



THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

CHURCH OF ST. PAUL & THE REDEEMER

DECEMBER 17, 2023 | 10:00 AM

You are welcome here.

A Little About St. Paul & the Redeemer

What kind of church is this?

St. Paul & the Redeemer (SPR) is a community that seeks to mirror the radical hospitality practiced by Jesus, holding together a progressive outlook and a rootedness in the Christian faith. We are woven of different races, economic statuses, cultural backgrounds, faith backgrounds, gender identities, and sexual orientations, and we are strengthened and enriched by each person's story and voice.

Let's Get Connected

Welcome! If you are new, tell us about yourself and get connected to what's happening at St. Paul & the Redeemer.



Scan the code or visit sprchicago.org/new to complete a *Let's Get Connected* form.

Children & Youth at SPR

KidZone (Nursery), Sundays, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Professionally staffed nursery care is available for children ages 1-4 in our KidZone, located down the southwest stairs. Changing tables are in the downstairs restrooms and the KidZone.

Children's Chapel, Sundays during sermon

During the sermon at the 10:00 service, children from preschool to second grade are invited to a special liturgy in the children's chapel, featuring songs and a Bible story.

Christian Formation

From September through May, we welcome all ages to join our formation (Christian education) gatherings, downstairs from 11:05 to 11:50 AM. See the back of the bulletin for more information about today's offerings.

- Godly Play: Preschool to grade 2
- Junior Youth Group: Grades 3 to 5
- Youth Group: Grades 6 to 12
- Adult Formation: Teens and adults

High-school youth are welcome to attend either youth group or adult formation.

SPR's Anti-Racism Vision Statement

We strive to become a beloved community that reflects on our own racial identities and recognizes racism and privilege in our church and society; works for justice by building relationships and sustained efforts to heal, reconcile, and seek Christ in each other; and acts to interrupt and dismantle white supremacist structures, transforming ourselves and our church to become a living embodiment of justice and peace.

Bulletin Rubrics

Throughout the bulletin, the congregation is invited to say all **bolded** text aloud. There are also times when it is customary to make the sign of the cross by touching your forehead, chest, left shoulder, and right shoulder. If you wish to do so, the + indicates that.

Giving to SPR

Every dollar you give to SPR goes toward our ministry to and with our community.



You may place cash or a check in the offering plate, give online at sprchicago.org/give-online or scan this code. Thank you so much for your support of our church!

Music Copyright

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About the Cover Artwork

"Advent candles with fir twigs," by Stefan Grau.



Welcome to Advent.

What Is Advent?

Advent is a four-week season of preparation for Christmas. At a time when secular culture pushes us to rush, spend, and consume, Advent is the church's invitation to slow down and simplify. One may take up a new practice during Advent, like daily prayer, Scripture reflection, or a service project, in order to find new grounding in the life of God. Or one may make an intentional choice to give something up—perhaps giving up guilt over the inevitable failure to make Christmas “perfect,” a certain holiday tradition that has become more burdensome than joyful, or an old grudge that has ceased to be protective and is now causing more pain than the original offense. If you would like guidance about how you might observe this Advent, talk to our rector, Catherine Healy (healy@sprchicago.org), or our associate rector, Barnabas Pusnur (pusnur@sprchicago.org).

Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath has four candles, one for each week in Advent: weeks one, two, and four are purple, to remind us of the solemnity of the season, and week three is pink, to remind us that Advent is also a time of joy. Each Sunday of Advent, we will begin our worship by lighting the Advent wreath. You are also invited to light your own Advent wreath for a daily or weekly devotional at home. For a set of Advent wreath supplies you can take home, please contact our director of children's formation, Lindsey Strieter (lstriete@gmail.com).

Advent Music

When looking through a hymnal, you might ask yourself, “Why are there separate ‘Advent’ and ‘Christmas’ sections? (And why are seemingly all these Advent hymns in minor keys?)” Advent music gives voice to the yearning, longing, and waiting in hope of the season. The predominantly minor keys convey that sense of a promise yet unfulfilled. During a time when we are inundated with “Jingle Bells” and up-beat songs about snowmen and reindeers, the music of Advent is a tangible way to be present in *this* season of anticipation. Each season has its own vibration, and there is value in marking the sights and sounds of each: it makes “Joy to the World” that much more meaningful on Christmas Eve, when we embark on the different and unique season of Christmas.

THE WORD OF GOD

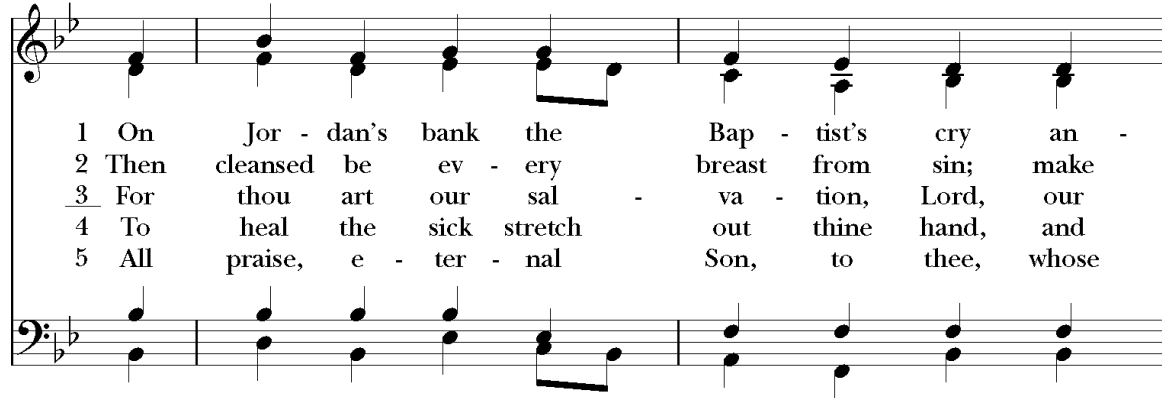
Prelude

Praeludium: *Veni, Emmanuel*


Marilyn Biery (b. 1959).

Entrance Hymn

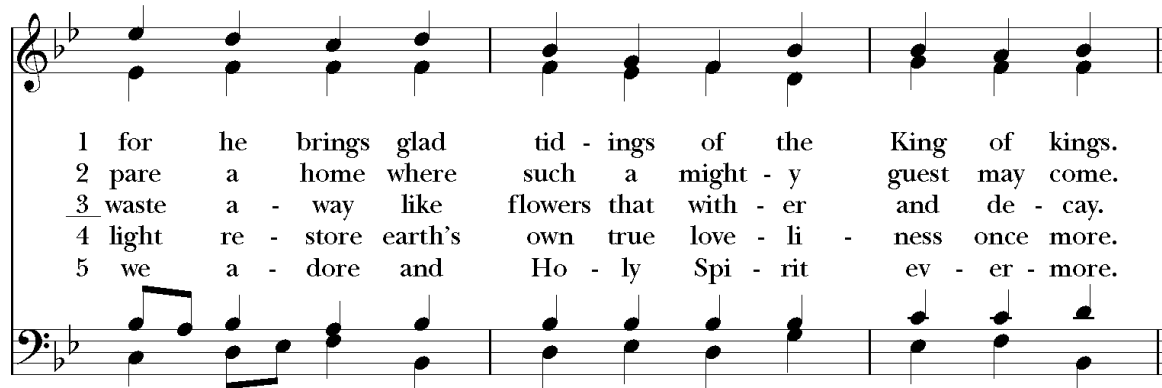
All sing



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose



1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther



1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

The Hymnal 1982 #76 "On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry"

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt.

Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch* 1690; har. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

Welcome

+ Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Mother of us all.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord,

and with great might come among us;

and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins,

let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,

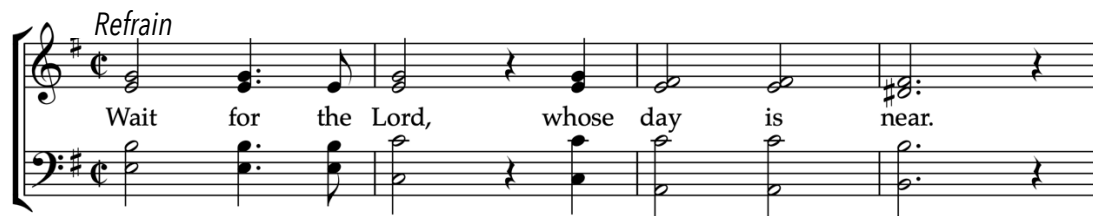
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

(All sing refrain 2x, leader sings verse, refrain sung 4x)

Refrain



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

5



Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart.

Verse



Our eyes are fixed on the Lord our God.

Music from Taizé, Volume 2: "Wait for the Lord"

Words & Music: Jacques Berthier, text after James 5, Psalm 26. Verse: Isaiah 40.

The Lessons

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126 *In convertendo*

Choir intones refrain, congregation joins on the repeat, and all refrains following.

The musical score is written for a choir and congregation. It consists of four staves. The first two staves are for the choir, and the last two are for the congregation. The music is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The lyrics are: "The Lord has done great things for us; we are, we are, we are, we are filled with joy." The word "Refrain" is written above the first staff. The lyrics "we are," are written above the first staff at the beginning and end of the phrase. The lyrics "The Lord has done great things for us;" are written below the first staff. The lyrics "we are," are written below the first staff. The lyrics "we are, we are filled with joy." are written below the second staff. The lyrics "we are," are written below the second staff. The lyrics "we are filled with joy." are written below the second staff.

When the Lord brought back the exiles of Zion,
we thought we were dreaming.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter;
on our tongues, songs of joy. **Refrain.**

Then the nations themselves said,
"What great deeds the Lord worked for them!"
What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad. **Refrain.**

Bring back our exiles, O Lord,
as streams in the south.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **Refrain.**

They go out, they go out, full of tears,
bearing seed for them sowing;
They come back, they come back with a song,
bearing their sheaves. **Refrain.**

Psalm 126: Refrain: *Lectionary for Mass, verses, The Revised Grail Psalms.*
Music: Refrain: M. Roger Holland, II, verses: Psalm Ton 8-G, acc., Richard Proulx.

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

All sing.



Lift Every Voice and Sing II #6 "Christ is coming: prepare the way"

Words & Music: Edward V. Bonnemere (1921-1996), adapt. *Advent Jazz Vespers II*.

Gospel Reading

At the + below, you are invited to trace a cross over your forehead, your mouth, and your heart.

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Mark 1:1-8

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Children's Chapel

Children in preschool to second grade are invited to attend their own liturgy in the chapel, led by Music Assistant Megan Cather. Participants under age 3 are encouraged to bring a parent. The children will return to the main service at the peace.

Sermon

Today's Preacher: The Rev. Barnabas Pusnur, Associate Rector

Apostles' Creed

Please stand as able.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

+ the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

May our voices crying out to you in prayer be filled with both joy and repentance.

God of hope, help us hold fast to the discipline of joy, even when the trials of life threaten to destroy or diminish it.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of peace, we pray for an end to violence and strife everywhere, looking forward to the day when the good news we proclaim this Advent season liberates all your suffering people.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of faith, guide us through the trials and tribulations of this life, giving wisdom and compassion to our leaders and reminding us when we fear we have lost the path that we can always find you at work amongst the lowly and downtrodden.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of joy, be with all those celebrating birthdays, including **Vance** Lauderdale (12/17), **Lori** Petrie (12/18),

Anna Mary Wallace (12/18), **Clara** Christensen (12/19), **Nick** Foster (12/20), **Vincenzo** Cappello (12/21),

Raoul Mowatt (12/21), and **Michelle** Agina (12/23), and those celebrating anniversaries, including **Hannah &**

Tayo Adegoke (12/17) and **Barbra** Goering & **Jim** Murray (12/18).

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of comfort, we remember all for whom this Advent season brings fresh pain and sorrow and those who are struggling with pain and illness, praying for your healing presence to comfort **Pamela** Anderson, **Helen**

Johnson, **Brenda** Kilpatrick, **Jennifer** Penn, **Cindy** Askins (mother of Jonathan Foiles), **Brenden** Jones (godson

of Cecilia Mowatt), **Becky** Newman (sister of Mary Naftzger), **Penny** Piantedosi (sister of Val Tonsgard), **Alarra** Tozin (friend of Twila Jones), and all those on our prayer list.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of life, we remember our beloved dead and look forward to our resurrection hope, remembering especially **Nancy** Bergstresser, sister-in-law of Ruth Woll, 11/29/2023), **Phillip** Woll (brother of Bruce Woll, 12/20/2004), **Royce** McKinney (father of Romonda McKinney, 12/20/2019), **Betty** Cotton (great-aunt of Twila Jones, 12/21/22), **Lee Flora** Tolbert (mother of Cheryl Vanorsby, 12/22/15), **Mary Lou** Wiggins (mother of Ellen Wiggins, 12/23/2016):

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

I Invite you to offer your own prayers and thanksgivings, ending each with "Lord, in your mercy."

God who baptizes us in your Holy Spirit, make straight our walks of life with the image of your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Prayers written by Jonathan Foiles.

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

God of all mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, + forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

You are invited to greet those around you with the words "Peace be with you." Some announcements will be given; there's much more to find out in the front and back pages of this bulletin.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

Sung by the Choir.

<i>Gaudete, gaudete!</i>	Rejoice, rejoice!
<i>Christus est natus</i>	Christ is born
<i>Ex Maria virgine,</i>	Of the Virgin Mary-
<i>Gaudete!</i>	Rejoice!
<i>Tempus adest gratiæ</i>	The time of grace has come-
<i>Hoc quod optabamus,</i>	What we have wished for;
<i>Carmina lætitiæ</i>	Songs of joy
<i>Devote reddamus.</i>	Let us give back faithfully.
<i>Deus homo factus est</i>	God has become man,
<i>Natura mirante,</i>	With nature marvelling,
<i>Mundus renovatus est</i>	The world has been renewed
<i>A Christo regnante.</i>	By the reigning Christ.
<i>Ezechielis porta</i>	The closed gate of Ezekiel
<i>Clausa pertransitur,</i>	Is passed through,
<i>Unde lux est orta</i>	Whence the light is risen;
<i>Salus invenitur.</i>	Salvation has been found.
<i>Ergo nostra contio</i>	Therefore, let our assembly
<i>Psallat iam in lustro;</i>	Now sing in brightness
<i>Benedicat Domino:</i>	Let it bless the Lord:
<i>Salus Regi nostro.</i>	Greetings to our King.

"Gaudete"

Words: Piae Cantiones (1582).

Music: Traditional, arr. Philip Lawson (b. 1957).

The Great Thanksgiving

All stand as the offering is brought to the altar.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

The Presider adds a proper preface.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.

All sing.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed are those who come in the name of the Lord.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Text Source: Revised Order of Mass 2010.

Music: *Missa Emmanuel*, Richard Proulx, French Franciscan chant, 15th c.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the Creator of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Book of Common Prayer, 1979, Eucharistic Prayer A.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

All sing, as indicated.

Leader sings.

1. Je - sus, wis - dom and might - - ty Lord:
 2. Je - sus, true branch of Jes - - se's tree: } you
 3. Key of Da - vid and Day - spring from on high: }

1. 2. *All sing.*

take a - way the sins_ of the world, have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.

3. *All sing.*

world, grant us_ peace_ grant us_ peace.

Text Source: Revised Order of Mass 2010.

Music: *Missa Emmanuel*, Richard Proulx. French Franciscan chant, 15th c.; Kyrie based on *Kyrie cum jubilo*, Mass IX.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All, without exception, are invited to receive communion. If you would like to receive communion at your seat, please let the ushers know. If you want gluten-free bread, tell the communion minister. If you would like a blessing in place of communion, cross your arms over your chest.

No matter whether or how you choose to receive the Eucharist, may this time in the service be one of contemplation and prayer, enabling you to draw nearer to the quiet presence of God.

Communion Music

All sing.

1 What is the cry - ing at Jor - dan? Who
 2 Who then shall stir in this dark - ness, pre -
 3 Lord, give us grace to a - wake us, to
 4 Now comes the day of sal - va - tion, in

hears, O God, the_ pro - phe - cy? Dark is the
 pare for joy in the win - ter night? Mor - tal in
 see the branch that be - gins to bloom; in great hu -
 joy and ter - ror the Word is born! God gives him -

sea - son, dark our hearts and shut_ to mys - ter - y.
 dark - ness we lie down, blind - heart - ed, see - ing no light.
 mi - li - ty is hid all heaven in a lit - tle room.
 self in - to our lives; O let_ sal - va - tion dawn!

Hymnal 1982 #69 "What is the crying at Jordan?"

Words: Carol Christopher Drake (b. 1933), alt.

Music: St. Mark's, Berkeley, Irish melody from *Danta De: Hymns to God, Ancient and Modern*; harm. Norman Mealy (1923-1987).

All sing.

1. Come now O Prince of Peace, make us one bo - dy,
2. Come now, O God of love, make us one bo - dy,
3. Come now and set us free, O God, our Sa - viour,
4. Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bo - dy,

come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile your peo - ple.
come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile your peo - ple.
come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile all na - tions.
come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile all na - tions.

Wonder Love and Praise #795 "Come now, O Prince of Peace"

Words: Geonyong Lee, para. Marion Pope, alt.

Music: O-so-so, Geonyong Lee.

Sending Forth

Please stand as able.

Let us pray.

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Presider blesses the people.

+ May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Mother of us all, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Source: Book of Occasional Services 2018, Advent Blessing.

All sing.

1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown -ing of — the year.
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant ed there:
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
 4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
 5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life — to earth.

Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set — the ta - ble.
 give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that — in course the flow'r may flour ish.
 E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ing time - has cho - sen.
 shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun — and moon to - geth - er.
 Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on — the way.
 Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on — the way.
 Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on — the way.
 Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on — the way.
 Peo - ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on — the way.

Wonder, Love, and Praise #724 "People, look east"

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965).

Music: *Besançon Carol*, harm. John L. Hooker (b. 1944); harm John L. Hooker.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Fantasy: *Veni, Emmanuel*

Marilyn Biery (b. 1959).



Coming Up at SPR

Exhibition: Crèches from Around the World

Throughout Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, SPR is hosting a global crèche exhibit in the Byllesby Room. Visit the exhibit through **Sunday, January 7**.

Open Kitchen

Open Kitchen has resumed, and it needs volunteers in order to continue. Join the Open Kitchen crew this **Sunday, December 17, at 12:00 PM** in the kitchen to cook up a hearty stew for the meal program housed at Kenwood UCC. If you can help, contact Fran Spaltro (pambasilea@gmail.com). Upcoming dates: January 14, February 18, March 17, & April 14.

Holiday Gift Fair Thanks

This special event on December 2 & 3 raised **\$3,000 for SPR's new migrant support ministry!** Thank you to all the planners, workers, donors, and shoppers, with special thanks to the SPR Faith in Action Team. Raffle winners should contact Bob Bator (rbator@aol.com): Hannah Adegoke, Jason Evans, Kim Hart, Sandy Mulholland, and Margaret Schmid.

Christmas Eve Pop-Up Choir

For our **5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service**, everyone is welcome to sing in the choir! We will meet at 3:45 PM to learn an anthem and some service music, with no additional rehearsals needed.

KidZone/Nursery Unstaffed on December 24 & 31

The KidZone will be unstaffed on Sundays, December 24 & 31. Adults are welcome to visit the nursery space with their children, and children are welcome in the sanctuary for worship.

Children & Youth on Break: December 24 & 31

There will be no children's chapel (during the 10:00 AM service) or children's/youth formation (after the service) on December 24 & 31. All children's & youth ministries will resume on January 7.

Christmas Eve Pageant

Our Christmas Eve pageant will be on **Sunday, December 24, at the 5:00 PM service**. To volunteer or sign your children up (we still have room for sheep and angels), contact director Megan Cather (cather@sprchicago.org).

Vestry Nominations

SPR's vestry is the lay governing board of the church, which manages our resources and shapes our mission. In 2024, we will elect 3 new members. To nominate yourself or another SPR member for the vestry slate, contact Rev. Catherine Healy (healy@sprchicago.org).

20s/30s Gift Swap

Members in their 20s and 30s are invited to join us on **Sunday, January 7, after the 10:00 service** in the Byllesby room for a White Elephant gift swap and hangout. For the White Elephant, bring a wrapped fun/goofy gift, around \$5. Contact Julia (mcmillan013@gmail.com) with any questions.

Save the Date: Black History Month Guest Michelle Duster

On **Sunday, February 18, at 9:00 AM** in the parish hall, we will welcome author and Ida B. Wells descendant Michelle Duster to speak on the legacy of Black women in U.S. History. Invite your friends to this important event, sponsored by the 8:00 AM Black History Month team.

Adult Formation on Break: December 24 & 31, January 7

Adult Formation is on a **holiday hiatus until Sunday, January 14**, when we will welcome composer/conductor Marques Garrett to talk about his work editing *The Oxford Anthology of Choral Music by Black Composers*.

Job Opportunity: Sexton @ SPR (12-15 hrs/week)

Do you know someone who would be a great fit for building management and maintenance at SPR? Contact the Rev. Catherine Healy: healy@sprchicago.org.

Coffee Hour Hosts

Bring a treat to share for coffee hour after the 10:00 service! Sign up at tinyurl.com/SPRCoffee10.



Music at SPR

About This Week's Music

Today's **prelude** and **postlude** come from a diptych by the composer/organist Marilyn Biery. An active hymn writer as well as concertizing organist and church musician, she earned degrees in organ performance from Northwestern University and a doctorate from University of Minnesota. She currently lives outside Detroit, and is the editor of the "Concert Organ Music" series with Morningstar Publishing. The **offertory anthem** aligns with the traditional Third Sunday of Advent, known as "Gaudete Sunday," which focuses on rejoicing in the Lord during a season that otherwise focuses on the anticipation of Christ's birth. This arrangement of a traditional Renaissance carol is by Philip Lawson, and 18-year member of the famed King's Singers.

Save the Date: Residency with Marques Garrett

Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, January 13 and Sunday January 14**, when we welcome guest composer and conductor Marques Garrett to SPR. Marques is the editor of the *Oxford Book of Choral Music by Black Composers*, and will be in residency to teach many anthems from the anthology as part of a community-wide event at SPR, and will lead our music in our Sunday worship, in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend. For more information, and to register for the event, please visit www.sprchicago.org/garrett.

Calling All Instrumentalists

Do you or your child play a musical instrument? Our Christmas Eve services feature an extended prelude of instrumental music of all kinds, at both our 5PM and 8PM worship services. Expertise levels of all kinds playing repertoire of all varieties are encouraged to reach out to Mark Bilyeu (bilyeu@sprchicago.org).

Winter Concert at Shoesmith

The congregation is invited to the Winter Concert at Shoesmith Elementary School on **Thursday, December 21, from 1:40-2:40pm.**

Music Fund Giving

Thank you to all those who have contributed to the SPR Music Fund since All Saints' Sunday 2023!

Cynthia & Kirk Bagrowski

In thanksgiving for SPR's music program

Sara & Ken Bigger

In memory of Rich Brennan, Megan Cummins, Chris Gamwell, & Chance Sawyer

Connie Bonbrest

Josef M. Carr, Jr.

In thanksgiving for and memory of Josef M. Carr, Sr.

Megan & Jason Cather

In thanksgiving for this beautiful music and in memory of Ruth Shegrud

Thomas & Clara Christensen

In memory of Jeff Heatley

Toni Daniels & Tim Murray

John Easton & Sem Sutter

Hyacinth Evans

In thanksgiving for great music

Barbra Goering & Jim Murray

Naomi R. Haynes

In memory of Lonnie U. Haynes, Jr.

Anthony Mitchell

Rahsaan & Alyce Morris

Mary & Bob Naftzger

In thanksgiving for the many years I (Mary) enjoyed singing in the SPR choir

Wendy & Bill Olmsted

In thanksgiving for music

John Omoworare & John Adewoye

In thanksgiving for the gift of life and in memory of our deceased parents

Cathy Pilkington

Celia Paris & Randall McAuley

Jack & Lucille Wehner

Ruth & Bruce Woll



Advent & Christmas at SPR

Holiday Gift Fair: Saturday, December 2, 11:15AM-3:00PM, Sunday, December 3, 11:15AM-2:00PM

All are invited to come and shop a selection of new and nearly-new gifts, alongside artwork, crafts, event tickets, and more. Funds raised go to support the SPR Migrant/Refugee Ministry.

Advent Wreath Making: Sunday, December 3, 11:05AM

All are invited to gather in the Parish Hall following our 10:00AM worship to create an Advent wreath for your home.

Advent Lessons & Carols (SPR): Sunday, December 10, 5:00 PM

The combined choirs of St. Mary's Episcopal Church and SPR will host a traditional service of lessons and carols.

Christmas Caroling: Thursday, December 14, 5:30 PM

All ages are invited to carol around the neighborhood and return to church for pizza and fellowship afterward.

Blue Advent Service: Friday, December 15, 7:30 PM

All are invited to attend a quiet service in the chapel to hold space for grief, lament, and hope as Christmas approaches.

Youth Group Christmas Party: Saturday, December 16, 5:00 – 8:00PM

All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to share dinner, a gift exchange, and a Christmas celebration.

Advent 4 Worship: Sunday, December 24, 8:00 & 10:00AM

We will celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent with two services of Holy Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:00 AM.

Christmas Eve Worship: Sunday, December 24, 5:00 & 8:00 PM

5:00PM Service

Join us for a family service at 5:00 PM, where our youngest members will re-tell the Christmas story.

(To join the pageant cast, email Megan Cather: cather@sprchicago.org).

If you'd like to join the Christmas Eve Pop-Up Choir, meet in the Parish Hall at 3:45PM.

8:00PM Service

Join us for a choral Eucharist at 8:00 PM, with instrumental music beginning at 8:30.

(To volunteer to offer instrumental music for the prelude, email Mark Bilyeu: bilyeu@sprchicago.org).

Christmas Day Worship: Monday, December 25, 10:00 AM

On Christmas Day, we will have one service of Holy Eucharist at 10:00 AM, with celebratory Christmas music.

Sunday, December 31, 8:00 & 10:00 AM

We will celebrate the first Sunday after Christmas with our usual two services of Holy Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:00 AM.

Serving Today

December 10, 2023 | 10:00 AM

Presider: The Rev. Catherine Healy
Preacher: The Rev. Barnabas Pusnur
Deacon: The Rev. Jack Seymour
Music Leader: Mark Bilyeu
Children's Chapel Leader: Lindsey Strieter
Advent Candle Lighters: The Paris-McAuley Family
Lectors: Steven Heyman, Eva Nielsen
Intercessor: Doug Hoffman
Chalice Ministers: Esther Foiles, John Adewoye, Peggy Johnson
Acolyte: Andrew Rostan
Ushers: Chinyere Agina, Mike Agina
Livestream: Matthew Erlec
Linen Washer: Jan Underwood
Altar Guild: Twila Jones
Vestry Greeter: Andrew Rostan
Communion Bread Baker: Alicia Chipman

Staff

The Rev. Catherine E. Healy, *Rector*
The Rev. Barnabas E. Pusnur, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Jack Seymour, *Deacon*
Mark Bilyeu, *Director of Music*
Megan Cather, *Children's Music Assistant*
Lindsey Strieter, *Director of Children's Formation*
The Rev. Roger Ferlo, *Priest Associate*
The Rev. KJ Oh, *Priest Associate*
Savannah Hegyi, Wesley Krist, Ian Murrell, & Ariana Strahl, *Staff Singers*
Sabrina Foster, Ashley Lanfair, & Patricia Lanfair, *Nursery Teachers*
Tony George, *Interim Sexton*

Vestry

Twila Jones, <i>Warden</i>	Frances Spaltro, <i>Warden</i>
Baiju Markose, <i>Clerk</i>	Tayo Adegoke, <i>Treasurer</i>
Nicholas Bellomy	Joshua Daniel
Jason Evans	Jonathan Foiles
Anne Harlan	Vicky Legge
Rebecca Luttrell	Andrew Rostan
Celia Paris	

Get Involved at SPR

Learn more about our ministries inside and outside the church walls at sprchicago.org, or contact a ministry leader to get started!

Connection (Education & Fellowship)

Children's Formation (grades PK-5) | Lindsey Strieter (lstriete@gmail.com)
Youth Formation (grades 6-12) | Jen Jackson (jenniferjeanjackson@gmail.com)
Adult Formation | Rev. Barnabas Pusnur (pusnur@sprchicago.org)
Thursday Bible Study | Anna Mary Wallace (amawallace29@gmail.com)
Women's Retreat | Toni Daniels (antoinettedaniels421@gmail.com)
Coffee Hour Fellowship | Cynthia Bagrowski (cbagrowski@gmail.com)
Life Groups | Rev. Barnabas Pusnur (pusnur@sprchicago.org)

Creation (Music, Arts & Worship)

St. Nicholas Choir (grades PK-2) | Megan Cather (cather@sprchicago.org)
Choristers (grades 3-8) | Mark Bilyeu (bilyeu@sprchicago.org)
Adult Choir | Mark Bilyeu (bilyeu@sprchicago.org)
Arts Committee | Carolyn Pereira (pereira1700@yahoo.com)
Worship Ministries | Rev. Barnabas Pusnur (pusnur@sprchicago.org)

Community (Service & Outreach)

Food Pantry | Rev. Catherine Healy (healy@sprchicago.org)
Open Kitchen | Fran Spaltro (pambasilea@gmail.com)
Food Garden | Mel Parks (mellemel83@yahoo.com)
Anti-Racism Working Group | Sara Bigger (sarafaganbigger@gmail.com)
Faith in Action Team | Brianna Kuramitsu (brianna.kuramitsu@gmail.com)
Migrant/Refugee Ministry | Bob Bator (rbator@gmail.com) & Jason Evans (jasoncoryevans@gmail.com)
Haiti Partnership | Gail Williams (gwilli8787@gmail.com)
Shoemith School Partnership | Carolyn Pereira (pereira1700@yahoo.com)