



John the Baptist preaching in the desert, Jesus Mafa

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15, 2019 | 9:15 & 11:15 AM

You Are Welcome

A Little About St. Paul & the Redeemer

What Kind of Church Is This?

St. Paul & the Redeemer 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. SPR honors both faith and doubt, bringing together our highest hopes and our deepest fears.

SPR Anti-Racism Vision Statement

To mirror the radical hospitality practiced by Jesus and be true to our baptismal covenant, 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.

Let's Get Connected

Fill out one of these cards, which you can find in the backs of the chairs and drop it in the offering basket or give it to a member of the clergy.

OR

Stop by the Welcome Table, which is near the west entrance to the church.

AND

Check-in and follow SPR on social media: [facebook.com/sprchicago](https://www.facebook.com/sprchicago) and [@sprchicago](https://twitter.com/sprchicago)



Children's Formation

Nursery, 9:00a-12:30p | Professionally staffed nursery care is available during the services for children ages 0-4. The nursery is down the southwest stairs. Changing tables are in the downstairs restrooms and the nursery.

Children's Chapel, 9:30a-9:45a | During the sermon at the 9:15 service, children from **preschool to second grade** are invited to a special liturgy in the children's chapel, featuring songs and a Bible story.

Godly Play 10:20a-11:05a | Children in preschool through fifth grade are invited to Godly Play **today, December 15, at 10:20am**. We will be telling the Advent story. Children are invited to join Godly Play at any time during the year. To learn more about volunteering with Godly Play, contact director of children's formation Cynthia Bagrowski (bagrowski@sprchicago.org).

Some Helpful Things to Know Today

Can I receive communion?

Yes. Everyone, without exception, is invited to receive communion.

When am I supposed to stand?

At any point in the service, it's perfectly fine for you to remain seated as you're comfortable. We do have customary times when we stand or kneel; these are indicated by the italicized instructions throughout the service. There are also times when it is customary to cross ourselves, and if you wish to do so, the + indicates that.

Are children welcome here?

Yes. Children are invited to participate actively in the service. Also, coloring pages, crayons, and books are at the entrances to the church. Nursery care is available.

Where are the restrooms?

There are single-user, gender-neutral restrooms down the southwest stairs and also through the northeast door of the sanctuary.

Is there wheelchair accessibility?

Yes. An accessible restroom is through the northeast door of the sanctuary. There is an elevator which gives access to the first floor, lower level, and parish hall. Everyone is invited to remain seated at any point during the service, as needed.

How about hearing assistance?

We can help there, too. Hearing-assistance devices are available from the ushers.

Youth Formation

Youth Formation, 10:20-11:05am | In Youth Formation, we gather for 45 minutes to enjoy donuts and discussion. We've pondered questions like "Is God male?"; "Did God write the Bible?"; and "What is the real meaning of Christmas?" Join us today, December 15, for the last youth formation of 2019.

Youth Group, 5-7pm | Today, **December 15, from 5 to 7pm** youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for a white elephant gift exchange party. For more information, contact director of youth formation Liz Koerner (koerner@sprchicago.org).

Cover Image: JESUS MAFA. John the Baptist preaching in the desert, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48386> [retrieved December 3, 2019]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

Welcome

+ Blessed are you, holy and living One.
You come to your people and set them free.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Members of the congregation will be invited forward to light the Advent wreath.

Blessed are you, Holy God, just and true,
to you be praise and glory for ever!
Of old you spoke by the mouth of your prophets,
but in our days you speak through your Son,
whom you have appointed the heir of all things.
Grant us your people to walk in his light,
that we may be found ready and watching
when he comes again in glory;
for you are our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Source: The Promise of His Glory: Services and Prayers for the Season from All Saints to Candlemas, Church House Publishing, 1993

All sing three times.

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

*The Hymnal 1982, Service Music #102 The Holy Eucharist, Holy God: Trisagion
Music: Ver. Hymnal 1982, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924)*

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.

The Lessons

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools,
shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

@9:15 only. St. Nicholas choir sings.

That boychild of Mary
Was born in a stable,
a manger his cradle in Bethlehem.

What shall we call Him,
Child of the manger?
What name is given in Bethlehem?

His name is Jesus,
God ever with us,

God given for us in Bethlehem.
How can He save us,
How can He help us,
Born here among us in Bethlehem?

Gift of the Father,
To human mother,
Makes Him our brother in Bethlehem.

Words: Luke 2:7; Tom Colvin (1925-2000)
Music: Traditional Malawi melody; adapt. Tom Colvin.

@11:15 only.

The choir introduces the refrain, which all repeat together. The choir sings the verses. The people join in singing the refrain where indicated.

Psalm 146:4-9

Refrain:



Tell it — out a- mong the na - tions, and say; “Be -hold, he comes, our God and Sa - vior,” hal - le - lu - jah.

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
 whose hope is in the Lord their God;
 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
 who keeps his promise for ever;
 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
 and food to those who hunger. **Refrain**

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
 the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
 The Lord loves the righteous;
 the Lord cares for the stranger;
 he sustains the orphan and widow,
 but frustrates the way of the wicked.
 The Lord shall reign for ever,
 your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
 Hallelujah! **Refrain**

Antiphon text by Howard E. Galley, Jr. © Albert Rockenstein, used by permission.
 Music: Plainsong Tone I.1

A reading from the letter of James.

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able. The choir introduces each line of the chant, which the people then repeat.



Cantor/Choir then All Fine
 Christ — is com-ing: pre - pare the way. — Christ — is com-ing: pre - pare the way. —



Cantor/Choir then All D.C.
 Christ is — com - ing. Christ is — com - ing.

“Christ is coming: prepare the way”

Words & Music: Edward V. Bonnemere (1921-1996), adapt. *Advent Jazz Vespers II*, © Amity Music Corporation, 1475 Gaylord Terrace, Teaneck, NJ 07666. All rights reserved.

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

✚ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Matthew 11:2-11

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Children's Chapel *(@ 9:15 only)*

Children in preschool to second grade are invited to their own liturgy in the chapel. They will return at the peace.

Please be seated.

The Sermon

Today's Preacher: The Rev. Catherine Healy, *Rector*

Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of the church.

All 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.**

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray especially for **Anna** Braucher, **Mary** Johnson (friend of Mary Naftzger), **Willie C.** Spraggins (aunt of Jo Ann Roberts), **Sally** Wolcott and her family, **Eli** Taylor (brother-in-law of Cheryl Vanorsby), **Rock** Sehr, **William** Starnes, Jr. (brother of Pam Anderson), **Cheryl** Vanorsby, A. **Henry** Randall, Jr. (grandfather of Evan Randall), **Sophie** Dillard (granddaughter of Robert and Sheila Bator), **Naomi** Haynes, **George** Whitley, **Sean** Knight (son of Shirley Knight), **Tim** Sehr, **William** Starnes (father of Pam Anderson), **Jewel** Starnes (mother of Pam Anderson), **Leatrice** Mowatt, **Katherine** Beetle Broadway (family of Tonsgards), **Bronwen** O'Wril (sister of Persis Berlekamp), **Chris** Wiley (cousin of Camille Long), and **Barbara** Brown (sister of Crystal Plummer).

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. We remember **Arthur** Shepard Rone (12/16, brother of Ronne Hartfield), **Louise** Bohrer (12/16/2005, mother of Tim Bohrer), **Margaret** Clark (12/16/2011, parishioner), **Phillip** Woll (12/20/2004, brother of Bruce Woll), and **Grace** Pollard (12/21/1999, grandmother of David Farris).

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We joyfully thank you for those celebrating birthdays, including **Vance** Lauderdale (12/17), **Anna** Mary Wallace (12/18), **Clara** Christensen (12/19), **David** Stewart (12/20), and **Caroline** Oldstone-Jackson (12/21); and those celebrating anniversaries, including **Hannah & Tayo** Adegoke (12/17), and **Barbra** Goering & **James** Murray (12/18).

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you": Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where you reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, mother of us all, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Prayers of the People, Form IV.
Requests for prayers can be sent to Barnabas Pusnur at pusnur@sprchicago.org.

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God.

All bow or kneel as able.

**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.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

All greet one another and return to their seats.

Some announcements will be given, but there's much more to find out in the front and back pages of this bulletin.

Rite of Leave-Taking

Please be seated.

Rector: We have been blessed with the presence, prayers, and gifts of The Rev. Brenda Kilpatrick. God calls her to take her leave and engage in new ministries, that the witness she has so generously offered here may be spread elsewhere.

Brenda addresses the congregation.

All stand.

Rector: We give thanks for your time among us, for your gifts and for your accomplishments. Where there has been hurt, let it be forgiven. Where there has been growth and joy, let us be thankful.
Let us pray.

People: **Dear God, be with those who leave and with those who stay;
and grant that all of us, by drawing ever nearer to you,
may always be close to each other in the communion of your saints.
All this we ask in the Name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

Sung by the choir.

St. Paul's School Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Words: Luke 1:46-55 (BCP 1979)

Music: Dorothy Papadakos (b. 1960)

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, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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 power and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the high - est.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

Music: from *Eucharist of the Soul*, Lena McLin (b. 1928)

© 1972 General Words and Music Co., San Diego, CA.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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 Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Eucharistic Prayer B

All sing.



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.

Refrain



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

The Hymnal 1982 #65 "Prepare the way, O Zion"

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999) Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, 76. 76. 77 with Refrain, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt. Words © 1982 Charles P. Price.

Arrangement reprinted in *The Hymnal 1982* from American Lutheran Hymnal, © 1930, by permission of Augsburg Publishing House.

All sing.

1. Hark! the glad sound! the Sa - vior comes, the Sa - vior prom - ised long;
2. He comes, the pris - oners to re - lease in Sa - tan's bond - age held;
3. He comes, the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing soul to cure;
4. Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, thy wel - come shall pro - claim;

let ev - ery heart pre - pare a throne, and ev - ery voice a song,
the gates of brass be - fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
and with the trea - sures of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
and heaven's e - ter - nal ar - ches ring with thy be - lov - ed Name.

The Hymnal 1982 #72 "Hark! the glad sound!"

Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

Music: *Richmond*, CM, melody Thomas Haweis (1734-1820); adapt. Samuel Webbe (1740-1816); harm. *Hymns Ancient and Modern, Revised*, 1950

Sending Forth

Please stand.

Let us pray.

Eternal God,

**you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.**

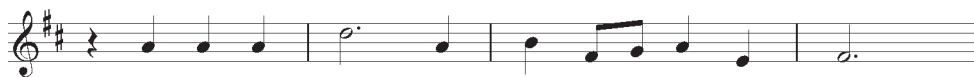
**Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Presider blesses the people. You are invited to cross yourself as the Presider traces a cross over the congregation.

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.**

Book of Occasional Services, Advent blessing, p. 9

All sing.



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!
2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name!
3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!
4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of his word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.



ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord



in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - jice.
his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.
the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

The Hymnal 1982 #438 "Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord"

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary*. Music: Woodlands, 10 10. 10 10, Walter Greatorex (1877-1949), alt.

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Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

COMING UP

Imagining Our Future:

2020 Stewardship Campaign

Every household at SPR is encouraged to make a financial pledge to the church for 2020. Help imagine our future and ensure the long-term health of the parish! Pick up a pledge card in the narthex (foyer), or pledge online at sprchicago.org/giving. **Please pledge by Sunday, December 22.**

Advent Bake Sale

Join us for the SPR Advent bake sale **today after the 9:15 and the 11:15 services**. Please come to buy goodies! All proceeds will go to support the arts at Shoemith Elementary School.

Youth Group Christmas Party

Today, **Sunday, December 15, from 5 to 7pm** youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for a white elephant gift exchange party.

Christmas Ornaments from Haiti on Sale

Jwaye Nwel (Merry Christmas)! On **Sunday, December 15**, after each service, you are invited to shop for Christmas ornaments hand-beaded by women artisans from St. Patrick's, our partner church in Haiti. By purchasing these beautiful items, you will support the artists in their efforts to develop sustainable employment and empower them to invest in their communities.

Longest Night Service with 'The Many'

The holidays are not always joyful. On **Friday, December 20 at 7pm** in the sanctuary, join us for a Christmas service featuring music by indie-folk-gospel band The Many. This service will provide space for grief, lament and hope.

Children's Christmas Pageant Schedule

Today, after 9:15am service/Godly Play: Pageant script hand-out/roles finalized (Byllesby Room)

Thursday, December 19, from 5:30-7pm: Pageant dress rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 22, after 9:15am service: Optional brush-up rehearsal (only kids with lines, who would like help)

Tuesday, December 24, 4pm: Call time for the Christmas Eve pageant

Any questions, volunteering, requests should be directed to Gretchen Eng (eng@sprchicago.org). Please write her with your child/ren's age(s) and name(s) if you would like to participate!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Faith in Action Assembly

Please join the SPR Anti-Racism Working Group in celebration of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy. We are organizing a group to attend the Community Renewal Society's Faith in Action Assembly, which will include worship and a panel discussion with youth from across the Chicagoland area. The event will take place on **Monday, January 20 from 8am to noon** at Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, 2151 W. Washington Boulevard. Childcare will be provided during the assembly for ages three and up. Please sign up in the narthex or by emailing antiracism@sprchicago.org, and indicate if you need a ride and/or childcare.

Partnership with Community Renewal Society

The SPR Vestry and Anti-Racism Working Group are excited to announce our new partnership with the Community Renewal Society (CRS). CRS is a 136-year-old faith-based organization that works to address social justice issues at the intersection of race and poverty at local and state levels. CRS will work with our congregation to create a team of parishioners who are interested in doing action-oriented justice work, in order to complement, strengthen, and focus the energy of our current ministries.

Please look forward to a formation on January 12 at 10:20am to learn more about CRS and what this partnership means for SPR. Please email antiracism@sprchicago.org if you have any questions.

Bird Photo Purchase

The current art show in the chapel will end **today, December 15** so that people who buy the artwork can have it before Christmas. The bird photos can be bought for \$50 each, with proceeds going to the SPR Food Pantry. If you would like to buy one of the remaining photos, please see Tom Irving or Jim Wright, and pick it up from the chapel on December 15. For more information, contact Jim Wright (jimphotoguy1@gmail.com).

SPR Groups and Programs

Please consider joining one of these groups or programs. New participants are always welcome.

Bible Study: Every Thursday, 10-11am in the Byllesby Room. Contact: Kerstin Wellbery (kara.kerstin@gmail.com).

Open Kitchen: The Sunday before the third Monday of each month, 12:30pm in the Kitchen. Contact: Fran Spaltro (pambasilea@gmail.com).

Fiber Arts: Every second Sunday of the month at 12:30pm in the Byllesby Room. Contact: Rebecca Luttrell (southsideknitter@gmail.com).

Arts Committee: Every second Sunday of the month, 12:30pm in the Chapel. Contact: Jim Wright (jimphotoguy1@gmail.com).

20s & 30s Group: Monthly for fellowship. Contact: Julia McMillan (mcmillan013@gmail.com).

50s & Better Group: Monthly for fellowship. Contact: Sheila Bator (sbator@aol.com).

SPR Choirs: All experience levels and newcomers welcome.

St. Nicholas Choir (Kindergarten-2nd grade): Thursday Rehearsal 6-6:30pm. Contact: Gretchen Eng (eng@sprchicago.org).

SPR Choristers (3rd Grade and above): Thursday rehearsal 6-7:30pm. Contact: Christian Clough (clough@sprchicago.org).

Teen & Adult Choirs: Thursday rehearsal 7-8:40pm. Contact Christian Clough (clough@sprchicago.org).

Today's Ministers

Presider

Shawn Evelyn

Preacher

Catherine Healy

Deacons

Jaime Briceño, Brenda Kilpatrick

Music Leader

Christian Clough

St. Nicholas Choir Leader

Gretchen Eng

Acolytes

9:15: Matthew Erlec, Ari Karafiol

Subdeacon

11:15: Mel Parks

Lectors

9:15: Andrew Chipman, Gabriel Lear

11:15: Mary Naftzger, Andrew Rostan

Prayer Reader

9:15: Joshua Daniel

11:15: Claire Hartfield

Children's Chapel Leaders

Cynthia Bagrowski, Gretchen Eng

Chalice Ministers

9:15: Peggy Johnson, John Adewoye, Allison Clark, Meryl Prochaska

11:15: Kenji Kuramitsu, David Farris, Tayo Adegoke, Jim Wright

Healing Prayer Leaders

9:15: Fran Spaltro, Padma Vundi

11:15: Vinita Wright, Shannon Cate

Ushers

9:15: Richelle Stackert, Greg Palmer

11:15: Kevin Baldwin, Mary Naftzger

Vestry Greeter

9:15: Jeff Stackert

11:15: Kerstin Wellbery

Altar Guild

9:15:

11:15: Twila Jones

Linen Washer

Jack Seymour

Communion Bread Baker

Jim Tonsgard

Vestry

Wardens

Romonda McKinney Bumpus
romonda.mckinney@gmail.com

Kirk Bagrowski
kbagrows@gmail.com

Treasurer

Doug Hoffman
treasurer@sprchicago.org

Clerk

Twila Jones

Vestry Class of 2020

Micah Prochaska
Hollis Walker
Sally Wolcott

Vestry Class of 2021

Robert Nordling
Robin Charleston
Kate Baldwin

Vestry Class of 2022

Jeffrey Stackert
Kerstin Wellbery
Jared Beverly

Staff

Rector

The Rev. Catherine E. Healy (healy@sprchicago.org)

Director of Music

Christian M. Clough (clough@sprchicago.org)

Associate Minister for Ministry & Mission

Barnabas E. Pusnur (pusnur@sprchicago.org)

Assistant Priest

The Rev. KJ Oh (oh@sprchicago.org)

Deacon

The Rev. Jack Seymour (jack_seymour2000@yahoo.com)

Priest Associate

The Rev. Roger Ferlo (roger.ferlo@gmail.com)

Priest Associate

The Rev. Shawn Evelyn (shawnevelyn@gmail.com)

Deacon Associate

The Rev. Jaime Briceño (jbriceno@bexleyseabury.edu)

Director of Children's Formation

Cynthia Bagrowski (bagrowski@sprchicago.org)

Director of Youth Formation

Liz Koerner (koerner@sprchicago.org)

Children's Music Assistant

Gretchen R. Eng (eng@sprchicago.org)

Sexton

Lukasz Jedrzejewski (lukasz@sprchicago.org)

Nursery Staff

Jessica Steele, Virginia Woodard

Staff Singers

Bridget Skaggs, Luther Lewis III, Angela Yu



St. Paul & the Redeemer

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