

# SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**The First Sunday of Advent**

**November 30th, 2025**

**10:30 A.M 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 weekly 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

Savior of the Nations, Come

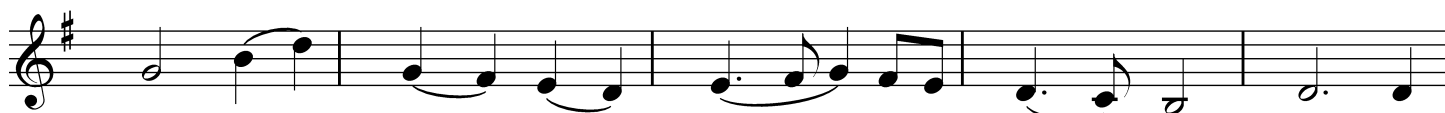
*J.S. Bach (1685-1750)*

## Welcome and Announcements

*Please rise as you are comfortable.*

## Processional Hymn #57 Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending

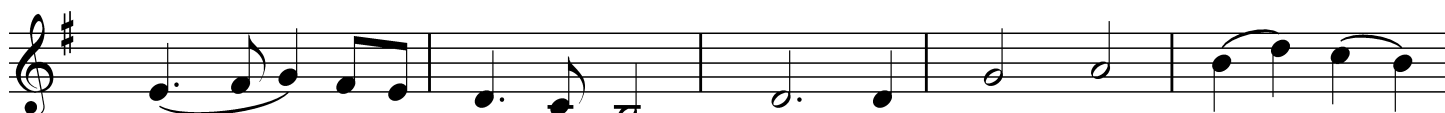
*(stanzas 1 and 4)*



1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for  
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in  
3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his  
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on



our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand  
dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at  
daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less  
thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the



saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his  
nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the  
ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -  
power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine



train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,  
ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,  
own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

## Advent Wreath Prayers

*Please stand, as you are most comfortable.*

### First Sunday of Advent

Presider As stars to the maker,

**People We are the work of God's hands.**

Presider As plants to the gardener,

**People We are the work of God's hands.**

Presider As clay to the potter,

**People We are the work of God's hands.**

Presider Be brave, Be honest,

**People Be awake to integrity.**

Presider Be strong, Be gentle,

**People Be awake to justice.**

Presider Be joyful, Be humble,

**People Be awake to holiness.**

Presider Be steady, Be hopeful,

**People Be awake to love.**

Presider We are looking for God in our world.

**People May we see what God wants us to see.**

Presider We are looking for God in our lives.

**People May we be who God wants us to be.**

**All And may God our Shepherd, Protector, Awakener, and Holy Spirit,  
bless us through these Advent days. Amen.**

*We light the first blue candle.*

### Opening Acclamation

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

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

## **Wait for the Lord Taizé**

*Sing 2 times*

***Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.***

***Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart.***

## **The Collect**

Presider: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### **First Reading**

**Isaiah 2:1-5**

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come  
the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.  
Many peoples shall come and say,  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths.'  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,  
and their spears into pruning-hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.  
O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

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

People: Thanks be to God.

## The Response

## Psalm 122

### *Laetatus sum*

I was glad when they said to me, \*  
**"Let us go to the house of the LORD."**  
Now our feet are standing \*  
**within your gates, O Jerusalem.**  
Jerusalem is built as a city \*  
**that is at unity with itself;**  
To which the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the LORD, \*  
**the assembly of Israel,**  
**to praise the Name of the LORD.**  
For there are the thrones of judgment, \*  
**the thrones of the house of David.**  
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \*  
**"May they prosper who love you.**  
Peace be within your walls \*  
**and quietness within your towers.**  
For my family's and companions' sake, \*  
**I pray for your prosperity.**  
Because of the house of the LORD our God, \*  
**I will seek to do you good."**

## **Second Reading**

## **Romans 13:11-14**

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are most comfortable*

## SEQUENCE HYMN #61 "Sleepers, wake!" A Voice Astounds Us

*(stanza 1 only)*

1 "Sleep - ers, wake!" A voice a - stounds us, the  
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her  
3 Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let

shout of ram - part - guards sur - rounds us: "A -  
heart with joy - ful hope is spring - ing, she  
saints and an - gels sing be - fore you, as

wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!" Mid - night's peace their  
wakes and hur - ries through the night. Forth he comes, her  
harps and cym - bals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the

cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum - mons clear - ly spo -  
Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in truth vic - to -  
ci - ty's por - tals: through them we stream to join the im - mor -



ken: rious: tals "The her as time star we has is with come, risen, joy O her your maid - ens wise! light grows bright. throne sur - round.

Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in  
Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate  
No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -

sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and  
Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and  
light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to

has - ten there, that you the wed - ding feast may share."  
heed your call to come in - to the ban - quet hall.  
greet our King; for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); tr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944). Copyright © 1982, by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Wachet auf*, melody Hans Sachs (1494-1576); adapt. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **The Gospel**

**Matthew 24:36-44**

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

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus said to the disciples, “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ**

*All are seated.*

## **The Sermon**

*The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker*

*A time of silence following the sermon.*

# The Nicene Creed—Wonder, Love & Praise



1. I be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that  
 2. I be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci -  
 3. I be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with-



be, Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of the sky and  
 fied; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied— True Life there had tru - ly  
 in One church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees from



sea. I be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus, now for  
 died. I be - lieve that on the third day Christ was  
 sin; in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion, for the



us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it and of  
 raised up from the grave, then as - cend - ed to God  
 break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's ev - er -



Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life.  
 right hand. He will come to judge and save.  
 last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

## Prayers of the People

- Presider Let us pray for the church and for the world.  
Loving God, as we look to the day of Christ's birth help us throw wide the doors of our hearts in preparation. Help us know the depths of your love and remember you are working through us to fulfil the promises you have made.
- People O come, O come, Emmanuel**
- Presider Lord, we pray this Advent season be for us and for the world a season of light, of hope and of joy. May we give and receive the most important gift, love.
- People O come, O come, Emmanuel**
- Presider We pray O God, for those in need around us, for the unsheltered and hungry, for the lost and orphaned, for the battered and bruised, for those who need a tender touch and a healing word.
- People O come, O come, Emmanuel**
- Presider We pray O God for the children of our world, and all those of tender faith. Bless the innocent of the earth and all those who put their trust in you. Bless the humble and the powerless and bring down from their thrones the prideful and those who are indifferent.
- People O come, O come, Emmanuel**
- Presider We pray for those who have died, for those whom death came too early and for those for whom death was a release. We pray for an end to violence that destroys life and creates fear.
- People O come, O come, Emmanuel**
- Presider O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family: take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts: break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Remain standing or kneeling as desired.*

## **Confession of Sin**

*Please stand or kneel as you are most comfortable*

*New Zealand Prayer Book*

God has promised forgiveness  
as a gift of freedom and grace.  
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Moment of silence observed.*

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.**

## **Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins  
through our Lord 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” 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.

## **Presider: Invitation to the Great Thanksgiving**

## **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

### **Advent Processional**

*arr. John Ferguson (20th century)*

*(for text, see Hymn #54)*

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Please stand, as able.*

*Eucharistic Prayer 2, EOW page 60*

*Sing*

Presider *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

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: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly,

ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

## *Please stand or kneel as you are able*

Presider *continues*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, when the time came, he gave himself up to death and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with our Patron Paul and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and 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**

**Eat This Bread Taizé  
(Sing 2 times)**

*Eat this bread, drink this cup:  
Come to me and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup;  
Trust in me and you will not thirst.*

## **The Invitation to Communion**

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

**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.

*Please stand or kneel as desired.*

## **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.*

## **The Blessing**

May God who conquered darkness with light,  
give peace to you.

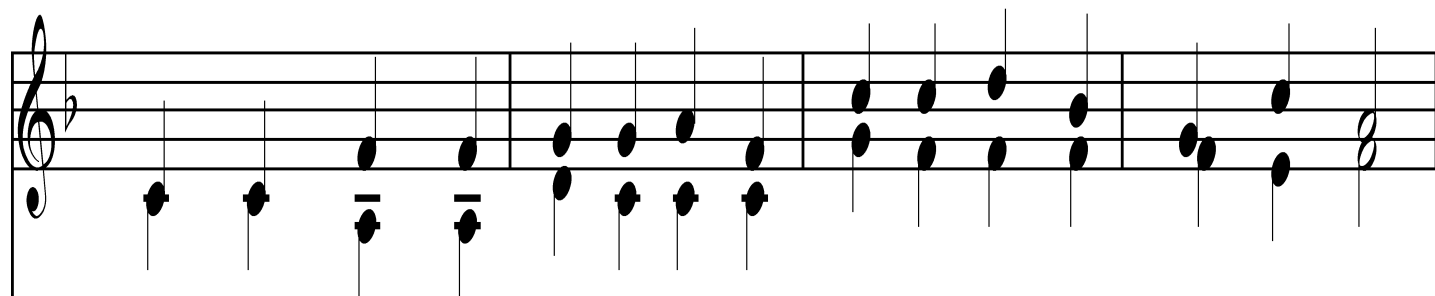
May God who conquered death with life,  
give peace to you.

May God who conquered loneliness with love,  
give peace to you.

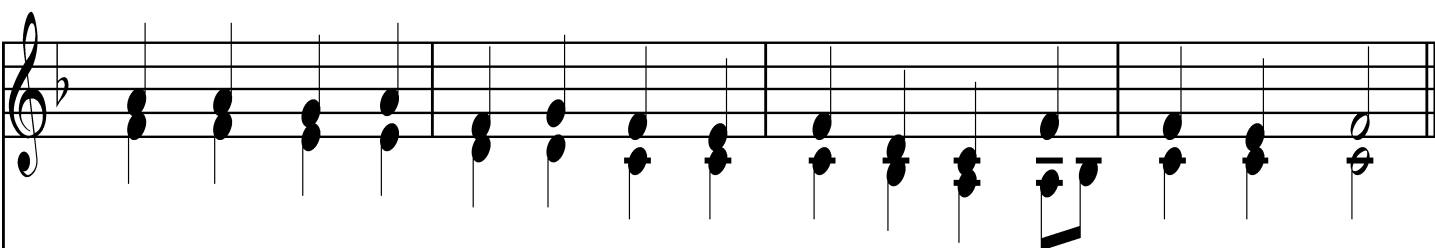
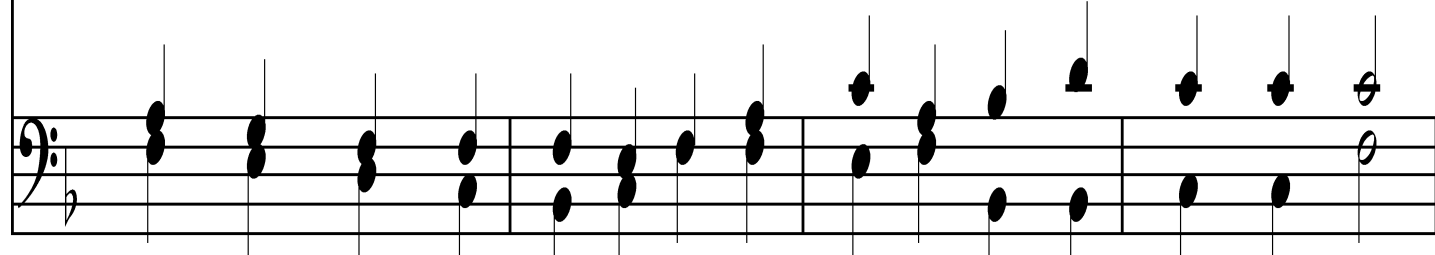
And the Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

*Please rise as comfortable.*

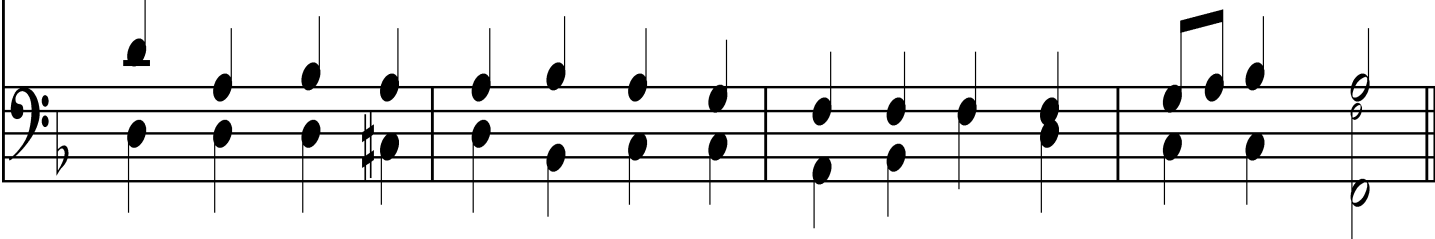
## Recessional Hymn #66 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.



Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

## The Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## Postlude

“Sleepers, Wake!”

*J.S. Bach*



Altar Flowers Given Today by Ron & Tana  
Myers in honor of their wedding anniversary.

*\*\*Please note that neither Mother Stephanie nor St. Paul's will ever send out an e-mail or text communication requesting money, gift cards, etc. If you receive any suspicious communications like this, please ignore and delete these communications. Contact the Parish Office at any time with questions or concerns regarding possible scams. \*\**

## PRAYER LIST

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

### Short-term

Jamie Tate, Rose Andrews, Rosie Carlton's family

### Long-term

Cade Gibbs, Ray Call, Steve Jackson, Ken Asel, Shane Jenkins, Kaye Hall, Dot Beamon, Da'Shon Horton

### 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 below, or by contacting the office.**





*December 1st—Devvie Asel*

*December 3rd—Sarah Fesperman*

*December 4th—Cynthia Smith*

*December 3rd—Ralph & Rosa Jolly*



**Serving Today**

**Altar Guild: Laurie Love, Reba Whittington, Kendall Forester**

**Reader: Dick Sloop**

**Acolytes: Keyonii Staley, Mark Williams**

**Usher: Ryan Minick**

**Bread Bakers: Mark Williams & Ben Staley**

**Vestry Lock-Up for November: Julie Koch**



The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin  
*Bishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina*

**St. Paul's Vestry 2025**

**Jeff Beard**

**Chuck Forester, Jr. Warden**

**Ruth Harris**

**Julie Koch**

**Scott Jessee, Sr. Warden**

**Tana Myers**

**Diane Peabody**

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