



Saint Paul's Parish

174 Whisconier Road

Brookfield, CT 06804

(Episcopal/Anglican)

(203) 775-9587 (Office)

www.SaintPaulsBrookfield.com

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

Preacher & Celebrant: The Rt. Rev. Dr. Laura J. Ahrens

Priest: The Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Jung-Chul Lee

10:30 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite One

We extend a warm welcome to everyone who has joined us this morning.
We pray you experience the presence and love of Christ
as we worship together!

Saint Paul's Staff

Priest-in-Charge

Wardens

Vestry Members:

Organist and Choirmaster

Sunday School Administrator

The Rev. Dr. Nathaniel Jung-Chul Lee

Lois Hunt, and Dan Bacon (*Acting Warden*)

Chuck Allen-*Treasurer*, David Williams-*Clerk*, Beth Beck, Bill Bennett,
Jeff Chowanec, Geoff Dent, JoAnn Hornak, Mike Kirner,
Ned Marcalus, Diane Peterson, Bob Picheco, Bill Schrull

Kirsten Peterson

Julie Astbury

All stand as able

Opening Hymn

“Prepare the way, O Zion”

[Hymnal 65](#)

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

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant may read one of the following sentences

Celebrant: Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. *Matthew 22:37-40*

The Lighting of Two Candles on the Advent Wreath

Celebrant: Today we light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE; the second candle is PEACE.

The candles are lit.

Scripture: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. *Colossians 3:15*

All: Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts, and peace for our souls. Give us grace to seek peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. Amen.

Trisagion/Kyrie

William Schrull
(c) 2023

1
Ho - ly God, Migh - ty God, Im -

5
mor - tal one have mer - cy on us. Ho - ly God,

11
Migh - ty God, Im - mor - tal one have mer - cy on us.

16
Lord have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy Lord have

22
mer - cy on us. Ho - ly God,

27
Migh - ty God, Im - mor - tal one have mer - cy on us.

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score is divided into six systems, each starting with a measure number (1, 5, 11, 16, 22, 27). The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly God, Migh - ty God, Im - mor - tal one have mer - cy on us. Ho - ly God, Migh - ty God, Im - mor - tal one have mer - cy on us. Lord have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy Lord have mer - cy on us. Ho - ly God, Migh - ty God, Im - mor - tal one have mer - cy on us.' The score ends with a double bar line at measure 30.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray together. **M**erciful God, who didst send thy 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 liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;

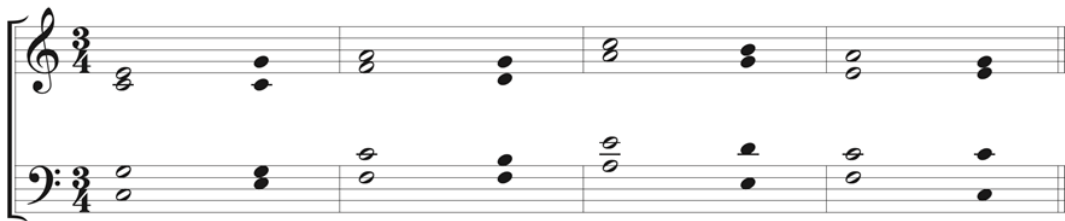
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19



- 1 Give the King your justice, O **God**, *
and your righteousness to the King's **Son**;
 - 2 That he may rule your people **righteously** *
and the poor with **justice**;
 - 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the **people**, *
and the little hills bring **righteousness**.
 - 4 He shall defend the needy among the **people**; *
he shall rescue the poor and crush the op-**pressor**.
 - 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon en-**dure**, *
from one generation to a-**nother**.
 - 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown **field**, *
like showers that water the **earth**.
 - 7 In his time shall the righteous **flourish**; *
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no **more**.
 - 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of **Israel**, *
who alone does wondrous **deeds**!
 - 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for **ever**! *
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. A-**men**.
- Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son**,*
and to the Holy **Spirit**:
- As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever **shall be**, *
world without end. A-**men**.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";

and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him";

and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Response

"Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding"

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding.
"Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
"Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day."

Wakened by the solemn warning,
From earth's bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiven.

Words: Latin, ca 6th C; tr. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861
Music: Stuttgart, adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal

(Please stand as able for the Gospel)

The Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Gospel Response

“Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding”

So when next he comes with glory,
And the world is wrapped in fear,
May he with his mercy shield us,
And with words of love draw near.

Honor, glory, might, and blessing
To the Father and the Son,
With the everlasting Spirit
While unending ages run.

The Sermon

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Laura J. Ahrens

The Nicene Creed *(Please Stand As Able)*

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.**

Prayers of the People

Intercessor: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love. Most Holy, Lord Christ.

All: Let us prepare the Way of your Kingdom.

Intercessor: Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Sean our Presiding Bishop, Jeff and Laura our bishops, and Fr. Nate our Priest-in-Charge, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. Most Holy, Lord Christ.

All: Let us prepare the Way of your Kingdom.

Intercessor: And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. Most Holy, Lord Christ.

All: Let us prepare the Way of your Kingdom.

Intercessor: We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. Most Holy, Lord Christ.

All: Let us prepare the Way of your Kingdom.

Intercessor: Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. Most Holy, Lord Christ.

All: Let us prepare the Way of your Kingdom.

Intercessor: And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

(Please add your own intercessions or thanksgivings out loud or in the silence of your heart.)

Intercessor: And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Caroline Bellesheim, in whose memory the altar flowers are given today, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of St. Paul and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Most Holy, Lord Christ.

All: Let us prepare the Way of your Kingdom.

Intercessor: Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Priest: Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

Silence may be kept.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

Bishop: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2:1-2*

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Announcements *Please be seated for the announcements*

- *December Birthdays & Anniversaries*

All stand as able for hymns

Offertory Praise

“Glorified”

Praise belongs to You
 Let every kingdom bow
 Let every ocean roar
 Let every heart adore You now

Praise belongs to You
 What can I do but sing
 The greatest joy I've found
 Is to lay a crown before my King
 Before my King

*I've come to worship
 I've come to lift up Your Name*

*For You deserve this life laid down
 Like the one that You gave
 I have but one voice
 One heart and one sacrifice
 So would You take this life laid down
 And be glorified be glorified
 (Be glorified be glorified)*
 Praise belongs to You
 Let songs from children rise
 You silence all Your foes
 You set Your glory in the skies

(song continues on next page)

Praise belongs to You
Creation's calling now
For the King to be revealed

O King of Heaven come down
King of Heaven come down

*by Jared Anderson © 2008 Integrity's Hosanna! Music
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Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below,
Praise him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen. Amen. Amen.
God we praise you.
God we praise you.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

(Remain standing as able)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore, with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing:

Sanctus

Hymnal S-129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est._____

Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

You may stand, sit or kneel.

Celebrant All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,
All: 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

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
All: Therefore let us keep the feast.

Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God: *Agnus Dei*

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access

All: We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

- Please follow the ushers directions for receiving the Eucharist at the altar rail.
- Let an usher know if you prefer to remain seated at your pew for distribution of the Bread and Wine.

Communion Praise

“For God so loved”

For God so loved the world that He gave, His only begotten son. That whosoever believes in Him, should not perish, But have life everlasting,	have life everlasting, Have life everlasting, have life everlasting. For God so loved the world that He gave, His only begotten Son.
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(song continues on next page)

For God did not send His Son into the world, To bring condemnation, But rather that through the receiving of Him, Men might find true salvation. And have life everlasting, have life everlasting, Have life everlasting, have life everlasting. For God so loved the world that He gave, His only begotten Son.	He came into the world, and He dwelt among His own, But His own, they would not receive Him. But power to become the sons of God, He gave to all who believe Him. He, gave life everlasting, gave life everlasting, His life everlasting, His life everlasting. For God so loved the world that He gave, His only begotten Son.
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Communion Praise

“Christ Be Magnified”

Were creation suddenly articulate With a thousand tongues to lift one cry Then from north to south and east to west We'd hear Christ be magnified	<i>O Christ be magnified From the altar of my life Christ be magnified in me</i>
Were the whole earth echoing His eminence His name would burst from sea and sky From rivers to the mountain tops We'd hear Christ be magnified	When ev'ry creature finds its inmost melody And ev'ry human heart its native cry O then in one enraptured hymn of praise We'll sing Christ be magnified

Chorus
O Christ be magnified
Let His praise arise
Christ be magnified in me

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Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy**

Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Blessing

Celebrant: May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness before your path and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

“Hail to the Lord's Anointed”

[Hymnal 616](#)

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Postlude

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Charles Callahan

The altar flowers today are given by Heather Melody
in memory of her mother, Caroline Bellesheim.

Altar Flowers - If you would like to request Altar flowers for a particular Sunday please see the Flower Chart in the back of the church, fill out an envelope located in the back of the church, send an email request to dszen@yahoo.com or contact the parish office.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Welcome Bishop Ahrens - The Rt. Rev. Dr. Laura J. Ahrens joins us this morning, preaching and celebrating at both of our services. She will also host an open “Question & Response” forum in Crocker Hall following the 10:30 a.m. service. Since 2007 she has served as Suffragan Bishop of ECCT. Bishop Ahrens was ordained deacon in 1991 and priest in 1992. Between 2000 and 2007, she served as rector of St James' Church in Danbury and is familiar with St. Paul's Parish and many of our parishioners.

Greening of the Church - Join us next Saturday, December 13th at 10 am when we will hang wreaths, greens and other Christmas decorations. Refreshments will be provided.

Children's Christmas Pageant - Will be next Sunday, December 14th during the 10:30 service.

Lessons and Carols: - Our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols will be next Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 pm. Join us for this special service and bring a friend.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Adult Advent Series - Is looking at the six major streams of faith and practice that define Christian tradition. Based on Richard Foster's landmark book, *Streams of Living Water: Essential Practices from the Six Great Traditions of Christian Faith*, let's learn together how the great traditions of the Church can deepen our faith and shape us into people who live, love, and serve like Jesus. The class starts at 9:30 am each Sunday in the Guild Room.

Christmas Giving Tree - Gift cards from the Christmas Giving Tree are due today so that Brookfield Human Services will be able to distribute the cards to families, in time for families to shop. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Wreaths - Pre-ordered wreaths are outside the entrance to the parish hall. Thank you, proceeds support the Jericho Partnership Food Pantry.

Quilt Drawing - Once again, just in time for Christmas our Quilters are holding their annual drawing. Come to coffee hour to check out this year's Christmas themed masterpiece quilts, lovingly made by our award winning quilters. Tickets will be available after each service December 7, 14 & 21st in Crocker Hall.

UPCOMING:

Salvation Army - The Salvation Army kettles will be here next week. The proceeds go to the Human Services Department in our town, who vets those who have “critical and urgent needs” that cannot be met through their funding.

Christmas Flowers - Anyone wishing to remember loved ones and friends with a poinsettia plant that will be decorating the church for the Christmas services may do so by filling out one of the envelopes on the table at the back of the church; send an email request to dszen@yahoo.com or contact David Szen. All Christmas memorials are due by Dec. 21st to be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Coats & Socks Drive - During the winter months we collect used coats and new socks (preferably white) to benefit the various agencies in Danbury supported by the Jericho Partnership. Leave the coats on the rack and socks in the basket in the back of the church.

End of Year Donations - All money to be credited to your 2025 account MUST be in the Parish Office by December 31st. Any money received after December 31st will be credited to your 2026 account.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFO:

Name Tags - Please be courteous to fellow parishioners, newcomers, Bishop Ahrens, and guests by extending a warm welcome to them and by wearing your name tag. You can leave them in the baskets at the doors as you leave for refiling. And remember to wear them to coffee hour.

Please Use Microphone - When making announcements, please use the lectern or the handheld microphone. Even though you think you have a strong voice, people watching online or in the back of the church cannot hear you.

Coffee Gathering - Following this service, join us downstairs in Crocker Hall for coffee.

Sunday School - Sunday School classes start at 10:40 am. During advent bring your children directly into church with you for the lighting of the Advent Candles after which they will be directed to their classrooms. Children will return to their parent or guardian before the start of Communion.

Our Daily Bread - The *Our Daily Bread* devotional pamphlet for December, January & February is now available at the back of the church. E-mail dszen@yahoo.com to have a copy mailed to you. *Our Daily Bread* contains a scripture verse and meditation for each day.

The Priest-in-Charge Weekly - Fr. Nate has a weekly e-mail, "*The Priest-in-Charge Weekly*," to communicate things directly from his desk to yours. If you did not receive his e-mail this week and would like to, write Fr. Nate at priest@saintpaulsbrookfield.com and let him know.

Our Facilities - Our restrooms are located downstairs at the rear of our parish hall. Take the stairway to the right as you exit the sanctuary. The restrooms are located on the far left, across from the kitchen. A play area for our young ones is also set up in the parish hall as well as live streaming and audio of the service on a wide screen TV. In addition, coloring book packages are available for youngsters to use in the pews. If you need anything during the service, please feel free to ask an usher.

Calendar For The Week

(We welcome and encourage parishioners to come to any of these ministries.)

(Check website for up to date Zoom links - www.SaintPaulsBrookfield.com)

Sun., Dec 7	8:00 am	- Traditional Holy Eucharist (YouTube Live)
	9:30 am	- Adult Class, Guild Room
	10:30 am	- Contemporary Holy Eucharist (YouTube Live)
	10:40 am	- Sunday School
Mon., Dec 8	12:00 pm	- Forum w/Bishop Ahrens, Crocker Hall
	7:00 pm	- Men's Bible Study, Crocker Hall (YouTube Live)
	7:00 pm	- Lessons & Carols, Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Tue., Dec 9	9:30 am	- Ladies Tuesday AM Bible Study, Guild Room
Wed., Dec 10	10:00 am	- Holy Eucharist & Healing (YouTube Live)
	11 - Noon	- Drive Thru Food Collection #148
	7:00 pm	- Women's Evening Bible Study, Zoom
	7:30 pm	- Vestry Meeting, Guild Room
Thu., Dec 11	9:30 am	- Iron Sharpens Iron Discussion Group, Guild Room
	7:30 pm	- Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary
Fri., Dec 12	10:00 am	- St. Paul's Walking Group, Brookfield Greenway
Sat., Dec 13	7:30 am	- John 21:12 Group, Theo's Downtown Diner, New Milford
	8:00 am	- Men's Prayer Breakfast, Crocker Hall
	9:00 am	- PraiseMoves, Crocker Hall (Zoom)
	10:00 am	- Hanging of the Greens, Nave
Sun., Dec 14	8:00 am	- Traditional Holy Eucharist (YouTube Live)
	9:30 am	- Adult Class, Guild Room
	10:30 am	- Contemporary Holy Eucharist (YouTube Live)
	10:40 am	- Sunday School



Next Sunday - Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 am & 10:30 am

Preacher: Rev. Nate Lee

Readings for December 14th

[Isaiah 35:1-10](#) - [Psalm 146:4-9](#) - [James 5:7-10](#) - [Matthew 11:2-11](#)

