

# SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**Baptism of our Lord**

**First Sunday after the Epiphany**

**January 12, 2025**

**10:30 in the Church**

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker  
Rector

# Welcome to our Church

**WELCOME**

to

## **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

We are delighted you are seeking God in this special place. We want you to know that wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome to ask your questions here.

**Services are available:** Recent services are available on our website:

<https://stpaulwilkesboro.org>

**Newsletters:** Sign-up today to receive our electronic newsletter. Email the church office at

[office@stpaulwilkesboro.org](mailto:office@stpaulwilkesboro.org) to have your name added. If you would like a printed copy of the newsletter mailed, please call the office.

We extend a special thanks today to all that have been so generous with their time and talents in making this service possible.

200 W. Cowles St., P. O. Box 95, Wilkesboro, NC 28697

336-667-4231

[www.stpaulwilkesboro.org](http://www.stpaulwilkesboro.org)

E-mail: [office@stpaulwilkesboro.org](mailto:office@stpaulwilkesboro.org)

**Pastoral Emergency Line: 336-482-6800**

**ONLINE GIVING QR CODE:**



# The Gathering

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

### Processional Hymn #339 Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness

1 Deck thy - self, my soul, with glad - ness, leave the  
2 Sun, who all my life dost bright - en; Light, who  
3 Je - sus, Bread of Life, I pray thee, let me

gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's  
dost my soul en - light - en; Joy, the best that an - y  
glad - ly here o - bey thee; nev - er to my hurt in -

splen - dor, there with joy thy prais - es ren - der  
know - eth; Fount, whence all my be - ing flow - eth;  
vit - ed, be thy love with love re - quit - ed;

un - to him whose grace un - bound - ed hath this  
at thy feet I cry, my Ma - ker, let me  
from this ban - quet let me mea - sure, Lord, how

won - drous ban - quet found - ed - high o'er all the heavens he  
be a fit par - ta - ker of this bless - ed food from  
vast and deep its trea - sure; through the gifts thou here dost

reign - eth, yet to dwell with thee he deign - eth.  
hea - ven, for our good, thy glo - ry, giv - en.  
give me, as thy guest in heaven re - ceive me.

## Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom now and for ever. Amen.**

Presider Let us pray:

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name: through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Gloria S-236

1. Glo - ry to you, \_\_\_\_\_ Lord  
God of our fa - thers; \_\_\_\_\_ you are wor - thy of praise;  
glo - ry to you. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Glo - ry to you \_\_\_\_\_  
\_ for the ra - di - ance of your ho - ly Name; \_\_\_\_\_ we will  
praise you and high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Glo - ry to you \_\_\_\_\_ in the splen - dor of your  
tem - ple; \_\_\_\_\_ on the throne of your ma - jes - ty, glo - ry to  
you. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Glo - ry to you, \_\_\_\_\_ seat - ed bet -  
ween the Cher - u - bim; \_\_\_\_\_ we will praise you and

high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

*Descant*

5. Glo - ry to you, be - hold - ing the

hold - ing the depths; in the high vault of

heaven, 6. Glo - ry to you, Fa - ther,

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit; we will

high - ly ex - alt you Glo - ry to you!  
high - ly ex - alt you for ev - er.

## **The Collect**

Presider The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

*Please be seated*

## **Liturgy of the Word**

### **First Reading**

**Isaiah 43:1-7**

Thus says the LORD,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight,

and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,

nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

I will say to the north, "Give them up,"  
and to the south, "Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth--  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made."

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

## The Response

## Psalm 29

### *Afferte Domino*

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, \*  
**ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.**  
Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's Name; \*  
**worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**  
The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; \*  
**the LORD is upon the mighty waters.**  
The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; \*  
**the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**  
The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; \*  
**the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;**  
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, \*  
**and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**  
The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;  
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; \*  
**the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**  
The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe \*  
**and strips the forests bare.**  
And in the temple of the LORD \*  
**all are crying, "Glory!"**  
The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; \*  
**the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.**  
The LORD shall give strength to his people; \*  
**the LORD shall give the people the blessing of peace.**

## **Second Reading**

**Acts 8:14-17**

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

**Reader** Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

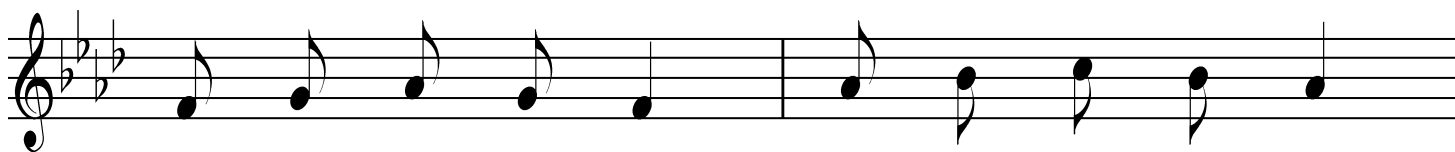
**People** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are most comfortable*



*Please stand as you are most comfortable*

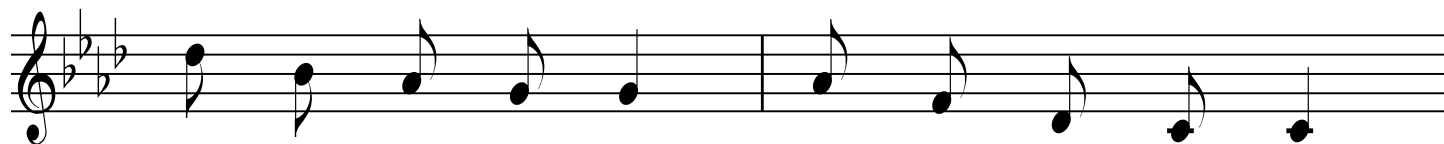
**SEQUENCE HYMN #294 Baptized in Water**



1 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit,  
2 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit,  
3 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spi - rit,



cleansed by the blood of Christ our King:  
dead in the tomb with Christ our King:  
marked with the sign of Christ our King:



heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his prom - ise,  
one with his ris - ing, freed and for - giv - en,  
born of one Fa - ther, we are his chil - dren,



faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Words: Michael Saward (b. 1932), alt. Copyright © 1982, by Jubilate Hymns (admin. by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188.) All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music, Copyright © 1983 David Charles Walker. Music: *Point Loma*, David Charles Walker (b. 1938).

## **The Gospel**

**Luke 3:15-17,21-22**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Presider            The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke

**People            Glory to you, Lord Christ**

*All are seated*

## **The Sermon**

*The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker*

*A time silence following the sermon.*

## Prayers of the People

Leader Let us rejoice in the Mystery of the Incarnation,  
in the Humanity of God,  
in the Wonder of the Word made flesh.

Leader *O Prince of Peace,*

**People Shine in us today.**

Leader Let us rejoice that God is with us,  
a hidden silent presence,  
transforming to gold the leaden rock of earth.

Leader *O Emmanuel,*

**People Shine in us today.**

Leader Let us rejoice that the best name of God is Love,  
a Love that draws us like a magnet,  
that nothing can defeat, neither evil nor pain nor death.

Leader *O Wonderful Counselor,*

**People Shine in us today.**

Leader Let us rejoice in God revealed to us as a baby,  
whose weakness is stronger than our brittle pride,  
whose light shines clearer than our willful blindness.

Leader *O Word made flesh,*

**People Shine in us today.**

Leader Let us rejoice that God has given us one another,  
that we might learn to bear the demands of love.

Leader *O Wonderful counselor,*

**People Shine in us today.**

Leader Let us pray that we have courage to change our lives so that as nations and as individuals we feed the hungry, give dignity to the poor, let the oppressed go free, and welcome the stranger.

Leader *O living Christ,*

**People Shine in us today.**

Leader Let us pray for those in authority among us,  
that they may work for justice and serve the common good.

Leader *O King of Peace,*

**People Shine in us today.**

Leader Let us pray for the peacemakers of the world,  
and all who through their vision and struggle  
seek to make us a unified human family.

Leader *O Son of Man,*

**People Shine in us today.**

Leader Let us remember the lonely and anxious among us,  
the elderly, the unsheltered and the starving,  
the foolish and the despairing,  
the sick at heart and those in pain,  
the dying and those who mourn,  
and those whose hearts are hardened against the love of God.

Leader *O Lord of love,*

**People Shine in us today.**

Leader We pray for our sick in heart, body, or soul.

Leader *O God of healing,*

**People Shine in us today.**

Leader We pray for those who have died and those who grieve.

Leader *O God of Resurrection,*

**People Shine in us today.**

Leader We share our joy and thanksgivings.

Leader *O Lord of the Dance,*

**People Shine in us today.**

Leader Let us pray for those in authority among us,  
that they may work for justice and serve the common good.

Leader *O King of Peace,*

**People Shine in us today.**

Leader Let us pray for the peacemakers of the world,  
and all who through their vision and struggle  
seek to make us a unified human family.

Leader *O Son of Man,*

**People Shine in us today.**

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the foolish and the despairing,  
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Leader *O God of Resurrection,*

**People Shine in us today.**

Leader We share our joy and thanksgivings.

Leader *O Lord of the Dance,*

**People Shine in us today.**

Presider Dear God, our Creator, beloved Companion and Guide upon the Way, Eternal Spirit within us and beyond us: May we honor your name by living lives of costly giving love; let us take action in creating justice and peace among the peoples of the world for the whole world is yours, and you invite us to be partners in the work of your creating.

**Amen.**

**So be it.**

*Please stand and gather as you can at the font*

### **The Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

Presider: Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

**People: I do.**

Presider: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Presider: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People: 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.**

Presider: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People: 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.**

Presider: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread,  
and in the prayers?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Presider: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and  
return to the Lord?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Presider: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Presider: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Presider: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of  
every human being?

**People: I will, with God's help.**

Presider: May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new  
birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins,  
keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

*Remember your Baptism!*

## The Peace

✧ *“The Peace” is a Christian tradition deriving its roots from Jesus himself who greeted people saying, “Peace be with you.” “The Peace” may feel awkward if you are new or an introvert or trying not to be noticed. We take this portion of our worship seriously as we live in a deeply divided world full of violence. These actions in God’s house model what we are called to do in the world.*



Presider            The Peace of Christ be always with you.  
People              **And also with you.**

## Offertory

### Offertory Anthem

### O Light of Light

*(for text, see hymn #133)*

**Cary Ratcliff (20th cent.)**



# The Great Thanksgiving

*Please stand as you are most comfortable*

*Eucharistic Prayer B*

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord.

**People And of thine own have we given thee.**

Presider The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

**People We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider 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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of division and strife, and receive power to become your children.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

*Please stand or kneel as you are able*

Presider *continues*

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 brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died, 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 all 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, reconcile all peoples to your grace and love, and bring us to that heavenly country where with our Patron, Paul, and 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 Breaking of the Bread

### Fraction Anthem S-154

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## The Invitation to Communion

Presider        The gifts of God for the people of God...

**People:**        **God's holy food for God's holy people.**

*This is the table of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you have little, you who have been here often and you have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, for it is the Lord who invites you.*

You will now have three ways to receive communion:

**In one kind**--this means you receive only the bread or only the wine. Receive the bread by extending your hands, palm upward, when the presider comes to you and then leaving the rail or crossing your hands over your chest when the chalice comes to you.

To receive the wine only, cross your hands when the bread is presented and then drink from the chalice by gently assisting the chalice bearer by grasping the base of the chalice lightly to help guide it to your lips.

**Intinction (having the bread dipped in the wine and placed in your hand) is only done by the presider from the intinction tray. To receive communion by intinction simply keep your hands down by your sides as we have been doing. Then raise them to take intincted bread between thumb and forefinger.**

**In two kinds**--this is where you consume both the bread and the wine either by receiving the bread and then drinking from the chalice or by Intinction.

There is no intinction by multiple individuals from the chalice.  
Gluten free wafers available upon request.

**Communion Music**  
**Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness**

*J.S Bach (1685-1750)*

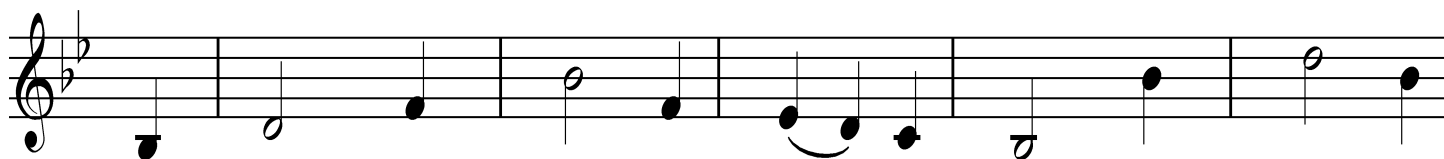
**Post Communion Prayer**

Presider     Let us pray,  
                  **Almighty and everliving God,**  
                  **we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food**  
                  **of the most precious Body and Blood**  
                  **of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;**  
                  **and for assuring us in these holy mysteries**  
                  **that we are living members of the Body of your Son,**  
                  **and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**  
                  **And now, God, send us out**  
                  **to do the work you have given us to do,**  
                  **to love and serve you**  
                  **as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.**  
                  **To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,**  
                  **be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

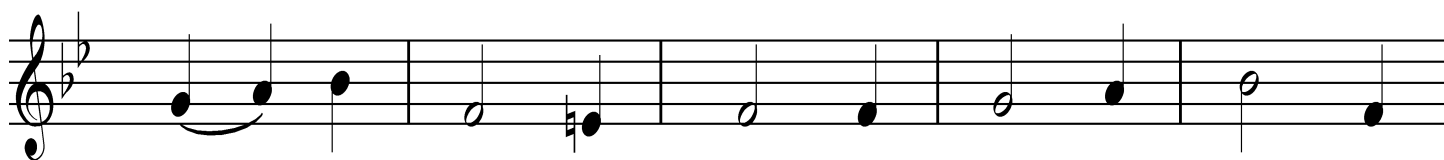
*Please stand or kneel as you are able*

## **The Blessing**

## Recessional Hymn #448 O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high, how pass - ing  
 2 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly  
 3 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his  
 4 For us to wick - ed hands be - trayed, scourged, mocked, in  
 5 For us he rose from death a - gain; for us he  
 6 All glo - ry to our Lord and God for love so



1 thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of  
 2 fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tions  
 3 dai - ly works he wrought: by words and signs and  
 4 pur - ple robe ar - rayed, he bore the shame - ful  
 5 went on high to reign; for us he sent his  
 6 deep, so high, so broad; the Trin - i - ty whom



1 God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake.  
 2 sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er ov - er - threw.  
 3 ac - tions, thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.  
 4 cross and death; for us gave up his dy - ing breath.  
 5 Spi - rit here to guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.  
 6 we a - dore for ev - er and for ev - er - more.

Words: Latin, 15th cent.; tr. Benjamin Webb (1819-1885), alt. Music: *Deus tuorum militum*, from *Antiphoner*, 1753; adapt. *The English Hymnal*, 1906, alt.; harm. after Basil Harwood (1859-1949).

## **Dismissal**

**Presider**      Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

**People**      **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **Postlude**

**Wade in the Water**

*spiritual arrangement*



## PRAYER LIST

*Please remember in your prayers:* All who are ill or unemployed and those who are on our prayer list.

### Short-term

Doug Merritt

### Long-term

Erwin McKenzie, Michael Gamboa, Da'Shon Horton, Kaye Hall, Marianne Beamon, Cathy Welch, Bev Cook, Chris Privette, Dennis Johnson, Jacque Quick, Craig Freas, Mary Iva Gray, Don Dorsten, Aletha Johnson, Hannah Everson, Steve Jackson, Ryan Marlow, Dot Beamon, Ken Asel, Julius Parks & Family

### Armed Forces

Let us pray for the safety of **all our troops**, especially John Craine, Micha Duerk, Faith Lankford, Cole Griffith, Zach Necessary, Jason Westmeyer, and all others who serve throughout the world.

**Prayer requests can be submitted through the prayer request form by scanning the QR code, or by contacting the office.**





**January 12th—Erin Southwell**  
**January 13th—Jennifer Nardini**  
**January 14th—Marilyn Payne**  
**January 14th—Russ Ferree**  
**January 15th—Peggy Harwell**  
**January 15th—Dave Barton**  
**January 16th—Jacque Quick**  
**January 16th—Ray Barger**  
**January 16th—Rachel Minick**  
**January 17th—Beatrice Welborn**  
**January 18th—Ann Davis**

No anniversaries this week.



**Serving Today**

**Altar Guild: Mike Southwell, Mary Southwell**

**Reader: Mary Southwell**

**Acolytes: Julie Koch, Keyonii Staley**

**Usher: Ryan Minick**



The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin

*Bishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina*

**St. Paul's Vestry**

**2023/2024**

Carol Canter  
Joe Fesperman, *Sr. Warden*  
Gwen Temple

**2024/2025**

Doug Merritt, *Jr. Warden*  
Ruth Harris  
Julie Koch

**2025/2026**

Tana Myers  
Scott Jessee

Bill Harris, *Secretary*  
Drew Mayberry *Treasurer*  
The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker, *Rector*  
*rector@stpaulwilkesboro.org*  
Russell Stinson, *Director of Music*  
Roosevelt Carlton, *Sexton*  
Penny Farmer, *Finance Administrator*  
Robyn Setzer, *Parish Administrator*