



ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Sacred Space for Your Busy Life

Sunday, December 2, 2018, 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	Adagio	Matthew Camidge
Opening Hymn	57	Hymnal
Kyrie	S-91 <i>(Service music found in front of hymnal)</i>	Hymnal
Psalm	25:1-9	BCP p. 614
Gradual	S-247	Hymnal
Prayers of the People	Form VI	BCP p. 392
Offertory Anthem	Turn thine eyes of mercy upon us	Joseph Haydn
Doxology	<i>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen</i>	

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion. If you would like to receive a blessing, cross your arms across your chest when you are at the altar rail. 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-114	Hymnal
Fraction Anthem	S-158	Hymnal
Communion Hymn	61	Hymnal
Closing Hymn	616	Hymnal
Postlude	Gavotta	Matthew Camidge

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

O Antiphons continue. These short, ancient prayers, which are texts from Isaiah that foreshadow Jesus, mark the Sundays leading up to Christmas. Today we call Jesus Adonai, Lord of Lords.

Sunday Book Study. Today a convivial group of curious minds are starting a book discussion of *Living Buddha, Living Christ*, a classic bestseller by poet, Zen master and mystic, Thich Nhat Hanh. All are invited to join us in the Upper Room of Duncan Hall, between 11:30 and 12:30, immediately following the coffee hour.

Christmas Services are 5pm and 10:30pm on Christmas Eve and 10am on Christmas morning. The service is followed by a pot luck Feast in Duncan Hall hosted but the Martins, who provide a ham.

Christmas Caroling. On Sunday, December 16th all are invited to sing at the San Rafael Health Care Center 1601 5th Avenue starting at 11:30am.

St. Paul's 101 is a class that answers your questions about St. Paul's, the Episcopal Church and the Christian faith. The class will meet weekly starting on Sunday, January 13th at 11:30am in the Downing Library.

New College of Christian Practice Winter Session begins on Saturday, January 19th at 8:30am. The focus will be on doing the work God has given you to do with gladness and singleness heart.

Christmas Flowers. If you would like to have flowers given in memory of someone you love, please contact Alex Elliot at isaiah24257@gmail.com or 415 488 7930. There is no specific dollar amount required for the flowers. If paying by check, please either send your check by mail or bring it in on a Sunday and put in the offering plate. Please note what it is for and have all Christmas Flower donations in by Sunday, December 16th.

Christmas Gifts for Ritter Center. There is a bin in the Narthex. Please be generous with those in need.

Kairos 52 in San Quentin. Tom Witt will be leading an ecumenical team of 50+ volunteers into San Quentin this coming President's Day weekend. If anyone from St. Paul's would like to attend the Closing Ceremony on Monday evening, Feb. 18th (5-8 pm), please speak with Tom or Jim Ward for more details. Clearance requests need to be submitted by Dec. 7th.

Annual Stewardship Campaign. Stewardship pledge cards have been sent to all homes and are available at church. Please fill one out with the amount you intend to give to St. Paul's in 2019 so that the Vestry can create an accurate budget. You can mail the card in or put it in the offering plate.

SERVING TODAY

Preacher & Celebrant:	The Rev. Kirsten Snow-Spalding
Choirmaster/Organist:	Michael Struck
Acolytes:	Jacob Moody, Eric Guastavino, Pamela Barnes
Readers:	Jacob Moody, Eric Guastavino, Carolyn Welcome
Ushers:	Eric Guastavino, Don Smith
Altar Guild:	Michael Green, Linda Danford, Katie Taggart, Jane Santucci

CHRISTOPHER'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

NOISE!

On Sunday, Brigitte and Tanner offer a half-hour long service centered in silence at 8am. They will also be offering a sumptuous coffee hour following it. It will be a one time opportunity to worship in a slightly different way in our sacred space.

Last week I wrote that our two services at 8am and 10am were driven by, respectively, silence and music. I was drawn to that observation by a passage in CS Lewis' great book, *The Screwtape Letters*. In that book, an elder Demon writes letters of advice to a younger Demon. Here's the passage. See if it strikes a chord with you...

"Music and silence- how I detest them both! How thankful we should be that ever since Our Father entered Hell- though longer ago than humans, reckoning in light years, could express- no square inch of infernal space and no amount of infernal time has been surrendered to either of those abominable forces, but all has been occupied by Noise- Noise, the grand dynamism, the audible expression of all that is exultant, ruthless, and virile- Noise which alone defends us from silly qualms, despairing scruples and impossible desires. We will make the whole universe a noise in the end. We have already made great strides in this direction as regards the Earth."

Lewis wrote those words in 1942. The world has only gotten noisier since. Come Sunday at 8am and strike a strong stance for the Holy beauty of silence.

At the 10am service, my colleague the Rev. Kirsten Snow-Spalding will be leading and preaching. I will be leading the 10am service at Redeemer and the Rev. Jim Ward will be leading services at Nativity. This is simply one of our occasional pulpit swaps to continue nurturing connections among our northern Marin Episcopal parishes.

Blessings,
Christopher

REGULAR PRAYER AND STUDY - OPEN TO ALL

Spiritual Forum	Sundays at 9am in Duncan Hall
Book Group	Sundays at 11:30am in the Upper Room
Centering Prayer Group	2nd and 4th Sundays at 7pm in Duncan Hall
Morning Prayer	Tuesdays at 7:30am in the Church
Bible Study	Wednesdays at 10am in Duncan Hall

WHO'S WHO AT ST. PAUL'S

The Governing Board (called the Vestry)

Pierce Gore (Senior Warden), Walter Tanner (Junior Warden), Ginny Horton, Janie Burtch (Secretary), Buzz Wollam, Libby Silvesteria, John Schaver, Alison Blume, Meg Gorman, Tom Witt and Michael Welcome

Campus Care Steve Avanzino, Keatin Holly, Pat Curtis, David Hardin, Eric Guastavino and Larry Santucci

Finances Holly Pritchard, Lorrie Buggatto and John McDermott

Music Michael Struck

Acolytes and Readers	Dawn Rice
Ushers	Gary Towery and Larry Santucci
Altar Guild	Judy Rowcliffe
Altar Flowers	Alex Elliot

Children's Ministry	Kati Dombrosky
Youth Group	David Hardin

Downing Library	Tom Witt
Epistle (Monthly Newsletter)	Chloe Martin
Service Bulletins and Centering Prayer	Chris Olson
St. Anne's	Alice King
Monthly Book Group and St. Paul's History	Joy Moss

Death Row Ministry	Richard Olive
Teen Success Breakfast	Ginny Horton
San Rafael Health Care Worship	Sue Adamson
St. Monnica's Mutual Housing Community	Jacob Moody and Kati Dombrosky

PRAYER LIST

Abby	Cathy Westover	Laura Gordon	Olivia Monforte
Andrey	Gabriella Montes	Mark Hardin	Paradise Survivors
Anna, Marie & Donnie	Jayne F	Mary Lou	Sandy & Herbert
Beverly B	Kappen Family	Mike R	Tara
Caravan in Mexico	Larry W & Family	Miriam	Wendy & Family