



ST. PAUL'S
PRESBYTERIAN

For The Glory of God & The Joy of All Peoples

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

On the Lord's Day Morning
Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025, at 10:30



To all who are weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire hope; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and yearn for fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whoever will come—this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The sounding of the bells calls us to quiet our hearts before worship.

Welcome

Introit

Light an Advent Candle

Words and Music by Becki Slagle Mayo

*Advent is a time of hope, of waiting for the light.
To lead us to the promised One, to break the dark of night.
Light a candle, our Messiah will come.
Light a candle for the promised One.*

Call to Worship

From Psalm 24:7-10

In the celebration of Advent (which means “coming” or “arrival”), we not only remember the grace and humility of Christ’s birth as a baby, but we anticipate his return in glory.

Minister: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

People: Who is this King of glory?

Minister: The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

People: Who is this King of glory?

Minister: The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory!

† congregation standing

✠ congregation kneeling

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

† Hymn of Proclamation

Hymn A • Trinity Hymnal #203

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

The Lord is "enthroned on the praises" of his people (Psalm 22:3).

† Prayer of Adoration

Unison: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

† Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 8:16-9:7

Pew Bible, page 572

Minister: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

✠ Prayer of Confession

Unison: O Lord, we do not deserve to come into your heavenly presence. We are entirely unable to redeem ourselves from our sin and are unworthy of your love. Nevertheless, in your great mercy and grace, you have given us nothing less than your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is more precious than heaven and more powerful than hell. For this we rejoice and praise you, O God. Freely you have given us far more than we could ask or imagine in your beloved Son. Through him we therefore pray for your Holy Spirit to assure us of our salvation and make us wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him. Amen.

Please take a moment to silently confess your sin.

"Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy" (Proverbs 28:13).

*In the Assurance of Pardon,
tired and weary sinners are
comforted with the good news
of God's grace and forgiveness.*

*This morning's Affirmation
of Faith prepares us to
participate in the sacrament of
baptism.*

✠ Assurance of Pardon

From Ephesians 2:8-9

Minister: Hear this good news! By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Unison: Thanks be to God!

† Affirmation of Faith

Westminster Larger Catechism

Question and Answer #74

Minister: What is adoption?

People: Adoption is an act of God's free grace in and for his only son, Jesus Christ, by which all those who are justified become his children, have his name put on them, have the Spirit of his Son given to them, are provided for under his fatherly care, are welcomed to all the liberties and privileges of the sons of God, and are made heirs of all the promises and fellow-heirs with Christ in glory.

Unison: Thanks be to God!

RENEWING OUR FAITH

† Gloria

Gloria Patri #735

GREATOREX

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be, world with - out

end. A - men, a - men.

✠ Prayers of the People

Minister: Dear Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for Joel and Megan Taylor, who come with Halle Anna to declare publicly their allegiance to your Son our Savior. Daily open their hearts to your grace and truth. Fill them with your life-giving Spirit. Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church. Grant them grace so to live before this child, loving her, teaching her, praying with her and for her, that by their faithful living, and through the power of the gospel, all of the promises of the covenant may be fulfilled in her life.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Minister: Father, we pray for this child, Halle, deliver her from the way of sin and death; open her heart to your grace and truth; fill her with your life-giving Spirit; keep her in the faith and communion of your Church; prepare her to witness to your love; and bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Minister: And we pray for ourselves, the congregation of St. Paul's Church: Grant us grace to see this child as our own; to love her, pray for her, and assist her parents as duty done to you, the one true God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Presentation of Candidates & Questions

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Minister: Renew and strengthen, O Lord, this child of the covenant. By your Holy Spirit, empower her for your service and sustain her all her days. Defend her by your grace and claim her as your adopted child in your mercy. May you keep her by your Holy Spirit until at last she comes to your everlasting kingdom and her heavenly home. We humbly yet boldly ask this in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

The Christian life begins with a bath and ends with a banquet.

In the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, we are washed and fed.

† **Hymn of Consecration**
Hymn B • Trinity Hymnal #205

Away in a Manger
CRADLE SONG

† **Gospel Lesson**

John 1:6-13
Pew Bible, page 891

Minister: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

People: Thanks be to the Lord!

Prayer for Illumination

Proclamation of God's Word

Rev. John Cherne

ADVENT ACCORDING TO JOHN:

The Gift of Childhood



† **Hymn of Response**
Hymn C • Trinity Psalter Hymnal #462

Behold the Amazing Gift of Love
Alt Tune: CHRISTMAS

Giving to God & Offertory

He Shall Reign Forevermore
Words and Music by Chris Tomlin and Matt Maher

*In the bleak mid-winter, all creation groans
For a world in darkness, frozen like a stone.
Light is breaking in a stable for a throne.*

*And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
Unto us a child is born, the King of kings and Lord of lords.
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.*

*If I were a wise man, I would travel far.
And if I were a shepherd, I would do my part.
But poor as I am I will give to Him my heart.*

*Here within a manger lies the One who made the starry skies.
This baby born for sacrifice, Christ, the Messiah.
Into our hopes, into our fears, the Savior of the world appears.
The promise of eternal years, Christ the Messiah.*

Children are welcome for our entire service. Following the Hymn of Consecration, a specifically designed time for children aged four through first grade is also provided. Those interested can meet at the back of the Fellowship Hall.

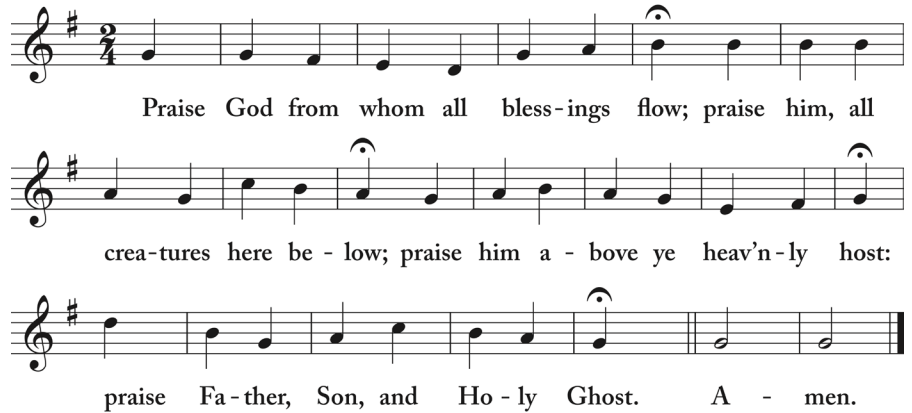
It is the duty of all who hear God's Word preached to listen carefully and prayerfully, and to receive the truth with humble obedience.

Writing about giving offerings, the apostle Paul said: "But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also" (II Corinthians 8:7).

To give online, visit www.stpaulsorlando.com/give.

†Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove ye heav'n - ly host:
praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

†Prayer of Dedication

†Benediction

†Sending Forth Hymn

Hymn D

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

GOD REST YOU MERRY

Please take a moment to greet those around you.

*With God's blessing upon us,
we are sent forth to practice the
faith we profess.*

*Welcome, visitors! If you are
visiting St. Paul's today, we
are so glad you have joined us
for worship! We would love to
get to know you. Email staff@
stpaulsorlando.com to let
us know your name, contact
information, how you heard
about St. Paul's, and any
questions you may have. Please
feel free to introduce yourself to
our pastors or ushers.*

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

A great company of the heavenly host [was] praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:13, 14



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!

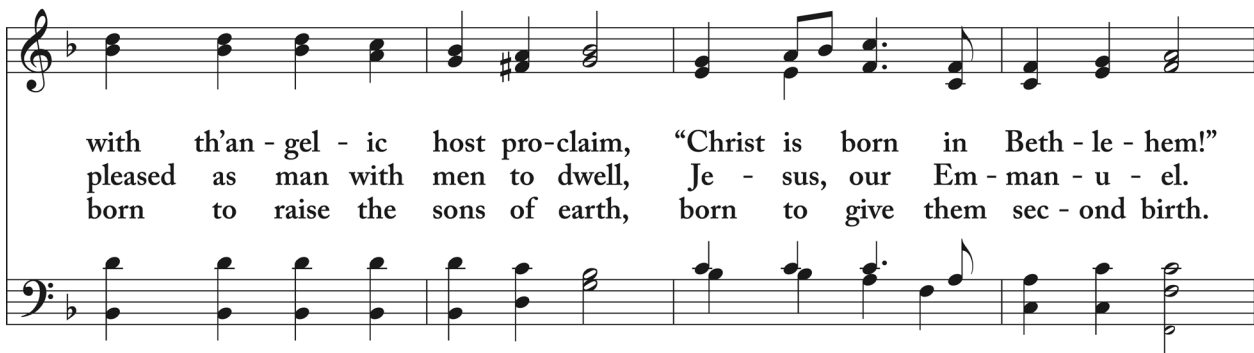


peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,





with th'an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

REFRAIN



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."

Away in a Manger

*She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room
for them in the inn. Luke 2:27*

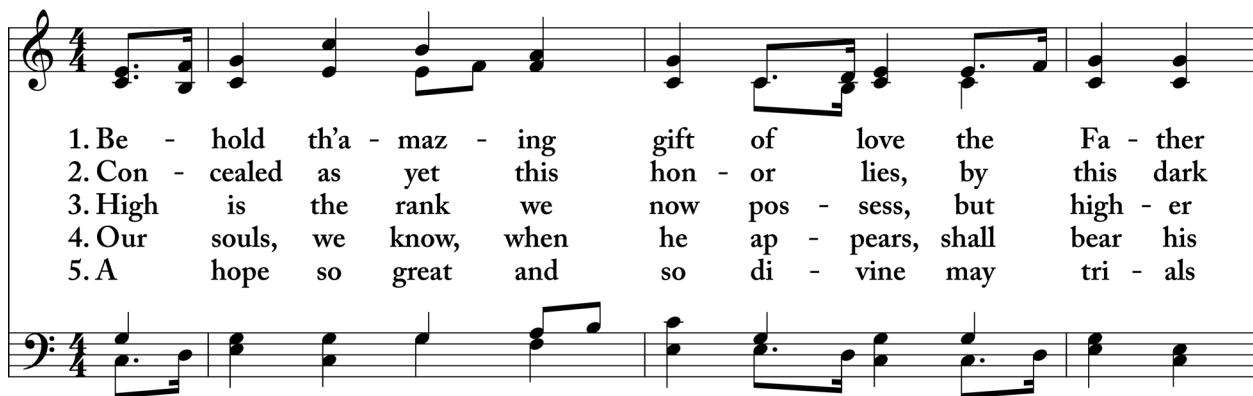
1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head;
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes;
 close by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray;


the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for heav - en, to live with thee there.

Behold the Amazing Gift of Love



1. Be - hold th'a - maz - ing gift of love the Fa - ther
 2. Con - cealed as yet this hon - or lies, by this dark
 3. High is the rank we now pos - sess, but high - er
 4. Our souls, we know, when he ap - pears, shall bear his
 5. A hope so great and so di - vine may tri - als



hath be - stowed on us, the sin - ful sons of men,
 world un - known, on a world that knew not when he came,
 we shall rise, though what we shall here - af - ter be
 im - age bright, for all his glo - ry, full dis - closed,
 well en - dure, and pu - ri - fy our souls from sin,



to call us sons of God; to call us sons of God!
 e'en God's e - ter - nal Son; e'en God's e - ter - nal Son.
 is hid from mor - tal eyes; is hid from mor - tal eyes.
 shall o - pen to our sight; shall o - pen to our sight.
 as Christ him - self is pure; as Christ him - self is pure.

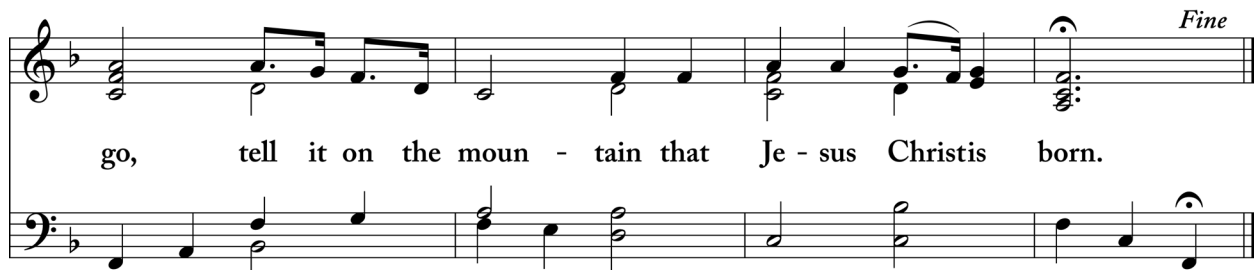
Go, Tell It on the Mountain

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child. Luke 2:17

Unison



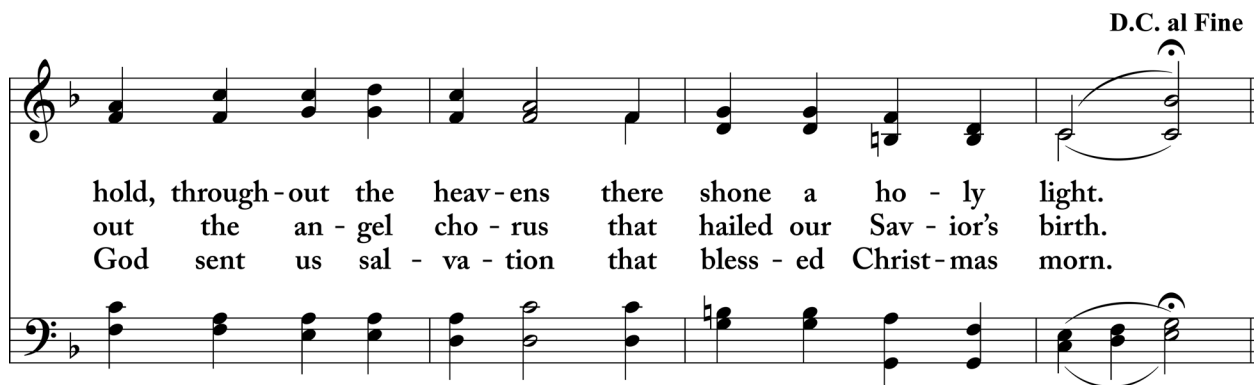
(Ref.) Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christis born. *Fine*



1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
2. The shep-herds feared and trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang and
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger our hum - ble Christ was born, and



hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn. *D.C. al Fine*

ADVENT ACCORDING TO JOHN:

The Gift of Childhood

John 1:6-13 | Rev. John Cherne

The Big Idea: God has always sent witnesses to reflect his light, but none of them were the true Light. These prophets shone only as the moon before the rising sun. When the true Light himself came into the world, the very One through whom the world was made, he came to his own and was rejected. But God in his mercy turns rejection into redemption by giving the right for all who believe in his name to become children of God. Born again, not of blood, flesh, or will of man, but through his gracious act of adoption.

i. The Light reflected by the witness (vv. 6-8)

ii. The Light rejected by his own (vv. 9-11)

iii. The Light received by the children of God (vv. 12-13)

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

Use this plan for your daily Bible reading.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Sunday, December 14 | Zechariah 1 • John 4 |
| • Monday, December 15 | Zechariah 2 • John 5 |
| • Tuesday, December 16 | Zechariah 3 • John 6 |
| • Wednesday, December 17 | Zechariah 4 • John 7 |
| • Thursday, December 18 | Zechariah 5 • John 8 |
| • Friday, December 19 | Zechariah 6 • John 9 |
| • Saturday, December 20 | Zechariah 7 • John 10 |
| • Sunday, December 21 | Zechariah 8 • John 11 |

WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use these questions to reflect more deeply on this week's sermon.

1. John the Baptist is described as a witness to the light (v. 8). What does it look like for followers of Christ to bear witness to the light? What is one way you can be a witness before the end of 2025?
2. Verses 9–11 highlight that the One who created the world was not recognized or received by it. Why is unbelief described as blindness rather than mere hostility? How does this shape your view of evangelism and prayer for unbelieving friends?
3. John says believers are given “the right to become children of God.” How is adoption different from merely being forgiven? How does this shape your view of yourself in Christ?
4. How does the doctrine of adoption shape the way members of a church should relate to one another?

MONTHLY SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Devote time to memorizing this passage of Scripture throughout the month.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

ABOUT WORSHIP

In his encounter with the woman of Samaria, Jesus explained that “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). The reason Jesus says true worshipers must worship in this way is because God himself “is spirit.” Here we discover the simple yet profound principle that true worship is a response to God as he has personally revealed himself. Thus, conformity to God’s character is the key to true worship. “Great is the LORD,” as the psalmist puts it, “and greatly to be praised” (Psalm 48:1)! In worship, we seek to reflect this divine reality, declaring with our lips and demonstrating with our lives that God is supremely precious and therefore worthy of all glory and honor and praise.

THE SHAPE OF WORSHIP



Entering God’s Presence—We gather in response to God’s call to worship, joyfully offering praise to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. With reverence and awe, we confess our sins and receive God’s forgiveness, which is declared in Jesus’ name.



Renewing Our Faith—Worship continues with a focus on God’s Word. Our faith is renewed as we publicly confess the truth of God, join our hearts and voices in prayers and hymns of praise to God, and hear the good news of God powerfully proclaimed.



Responding in Thanks—As hearing becomes doing, we respond to the proclamation of God’s Word. Songs of praise continue to be raised and the gifts and offerings of God’s people are collected. On Communion Sundays we are invited to celebrate the Lord’s Supper. With God’s blessing upon us, we are sent into the world to love and serve the risen Lord Jesus Christ!

Why Do We Worship in This Way?

In this section, we answer a question about worship each week.

Question: Are children welcome in worship?

Answer: Yes! It is our prayer that every child in our midst would experience the welcome of Jesus who said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 19:14).

WELCOME, VISITORS!

We are delighted you have joined us for worship. Our hope is that you find our worship service glorifying to God and personally refreshing.

We would love to connect with you. Please stop by our Welcome Kiosk in the Narthex after the service so that we may greet you in person and provide you a *Welcome Bag*. To connect with us, please use the QR code below to fill out a *Connect Card*.

*Use your phone's camera to quickly access the following resources
or navigate to the URL below each QR code.*



CONNECT CARD
stpaulsorlando.com/connect



CHURCH APP
stpaulsorlando.com/app



GIVE ONLINE
stpaulsorlando.com/give

Our Vision

To see the invisible kingdom of heaven made visible,
for the glory of God and the joy of all peoples.

Our Mission

To grow in grace and give away our lives
in the following seven major ministry areas:

Worship that exalts God in Christ and promotes unity in the Spirit

Discipleship that is rooted in the Scriptures and centered in the gospel

Community that is characterized by discipleship and care for one another

Local Missions that promotes the common good and evangelizes the lost

Global Missions that participates in church planting and spreading the gospel
to the ends of the earth

Children's Ministry that partners with parents to build children up in the
faith through loving care and Reformed biblical teaching

Youth Ministry that promotes maturity, joy, and identity in Christ

ST. PAUL'S

PRESBYTERIAN

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