



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
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 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.

*Advent means “coming” or
“arrival.”*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Call to Worship

From Psalm 34

Minister: I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

People: My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.

Minister: Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

† congregation standing

✠ congregation kneeling

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

† Hymn of Adoration

Hymn A • Trinity Hymnal #208

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

† Prayer of Adoration

Unison: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

† Old Testament Reading

Exodus 33:12-23

Pew Bible, page 73

Minister: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

✠ Prayer of Confession

Unison: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, we were brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did our mothers conceive us. Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach wisdom in the secret heart.

(Continued)

*"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you"
(James 4:10).*

Forgive all our sins for the sake of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ; wash us thoroughly through the blood of his sacrifice and we shall be whiter than snow. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence, O God, and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Please take a moment to silently confess your sin.

✠ Assurance of Pardon

From Psalm 103

Minister: The LORD does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Unison: Thanks be to God!

✠ Pastoral Prayer



† Hymn of Consecration

Hymn B • Trinity Hymnal #221

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN

† Affirmation of Faith

Westminster Larger Catechism

Question and Answer #47

Minister: How did Christ humble himself in his conception and birth?

People: Christ humbled himself in his conception and birth in that being from all eternity the Son of God in the bosom of the Father, it pleased him in the fullness of time to become the son of man, born of a woman from a poor family and into conditions that were even worse than ordinary.

Unison: Thanks be to God!

† Gloria

Glory Be to God II

Traditional Text; Musical Setting by Ronald Owen



Glo-ry be to God, the Fa-ther, Glo-ry be to Christ, His Son.



Glo-ry to the Ho-ly Spi-rit, our God three in one. As it



was in the be - gin-ning, so it shall be now and e - ver-more.



World with-out end, A - men. A - men. A - men!

Children are welcome for our entire service. Following the Gloria, 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.

Faith comes from hearing
(Romans 10:17).

† Gospel Lesson

John 1:14-18
Pew Bible, page 886

Minister: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

People: Thanks be to the Lord!

Prayer for Illumination

Proclamation of God's Word

Rev. Justin Borger

ADVENT ACCORDING TO JOHN:

We Have Seen His Glory



† Hymn of Response

Hymn C • Trinity Hymnal #162

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

"What do you have that you did
not receive?" (1 Corinthians 4:7)

Giving to God & Offertory

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

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

*Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

*Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

*Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

† Doxology

Vikki Cook



Praise God from whom all bles-sings 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. All glo-ry



be to God a-bove, who gave his Son in ho-ly



love, who sends his Com-for-ter to be his seal for



all e-ter-ni-ty, his seal for all e-ter-ni-ty.

† **Prayer of Dedication**

† **Benediction**

† **Sending Forth Hymn**

Hymn D • Trinity Hymnal #203 (Verse 2)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Angels We have Heard on High

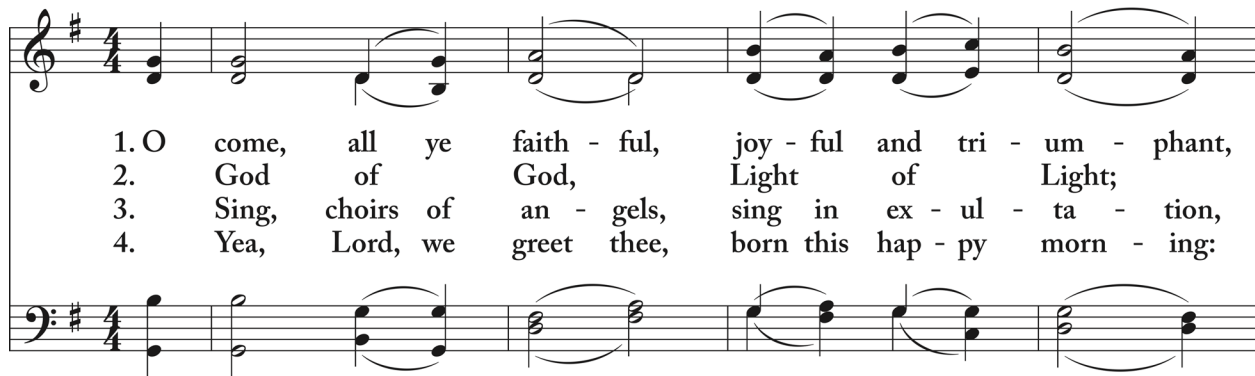
GLORIA

Please take a moment to greet those around you.

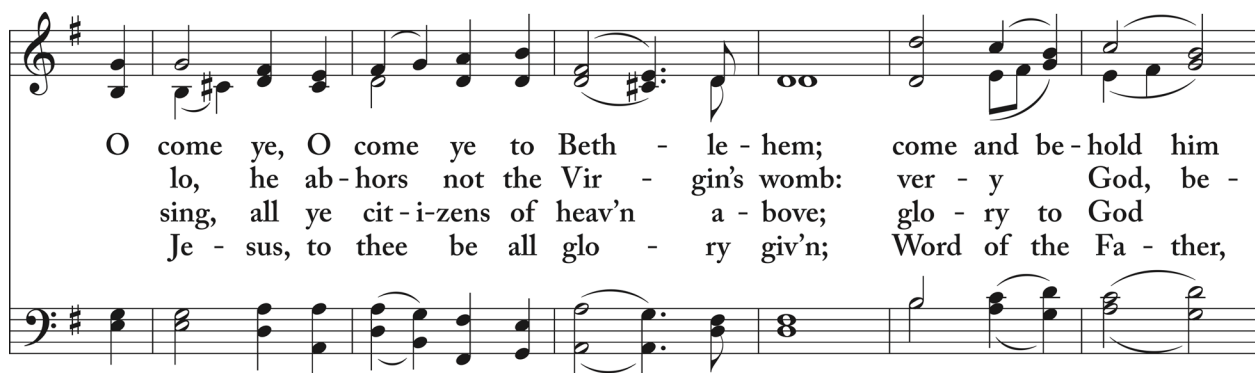
With the benediction, God places his name upon us as his people (Numbers 6:27). May we bear that name well as we are sent forth to love and to serve our risen Lord.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. Luke 2:15

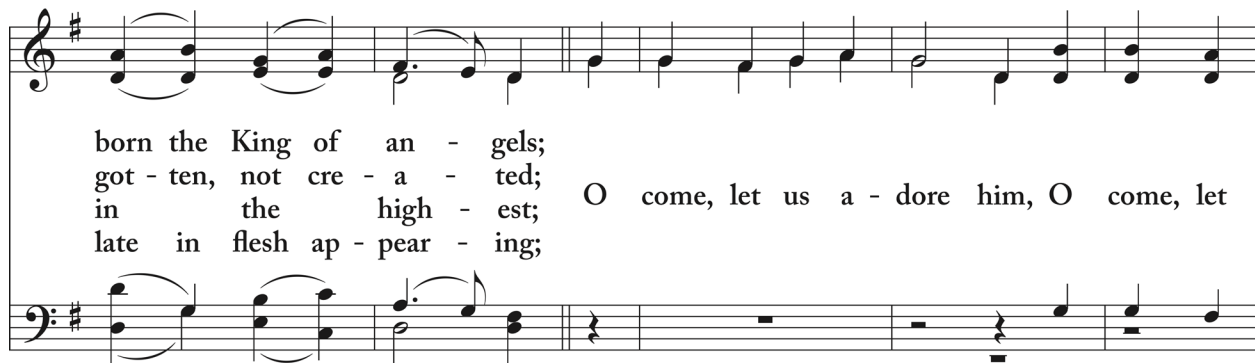


1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
 2. God of God, Light of Light;
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him
 lo, he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb: ver - y God, be -
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

REFRAIN



born the King of an - gels;
 got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
 in the high - est; O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let
 late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Latin hymn
Attr. to John Francis Wade, 1751
Tr. by Frederick Oakeley, 1841; alt.

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6.ref.
John Francis Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

Is. 11:1



1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I
 3. The shep - herds heard the sto - ry, pro - claimed by
 4. This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness
 5. O Sav - ior child of Mar - y, who felt our



stem hath sprung, of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, as
 have in mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 an - gels bright, how Christ, the Lord of glo - ry, was
 fills the air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 hu - man woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, who



men of old have sung. It came, a flow'r - et bright,
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right
 born on earth this night. To Beth - le - hem they sped
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God;
 dost our weak - ness know, bring us at length, we pray,



a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 she bore to men a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 and in the man - ger found him, as an - gel her - alds said.
 from sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 to the bright courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

German hymn, ca. 1500
 St. 1-2 tr. by Theodore Baker, 1894
 St. 3-4 tr. by Harriet R. Spaeth, 1875
 St. 5 tr. by John C. Mattes, 1914

ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN 7.6.7.6.6.7.6.
 German melody, 15th cent.
 Arr. by Michael Praetorius, 1609; alt.

Of the Father's Love Begotten

*"In the beginning was the Word...The Word was made flesh...and we beheld his glory,
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father."* John 1:1, 14 KJV



1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be - gan to be,
2. O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin, full of grace,
3. This is he whom heav'n - taught sing - ers sang of old with one ac - cord,
4. O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his prais - es sing;
5. Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,



he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the Source, the End - ing he,
by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race;
whom the Scrip - tures of the proph - ets prom - ised in their faith - ful word;
all do - min - ions bow be - fore him and ex - tol our God and King;
hymn, and chant, and high thanks - giv - ing, and un - wea - ried prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been, and that fu - ture
and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his
now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed; let cre - a - tion
let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in
hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal



years shall see,	ev - er - more and	ev - er - more!
sa - cred face,	ev - er - more and	ev - er - more!
praise its Lord,	ev - er - more and	ev - er - more!
con - cert ring,	ev - er - more and	ev - er - more!
vic - to - ry,	ev - er - more and	ev - er - more!

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



2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!



Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.



Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,



pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.



REFRAIN

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

ADVENT ACCORDING TO JOHN:

We Have Seen His Glory

John 1:14-18 | Rev. Justin Borger

The Big Idea: Behold the glory of the Word of God incarnate! Here is a revelation that exceeds the Law and the Prophets. Here is the fullness of truth and grace in the flesh. John reflected the light, but Jesus is the light. Moses saw God's back (Exodus 33:23), but Jesus reveals God's face (John 1:18). No one has ever seen God, but the only begotten Son from the Father has made him known.

i. Behold the Word of God in the flesh

ii. Behold the fullness of truth and grace

iii. Behold the glory of the only begotten Son from the Father

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

Use this plan for your daily Bible reading.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Sunday, December 21 | Zechariah 8 • John 11 |
| • Monday, December 22 | Zechariah 9 • John 12 |
| • Tuesday, December 23 | Zechariah 10 • John 13 |
| • Wednesday, December 24 | Zechariah 11 • John 14 |
| • Thursday, December 25 | Zechariah 12:1-13:1 • John 15 |
| • Friday, December 26 | Zechariah 13:2-9 • John 16 |
| • Saturday, December 27 | Zechariah 14 • John 17 |
| • Sunday, December 28 | Malachi 1 • John 18 |

WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

1. What does Moses ask to see in Exodus 33:18? And what does John say "We have seen" in John 1:14? Discuss.
2. John could have written "God became man" but he uses more specific language. What's the significance of the Greek word *sarx* that the ESV translates "flesh" in verse 14?
3. What is Gnosticism? Why is it a heresy? How are we still susceptible to this false way of thinking? And how is the heresy of Gnosticism refuted by the doctrine of the incarnation?
4. What is the point of the comparison between Jesus and Moses in verse 17?
5. Why is it significant that John uses the same word to describe his experience of leaning against Jesus "side" (*kolpos*, 13:23) that he uses to describe the Son "who is at the Father's side" (*kolpos*, 1:18)?
6. How does this intimacy that John experienced with Jesus during his earthly ministry and that the Son experienced with the Father from all eternity help us to better understand the purpose for which John wrote this Gospel?

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?

Question: What are the colored hangings on the pulpit, and why do they change?

Answer: These hangings are called “paraments” and they change as we celebrate special occasions, especially the five great “evangelical feasts” of the church year: Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost. These liturgical colors have an instructive purpose, helping us to mark time, and pointing us to key events in the life of Christ and the great work of redemption that he has accomplished.

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

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