

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Wilkesboro, NC

Inclusive* Loving* Generous



First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020 –Recorded Service

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker
I. Rector



Welcome
to
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

We are delighted God has brought you to this Special place. We want you to know that wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome here.

Sermons available: Recent sermons 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
to have your name added

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

Advent Wreath Prayers

♦ *Please stand, as you are most comfortable*

First Sunday of Advent

Leader As stars to the maker

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

As plants to the gardener

We are the work of God's hands.

As clay to the potter

We are the work of God's hands.

Be brave

Be honest

Be awake to integrity.

Be strong

Be gentle

Be awake to justice.

Be joyful

Be humble

Be awake to holiness.

Be steady

Be hopeful

Be awake to love.

We are looking for God in our world.

May we see what God wants us to see.

We are looking for God in our lives.

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 (said by all) Taizé #12

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart!

Wait for the Lord, His day is near.

Wait for the Lord. Be strong, take heart!

◆ *Please stand, as you are most comfortable*

The Collect

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: 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*

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

*said by half-verse

Qui regis Israel

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading

I Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

◆ *Please stand, as you are most comfortable*

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

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

The Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

◆ *All are seated*

The Sermon

Mother Stephanie E. Parker

◆ *A period of silence follows the sermon*

◆*Please stand or sit as you are most comfortable for the Prayers of the People*

**The Nicene Creed
BCP 358**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
And was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

◆*Please stand or sit as you are most comfortable for the Prayers of the People*

Prayers of the People

Leader God calls us to love one another; as a sign of that love, we lift our prayers to God for the needs of all people throughout the world.

We pray for the peace of the world, that our instruments of war may be transformed into instruments of peace, and that nations shall cease to learn war any more.

Silence

We pray for the church, that we may become more and more a means of grace and peace in the world.

Silence

We pray for all people of good will who seek to cast off the works of darkness, for human rights activists, peace workers, environmentalists, and for the myriads of ordinary people who in their day to day work and lives risk sharing the beauty of your truth and love with a world that does not always want to listen.

Silence

We give thanks for all of our blessings, especially members of our parish with Birthdays and Anniversaries. With you, what we already have, is enough and more.

Silence

We pray for all who are in need; especially all on our prayer list...that we may be alert to the presence of Christ in them and ready to reach out in love.

Silence

We pray for all who have died, especially victims of COVID-19 and racial violence. And we pray for those who grieve, that they may faithfully wait upon God with confidence in that love which sustains us in every moment of our lives, even those where we sit in darkness and loss.

Silence

We pray for all assembled here today, that we may know and extend the grace and joy of being in a faith community; that we may hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and then go forth and be as Jesus to this world.

Silence

Presider We praise you, Lord our God, that you have called us to be vessels of your presence in the world. Grant us grace to discern your will and the strength and courage to do it, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Enriching Our Worship 1, pg. 56

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of reflective silence.

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.

Presider 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

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Please greet one another in a way that is comfortable as a sign of our participation in Christ's reconciling work in the world.

Please be seated.

Offertory *From Heaven Above To Earth I Come* Johann Pachelbel

◆ *Please stand, as you are most comfortable*

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand, as able.

Eucharistic Prayer 2,

Enriching our Worship 1, pg. 60

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

In your love for us, you revealed your beloved Son who redeems us from sin and death and who makes us heirs in him of everlasting life, and when he shall come again in power and great love to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

Sanctus: Said

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Stand or kneel, as able, for Prayer of Consecration.

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, the time came for him to reveal the depths of your forgiveness
as he gave himself freely to death on the cross,
offering the sacrifice of his life, that we might be free to love completely.

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 all your saints,
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared
from the foundation of the world.

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 are bold to pray,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Invitation to Holy Communion

Presider All Holy Jesus, we gather to represent the people of God at St. Paul's. As we receive the sacrament of the body and blood, through the mystery of your Holy Spirit, be with those at home who desire to receive you.

People **Grant us all the Spiritual Communion of unity, grace and Abundant life that is your gift to us at all times and in all places. We love you above all things, and we give you thanks that you are with us wherever we are and that we are, in your love, gathered together in your presence as a full and faithful community of God. Amen.**

The Communion

♦ *This is the table of the Lord, not of the church. 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. It is God's will that those who want him should meet him here.*
Gluten free wafers available upon request.

Communion Music *Savior of the Nations, Come* **arr. Burkhardt**

Post Communion Prayer BCP 366

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.

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, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

◆*Please stand or sit as you are most comfortable*

The Dismissal

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

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying Setting by Burkhardt

Serving Today

Reader: Mary Anne Caplinger

Altar Guild: Pam and Drew Mayberry

Prayer List

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

Illness

Jim Andrews, Pam Baugh, Robert Baugh, Bella, David Blair, Nancy Blair, John Brame, Thomas Dellinger, John Farris, Laura Gentry, Karen Hennig, Margo Hurd, Barbara Kepley, Brenda Merritt King, Ken Love, Misty Millsaps, Tyler Olender, Jordan Samuel, Rebecca Shaw, Linda Sloop, Jeff Smith, Delores Weaver, Bob Webber, Donna Webber

Armed Forces

Let us pray for the safety of **all our troops**, especially Edward Colville Griffith, Zach Necessary, Walker Pardue, Philip Southwell, Mark Stone, Jason Westmeyer, and all others who serve in Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the world.

Please send to the church office the addresses of troops with connections to office@stpaulwilkesboro.org, especially those abroad



Birthdays

Nov. 29 - Maggie McCann

Dec. 1 - Devvie Asel

Dec. 3 - Sarah Fesperman

Dec. 4 - Cindy Smith

Anniversaries

Nov. 28 - Lonny and Joan Bumgarner

Nov. 29 - Ron and Tana Myers

Dec. 3 - Ralph and Rosa Jolly



St. Paul's Vestry

Ruth Harris
Dave Barton
Tana Myers

Doug Merritt
Ramona Curtis
Doug Morris
Mark Williams, *Sr. Warden*

Richard Barber
Beverly Cook
Richard Searcy, *Jr. Warden*

Bill Harris, *Secretary*
John Harwell, *Treasurer*

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, *Bishop of the Diocese of WNC*
The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker, *I. Rector*
rector@stpaulwilkesboro.org

The Rev. Dn. Susan Whittington, *Deacon*
The Rev. Carl Elledge, *Pastoral Assistant*
Linda Black, *Parish Administrator*
Fern Brinkley, *Organist*
Roosevelt Carlton, *Sexton*

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