



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

of Newburyport, MA

The Order for the Eucharist
During Advent

Please leave this booklet in the church



Welcome Home

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is an inclusive Christian community. It's a community that takes God's love for the world seriously, fosters a living faith, and cares for one another—it's a community of belonging. We're also a community that welcomes doubt as part of faith, values questions alongside answers, and provides a home for exploration, wherever you find yourself on the spectrum of belief and in your pursuit of truth.

At St. Paul's we worship God, pray for our world, build community, and seek to serve others by working for justice, peace, and reconciliation. That work brings those who are vulnerable, rejected, overlooked, or marginalized in our world to the center of our life together. This is the story we embody every time we gather for the Eucharist, as we join in Jesus Christ's offering of himself for the life of the world—Christ, who became the poor, marginalized, rejected one on the cross for our salvation.

The Eucharist (also called the Mass or Holy Communion) is our share in that offering. It's at the heart of everything we are and do, and so we celebrate it with reverence, solemnity, and great joy. The word Eucharist means "thanksgiving," and in it we offer our whole selves to God in thanks—our frustrations and conflicts, our peace and joy, our sorrow and pain—and receive ourselves back anew, transformed by Christ's presence. Like our Baptism, the Eucharist is a sacrament of unity. In it we are made a true community, united in love and service as the family of Christ.

The Eucharist is also a revolutionary act of justice and equality (as is our Baptism, through which we enter this family of Christ). In the Eucharist we, regardless of the color of our skin, our gender identity or sexuality, our age, our abilities, our social or economic status—people who in many places in our world would not be seen under same roof together—receive the same life-giving bread and call each other one body and one family. There is perhaps no more radical act in our world than this.

Through this offering of the Eucharist, we become a eucharistic gift ourselves, an offering of love and mercy to the world.

As we enter into and embody this story of God's love, everything you need to follow along is in this booklet. Maybe you're with us just for the day, maybe you're getting to know us just a little bit more, but maybe, just maybe, you've found a home. If you're interested in learning more about being baptized or becoming a member of St. Paul's, or you have questions or need anything at all, please don't hesitate to talk to me after the service or reach out any time.

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Dr Jarred Mercer (Fr Jarred)
Rector

Introduction to Advent

Advent (from the Latin *adventus*, meaning “coming” or “arrival”) is the beginning of the new year in the Church calendar. It is a time of waiting, preparation, and hope, as we wait—in rejoicing, in anticipation, and in sober recognition of our need—for the coming of Emmanuel, “God with us.” We wait for the radical inbreaking of God’s tangible, embodied presence among us.

Advent is the shocking surprise of brokenness unfolding into blessing—we move down through the darkness into healing light. That sense of light dispelling darkness, or even born out of darkness, is the heart of Advent. This is quite literally the case in the northern hemisphere, where on just about the darkest day of the year the Light of the world breaks in to redeem it.

At times it is difficult to speak of “hope” in our world. The darkness seems overwhelming in a divided world of war, oppression, and suffering. But the hope of Christ’s *adventus* is our hope precisely because it’s in the midst of our hurting world that this hope appears. Jesus, God-with-us, comes to us not in ease and comfort, not in victory and power, but in the frailty of infancy, in the vulnerability of a young refugee family, in a life of poverty, and ultimately in the suffering of the cross. And if our hope lives even through that, if the Light shines even in the world’s darkest hour, it is a hope, a love, that is invincible and can never be overcome.

In the rush and hustle and bustle of this consumer-driven season, our celebration of Advent helps us to wait, prepare, and create the space we need in our lives to welcome Christ among us in our joy and sorrow, our suffering and comfort, our brokenness and healing.

As we gather together to meet Christ with us even now in word and sacrament, and in our love for one another, let this be a season that prepares us, awakens us, for the unimaginable good news of our Hope’s arrival—of God-with-us from the manger to the cross, preparing us in all our vulnerabilities, anxieties, and need, for the new life we find in the holy child of Bethlehem.

Prayers of preparation before the Eucharist

As you enter the church and are seated, take time in silence and prayer to prepare yourself for our worship together. Here are some prayers that may help.

Prayer Before Receiving Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

Be present, be present, O Jesus, our great High Priest, as you were present with your disciples, and be known to us in the breaking of bread; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

Anima Christi (Soul of Christ)

*Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O Good Jesus, hear me.
Within your wounds hide me.
Permit me not to be separated from you.
From the wicked foe, defend me.
At the hour of my death, call me
and bid me come to you
That with your saints I may praise you
For ever and ever. Amen.*

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3–10)

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please stand as you are able. This Call to Worship may be used.

Call to Worship: *Romans 13:11*

Leader: Now is the time to wake out of sleep,
for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

People: ***Come, let us worship.***

Opening Hymn *please see insert.*

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: ✠ Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

Lighting of the Advent Wreath *please see insert.*

Confession & Absolution

Celebrant: A voice cries out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.' So let us listen, and turn to Christ in penitence and faith.

Please kneel as you are able.

Silence is kept.

Leader: Turn to us, O God our Saviour:

Lord, have mercy.

People: ***Lord, have mercy.***

Leader: Show us your compassion, O God, and grant us your salvation:

Christ, have mercy.

People: ***Christ, have mercy.***

Leader: God, your salvation is near to us, give us hope as we wait for you:

Lord, have mercy.

People: ***Lord, have mercy.***

The Celebrant pronounces God's ✠ absolution and all respond:

Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

Kyrie Eleison (*Lord, have mercy*) *please see insert.*

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Celebrant prays the Collect, a prayer that gathers the people and their prayers together. All respond Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading *please see insert for today's reading.*

This response is said at the end of the reading.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Advent Prose "Drop down, ye heavens, from above" (*Rorate Caeli*)

Cantor sings the antiphon; all repeat. Cantor sings the verse; all repeat the antiphon.



Drop down, ye hea-vens, from a - bove,* and let the skies pour down right-eous-ness.

Cantor: Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry: I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: Fear not, for I will save thee: For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

Psalm *please see insert.*

Second Reading *please see insert for today's reading.*

This response is said at the end of the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

As the cantor begins to sing the Gospel Acclamation, please stand as you are able.

The Acclamation is sung by a cantor, then repeated by all, then repeated by all again after the Gospel sentence. All turn toward the Gospel book as it is brought into the congregation.



Al-le-lu-ia, Al - le-lu-ia, — Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Then the Deacon or Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Lord be with you

People: **and also with you.**

✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to _____.

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

After the Gospel, the Deacon or Priest says

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The preacher invokes the Name of the ✠ Trinity, all respond “Amen,” and then sit for the sermon.

Nicene Creed

Please stand as you are able as we affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.*

*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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

Prayers of the People:

The Celebrant introduces the prayers. Please remain standing as you are able. Prayers are offered for the Church, the world, the suffering, and those who have died, and in silence we make our own petitions. One of these responses is used:

Let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

or this,

Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

or this,

Lord, hear us.

People: Lord, graciously hear us.

The Celebrant concludes the prayers, to which all respond Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

All share signs of Christ's peace with one another, especially seeking to amend any hurts or conflicts.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

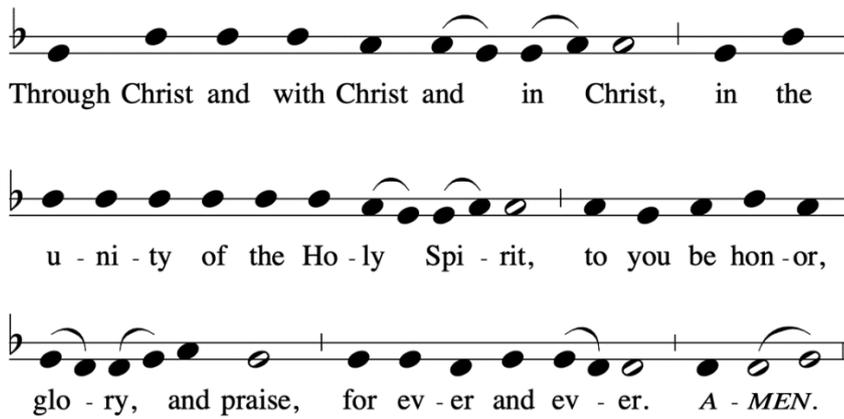
The altar is set for the Eucharist. The offering plate is passed. You may also give by scanning this QR code:



Offertory Hymn *please see insert.*

Please be seated to sing the Offertory Hymn.

The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer, leading to the Doxology to which all respond by singing the “great Amen.”



Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the
u - ni - ty of the Ho - ly Spi - rit, to you be hon - or,
glo - ry, and praise, for ev - er and ev - er. A - MEN.

The Lord’s Prayer

*The Celebrant introduces the Lord’s Prayer:
Please stand as you are able.*

*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.*

Fraction: The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ

People: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei *please see insert for music.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.*

Invitation to Communion

Please kneel as you are able.

Celebrant: ✠ Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world;
blessed are those who are called to his supper.

People: *Lord I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.*

or this,

Celebrant: ✠ The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Behold what you are.

People: *May we become what we receive.*

See insert for communion instructions.

Communion Hymn *please see insert.*

Postcommunion Prayer

After Communion, one of the following Postcommunion Prayers is said

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant & People

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.*

or this,

Loving God,

we give you thanks for restoring us in your image

and nourishing us with spiritual food

in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.

Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;

that we may proclaim your love to the world

and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen

Blessing and Dismissal

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

*The celebrant pronounces a ✠ blessing, after which all respond
Amen.*

Deacon or Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Closing Hymn *please see insert.*