



SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

CHURCH OF ST. PAUL & THE REDEEMER

DECEMBER 10, 2023 | 10:00 AM

You are welcome here.

A Little About St. Paul & the Redeemer

What kind of church is this?

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

Let's Get Connected

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



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

Children & Youth at SPR

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

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

Children's Chapel, Sundays during sermon

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

Christian Formation

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

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

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

SPR's Anti-Racism Vision Statement

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

Bulletin Rubrics

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

Giving to SPR

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



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

Music Copyright

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About the Cover Artwork

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



Welcome to Advent.

What Is Advent?

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

Advent Wreath

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

Advent Music

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

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Veni, Emmanuel

Flor Peeters (1903-1986).

Entrance Hymn

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. Prince (b. 1920).

Music: *Bereden väg för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

Welcome

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

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

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

**who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance
and prepare the way for our salvation:**

**Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,
that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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

Refrain



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

5



Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart.

Verse



Joy and glad-ness for all who seek the Lord

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

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

The Lessons

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:9-14 *Benedixisti, Domine*

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

Refrain

O Lord, let us see your kind - ness. O
Lord, let us see your truth. O Lord, let us see your
kind - ness, and grant us your sal - va - tion. va - tion.

I will hear what the Lord God speaks;
he speaks of peace for his people and his faithful.
God's salvation is near for those who fear him,
And his glory will dwell in our land. **Refrain.**

Also the Lord will bestow his bounty,
And our earth shall yield it's increase.
Justice will march before him,
And guide his steps on the way. **Refrain.**

Merciful love and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have kissed.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth,
and justice look down from heaven. **Refrain.**

Psalm 85: Refrain: *Lectionary for Mass, verses, The Revised Grail Psalms.*
Music: Refrain: Rawn Harbor; verses: Stanbrook Abbey.

Second Reading

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

All sing.



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

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

Gospel Reading

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

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

Mark 13:24-37

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Children's Chapel

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

Sermon

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

Apostles' Creed

Please stand as able.

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

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

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

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

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

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

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

+ the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

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

God of patience, grant your church the ability to use its time to serve you, and to endure with hope those times when nothing seems feasible or worthwhile to do; when we can't fix, show us how to prepare.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of prophecy, grant our leaders the ability to temper their projects and proposals with the recognition that they will all wither and fade, leaving only your word to stand as a firm guide.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of comfort, receive the cry of your children who are lost, oppressed, and victimized by a world whose justice is uneven at best, and carry them to security and peace.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of joy, bless those celebrating birthdays, especially **August** Pereira (12/10), **Edia** Chipman (12/11), **Helen** Johnson (12/11), **David** Daniels (12/13), **Char** Jones-Foster (12/13), and **Nisse** Danforth (12/14).

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of hope, comfort those who are sick and suffering, especially **Pamela** Anderson, **Jacky** Corey Hain, **Naomi** Haynes, **Helen** Johnson, **Brenda** Kilpatrick, **Becky** Kruse, **Jennifer** Penn, **Cindy** Askins (mother of Jonathan Foiles), and all those on our prayer list.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Remember those who have returned to you, especially **Phyllis** Michael Roberts (sister of Naomi Haynes, 12/10), **Mary** O'Dowd (grandmother of Maureen Jesuthasan, 12/14), **Arthur** Shepard Rone (brother of Ronne Hartfield, 12/16), and **Margaret** Clark (parishioner, 12/16/2011).

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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

Prayers written by Joshua Daniel.

Prayer List: Pamela Anderson, Jacky Corey Hain, Marian Elliott, Susan Hartger, Naomi Haynes, Helen Johnson, Brenda Kilpatrick, Becky Kruse, Rahsaan Clark Morris, John Mulholland, D. Maria Neighbors, Jennifer Penn, Peter Pereira, Celia Scott, Cindy Askins (mother of Jonathan Foiles), Alarra Tozin (friend of Twila Jones), Hilton Clark (friend of Cecilia Mowatt), Alphonso Guerrero (nephew of Cecilia Mowatt), Rosalyn Hill (friend of Cecilia Mowatt), Brenden Jones (godson of Cecilia Mowatt), Tim Brown (cousin of Maureen Jesuthasan), Ann Rigney (friend of Mary Naftzger), Amelia Dammen (grandniece of Lisa Rademacher), and Penny & Dom Piantedosi (sister and brother-in-law of Val Tonsgard), as well as their caregivers.

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

God of all mercy,

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

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

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

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

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

Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

Sung by the Choir.

Prepare ye the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God.

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted
and ev'ry mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight
and the rough places shall be made plain.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all flesh shall see it together.

And the voice said cry (What shall I cry?),
all flesh is grass, and the goodliness thereof
is as a flower that is in the field.

"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"
Words: Isaiah 40:3-9.
Music: Michael Wise (1648-1687).

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth,
but the word of the Lord shall stand fast forever.

O Zion, that bringeth glad tidings,
get thee up into the montains.
O Jerusalem, that bringeth glad tidings
lift up thy voice with strength
and say unto Judah, "behold thy God."

The Great Thanksgiving

All stand as the offering is brought to the altar.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

The Presider adds a proper preface.

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

All sing.

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

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

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

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

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

Text Source: Revised Order of Mass 2010.

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

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

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

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

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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

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

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

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

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

All sing, as indicated.

Leader sings.

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

1. 2. *All sing.*

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

3. *All sing.*

world, grant us_ peace_ grant us_ peace.

Text Source: Revised Order of Mass 2010.

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

The gifts of God for the people of God.

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

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

Communion Music

All sing.



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a —
2 O ——— Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
3 but the word of our God — en - du - reth, the —



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst — of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The —
peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
flowers of the field they — per - ish, like
feed his — flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our — God — may go!
na - tions shall — pass like a dream — a - way;
lead them, and — bring them — safe to his fold.

Hymnal 1982 #75 "There's a voice in the wilderness crying"

Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt.

Music: *Ascensions*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988).

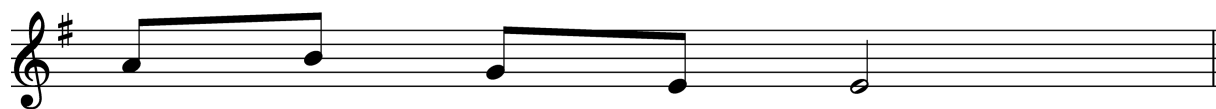
All sing.



1. The tree of life my soul hath seen, La - den with fruit, and
2. His beau - ty doth all things ex - cel: By faith I know, but
3. For hap - pi - ness I long have sought, And pleas - ure dear - ly
4. I'm wear - y with my for - mer toil, Here I will sit and
5. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dy - ing



al - ways green: The trees of na - ture fruit - less be Com - pared with
ne'er can tell the glo - ry which I now can see In Je - sus
I have bought: I missed of all: but now I see 'Tis found in
rest a while: Un - der the sha - dow I will be Of Je - sus
faith a - live; Which makes my soul in hast to be With Je - sus



Christ the ap - ple tree.

Wonder Love and Praise #749 "The tree of life my soul hath seen"

Words: Anonymous, from a collection of Joshua Smith, New Hampshire, 1784.

Music: *Apple Tree*, Daniel Pinkham (1923-2000).

Sending Forth

Please stand as able.

Let us pray.

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

The Presider blesses the people.

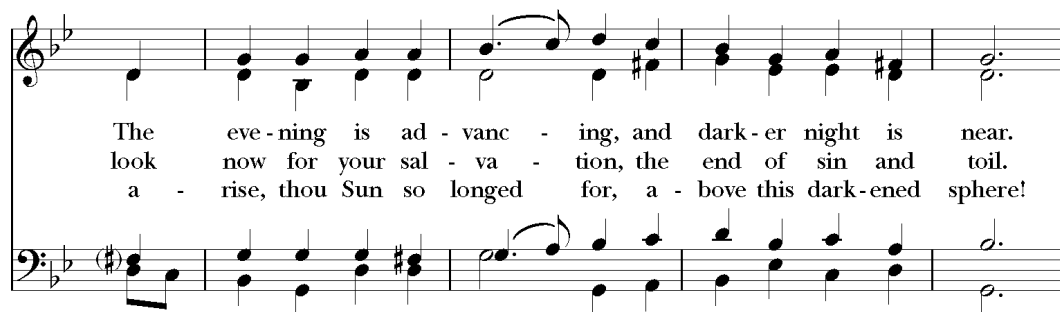
+ May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Mother of us all, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Source: Book of Occasional Services 2018, Advent Blessing.

All sing.



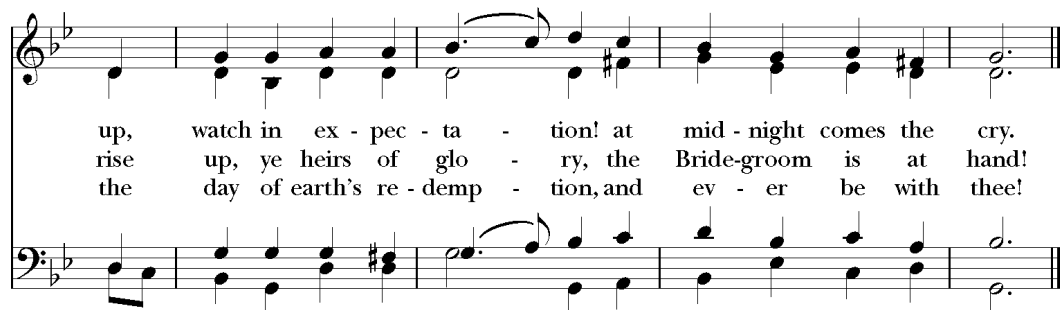
1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!
the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

The Hymnal 1982 #68 "Rejoice! rejoice, believers"

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt.

Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eghys yng Nghymru*, 1865.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Psalms 42/Genevan (Comfort, comfort ye, my people)

Craig Phillips (b. 1961).

Joyful Future:

St. Paul & the Redeemer Annual Giving 2024

All our ministries are possible because of the generosity of our members.

When you give to SPR, you are investing in:

- **Connection** to God and one another through worship, formation, fellowship, and service.
- **Creation** of beautiful music, art, and writing that gives glory to God.
- **Community** engagement and renewal to transform our city.

With gratitude, the vestry and church leadership invite you to make a financial pledge for 2024 by **today, Sunday, December 10**. You may place a pledge card in the offering plate, return your card by mail, or pledge online at sprchicago.org/giving. Thank you for your investment in our joyful future.



Scan here to
pledge online

Coming Up at SPR

Blue Advent Service

The holidays are not always joyful. On Friday, **December 15, at 7:30 PM** in the sanctuary, all are invited to attend a quiet "Blue Advent" worship service to hold space for grief, lament, and hope as Christmas approaches. To assist with the service, contact Sara Bigger (sarafaganbigger@gmail.com).

Crèches from Around the World

Throughout Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, we will host an exhibit of crèches (Nativity scenes) from around the world in the Byllesby Room. Do you have a crèche you would like to loan for the show? Contact Bob Bator (rbator@gmail.com), or simply drop off your crèche in the church office.

Connect With Our Newest Neighbors

SPR members will be providing breakfast **every Sunday** for the migrants and others staying at local police stations.

We need **volunteers to shop, cook, and deliver food**.

Guests at police stations and local shelters have also asked for the opportunity to cook for themselves. We will need people to transport small groups to and from the SPR kitchen, accompany guests while they cook, and help with cleanup. To learn more, contact Jason Evans: jasoncoryevans@gmail.com.

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

We are hiring for a permanent sexton (with abundant thanks to Tony George for doing such a wonderful job as our interim sexton). Do you know someone who would be a great fit for building management and maintenance at SPR? Contact the Rev. Catherine Healy: healy@sprchicago.org.

Jazzing Up Coffee Hour This Fall

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

Christmas Pageant

All children and youth are invited to join the SPR Christmas Pageant, to be held this year on Sunday, December 24, at our 5:00PM service. To sign your children up as cast members or volunteer as an adult helper, contact pageant director Megan Cather (cather@sprchicago.org) with your children's names, ages, and preference for speaking vs. non-speaking roles.



Music at SPR

Advent Lessons & Carols

Please mark your calendars for **today, Sunday, December 10 at 5PM** for the second annual joint service of Lessons & Carols with St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Park Ridge. This year, it will be held here at SPR.

Christmas Caroling

You are invited to join SPR in Christmas caroling on **Thursday, December 14 at 5:30 PM!** Kids and parents will head out into the neighborhood to bring Christmas cheer to our neighbors. We'll return to the church for fellowship afterward. This event is child-focused, but all ages (with or without kids in tow) are welcome. For more info, please contact Megan Cather (cather@sprchicago.org).

Christmas Eve Pop-Up Choir

For our **5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service**, everyone is welcome to sing in the choir! We will meet at 3:45 PM to learn an anthem and some service music, with no additional rehearsals needed. Intended for families, out-of-towners, and anyone else wanting to don a robe and be a choir member for Christmas!

Calling All Instrumentalists

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

About This Week's Music

Today's **prelude** is a setting by Belgian composer Flor Peeters, who served as director of the Conservatorium in Antwerp, Belgium, and was the organist at Mechelen Cathedral for over sixty years: from 1923 until his death in 1986. The **offertory anthem** is a quintessential English Baroque anthem. Composed by Michael Wise, who despite a rather prestigious career as a chorusmaster and organist, was known to be frequently negligent in his duties, quarrelsome, and generally unpleasant. His infamous behavior was the basis for the comic music theater piece by Francis Pott, *Wise after the Event*, which was commissioned for London City Churches Week and performed in 1987 on the 300th anniversary of his untimely death. The **postlude** is based on the 16th century tune by Louis Bourgeois, who is also attributed with the penning of the doxology tune *Old Hundredth*.

Save the Date: Residency with Marques Garrett

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



Advent & Christmas at SPR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5:00PM Service

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

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

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

8:00PM Service

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

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

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

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

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

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

Serving Today

December 10, 2023 | 10:00 AM

Presider: Barnabas Pusnur

Preacher: The Rev. Catherine Healy

Deacon: The Rev. Jack Seymour

Music Leader: Mark Bilyeu

Children's Chapel Leader: Megan Cather

Advent Candle Lighter: Gail Williams

Lectors: Gabriel Lear, Joshua Daniel

Intercessor: Mel Parks

Chalice Ministers: Tayo Adegoke, Gail Williams,
John Adewoye

Acolyte: Andrew Rostan

Ushers: Shawn Hannan, Melissa McNeill

Livestream: Andrew Rostan

Linen Washer: Jack Seymour

Vestry Greeter: Jason Evans

Communion Bread Baker: Jim Tonsgard

Staff

The Rev. Catherine E. Healy, *Rector*

The Rev. Barnabas E. Pusnur, *Associate Rector*

The Rev. Jack Seymour, *Deacon*

Mark Bilyeu, *Director of Music*

Megan Cather, *Children's Music Assistant*

Lindsey Strieter, *Director of Children's Formation*

The Rev. Roger Ferlo, *Priest Associate*

The Rev. KJ Oh, *Priest Associate*

Savannah Hegyi, Wesley Krist, Ian Murrell, &
Ariana Strahl, *Staff Singers*

Sabrina Foster, Ashley Lanfair, & Patricia Lanfair,
Nursery Teachers

Tony George, *Interim Sexton*

Vestry

Twila Jones, *Warden*

Baiju Markose, *Clerk*

Nicholas Bellomy

Jason Evans

Anne Harlan

Rebecca Luttrell

Celia Paris

Frances Spaltro, *Warden*

Tayo Adegoke, *Treasurer*

Joshua Daniel

Jonathan Foiles

Vicky Legge

Andrew Rostan

Get Involved at SPR

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

Connection (Education & Fellowship)

Children's Formation (grades PK-5) | Lindsey Strieter
(lstriete@gmail.com)

Youth Formation (grades 6-12) | Jen Jackson
(jenniferjeanjackson@gmail.com)

Adult Formation | Rev. Barnabas Pusnur
(pusnur@sprchicago.org)

Thursday Bible Study | Anna Mary Wallace
(amawallace29@gmail.com)

Women's Retreat | Toni Daniels
(antoinettedaniels421@gmail.com)

Coffee Hour Fellowship | Cynthia Bagrowski
(cbagrowski@gmail.com)

Life Groups | Rev. Barnabas Pusnur (pusnur@sprchicago.org)

Creation (Music, Arts & Worship)

St. Nicholas Choir (grades PK-2) | Megan Cather
(cather@sprchicago.org)

Choristers (grades 3-8) | Mark Bilyeu (bilyeu@sprchicago.org)

Adult Choir | Mark Bilyeu (bilyeu@sprchicago.org)

Arts Committee | Carolyn Pereira (pereira1700@yahoo.com)

Worship Ministries | Rev. Barnabas Pusnur
(pusnur@sprchicago.org)

Community (Service & Outreach)

Food Pantry | Rev. Catherine Healy (healy@sprchicago.org)

Open Kitchen | Fran Spaltro (pambasilea@gmail.com)

Food Garden | Mel Parks (mellemel83@yahoo.com)

Anti-Racism Working Group | Sara Bigger
(sarafaganbigger@gmail.com)

Faith in Action Team | Brianna Kuramitsu
(brianna.kuramitsu@gmail.com)

Migrant/Refugee Ministry | Bob Bator (rbator@gmail.com) &
Jason Evans (jasoncoryevans@gmail.com)

Haiti Partnership | Gail Williams (gwilli8787@gmail.com)

Shoemith School Partnership | Carolyn Pereira
(pereira1700@yahoo.com)

