of renewed joy and confidence in the future. Give you faith a chance to blossom and grow:

2017 Men's Cursillo Weekend- March 23-26

2017 Women's Cursillo Weekend- March 30- April 1

Contact Linda Bell for information. 408 373 3537. www.marincursillo.com

SERVING TODAY

Preacher & Celebrant:	The Rev. Christopher Martin
Choirmaster/Organist:	Michael Struck
Acolytes:	Brigitte McCulloch, Ronnie Dodds, Pamela Barnes
Readers:	Brigitte McCulloch, Ronnie Dodds, Kay Blackwill
Altar Guild:	Brigitte McCulloch, Wendy Olson, Judy Rowcliffe, Alex Elliot

CHRISTOPHER'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

Two weeks ago, I made a last minute decision to host conversations about the election after both the 8am and the 10am services. I invited people to gather in the conversation area of St. Paul's to talk about their thoughts and feelings. This was no small thing as we are not in the custom of talking politics together at St. Paul's.

I made the invitation to talk politics because I was finding that almost every group I was in, whether it was a bible study, St. Anne's, or some other gathering, was drawn in that direction anyway. It felt like people needed to process. With encouragement and consideration from Chloe, I then made the invitation. Over 30 people came to the two conversations.

There were two things that I made clear as I hosted the conversations. The first was the importance of everyone using "I" statements. This wasn't a political analysis as much as a sharing of perspectives and feelings. The second was to share my belief that, as Anglican Christians, we have in our culture a very powerful ability to be civilized, which I understand in a specific way. I believe to be civilized is to be capable of standing in the sometimes uncomfortable tension between truth and reconciliation. We claim and give voice to our truth and at the same time listen to the truths of others and strive to be in reconciled relationship with them.

Both conversations were deep, honest and respectful. As I anticipated, there were Democrats, Republicans and Independents, and a wide range of views and experiences that were expressed. There were times that felt tense, but always in a healthy, potentially creative way. In short, I was proud of us.

I hope that this is the beginning of something new. Our world needs civilized voices, respectfully advocating different points of view, and staying in strong relationship. I believe these are among the fruits of the Spirit at St. Paul's.

Blessings,
Christopher

PRAYER

Arty	Gina	Lokita	Roger Titus
Bill Tate	Grace Michael	Mika Kappen & Family	Rosa Montes
Cathy	Jennifer Fritz	Nancy S (surgery 9/6)	Ruth Orovich
Chuck Sisemore	Kairos Inside San Quentin	Peter	Sandy G
Dan Pollart & Family	Laurel	Phyllis	Syrian Refugees
Deborah	Lisa R	Rainie Joses	The Rev. Stefani Schatz

SERVICE

Teen Success Breakfast: Serve hot breakfast to at-risk youth. Contact Beverly Armstrong at 415.454.4015 or nevbev@sbcglobal.net.

San Rafael Health Care: Services 1st and 3rd Sundays, 11:00 – 11:25. Help us with the simple service. Children are welcome. Contact Sue Adamson at 415.461.1798.

Prison Ministry: St. Paul's has been engaged in regular visitations and correspondence for 20 years with Joseph Cook, a death row inmate at San Quentin who was confirmed by Bishop Swing as a member of our Church. The prison ministry has grown and the rector and other parishioners are now visiting Joe and six other inmates. For further info contact Richard Olive (415.259.9198 or ollipops@comcast.net).

ONGOING

Plate Cash: 1st Sunday of the month goes to the Rector's Discretionary Fund; 3rd Sunday goes to Outreach.

Childcare: Sundays from 9:30 to 11:00am, childcare is available in the Basement Level classroom.

Children's Choir. Rehearsals on Friday afternoon and some Sundays. Contact Alison Blume at alisonblume@comcast.net

Marin Episcopal Youth Group: Sundays from 5-6:30pm at Church of the Nativity in San Rafael. Middle and high school students from 5 Marin churches. Daniel London, youth minister, daniel.london@gmail.com.

Centering Prayer: Meditation in the Christian tradition. Join us in Duncan Hall on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, 7:00-8:30 pm. Leave a message for Chris Olson at the parish office at 415.456.4842.

Our Spiritual Core: Discipleship Groups are the spiritual core of St. Paul's because they are where we encourage one another to follow Jesus in worship, prayer, and service. Contact Judy Rowcliffe at 415.606.4355 or jlrowcliffe@comcast.net.

Altar Flower Dedications: Looking for a way to honor a loved one, give thanks or remember a special occasion? You can by dedicating the flowers at the altar. A donation of \$40 is suggested. Contact Alex Elliot at 415.488.7930.

Memorial Wall Plaques: Contact the office if you would like to purchase a plaque to be inscribed with the name of a loved one who has died.

St. Anne's Guild: St. Anne's Guild meets Thursdays at 11:00am. All are invited - bring a bag lunch.

Facebook & Twitter. Please like and follow us to join the fun!

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulssanrafael>, <https://twitter.com/StPaulsSR>