



First Sunday of Advent: November 29, 2020

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT WWW.STPAULSTX.ORG

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8320 Jack Finney Blvd. Greenville, Texas

75402-3004

Office Hours: The Church Office is closed with staff working remotely until further notice.

Service Times

SUNDAY

10:30 AM HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

WEDNESDAY

Noon . . . NOONDAY PRAYERS (VIA ZOOM)

Morsel for Meditation

“Beware of manufacturing a God of your own: a God who is all mercy, but not just; a God who is all love, but not holy; a God who as a heaven for everybody, but a hell for none; a God who can allow good and bad to be side by side in time, but will make no distinction between good and broad in eternity. Such a God is an idol of your own, as truly an idol as any snake or crocodile in an Egyptian temple. The hands of your own fancy and sentimentality have made him. He is not the God of the Bible, and beside the God of the Bible there is no God at all.”

Bishop J.C. Ryle, *Practical Religion* (1878; Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2018), 345.

Lay Ministry

10:30 AM LECTOR

11/29: DEBBIE SHAFFER

ACOLYTES

11/29: TBD

ALTAR GUILD

11/29: LAURA FUNK, GEORGIANNA HARRISON,
GAIL ROLSTON

VESTRY PERSON OF THE DAY

11/29: MIKE LAVIGNE, DEBBIE SHAFFER

12/06: ELIZABETH PORTER, DANA MEDFORD

CIRCLE OF CARE (WEEKLY)

ON HOLD UNTIL IN-PERSON MEETINGS RESUME

INTERCESSORY PRAYER (WEEKLY)

ON HOLD UNTIL IN-PERSON MEETINGS RESUME

Jesus Christ, *Head of the Church*

The Rt. Rev. Dr. George R. Sumner, *Bishop*

The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Funk, *Rector*

The Rev. Gordon Miltenberger, *Assisting Priest*

David Gish, *Music Director*

John Shasteen, *Organist*

Angela Dryer, *Parish Administrator*

Order of Worship

Pray for the Church, the Body of Christ

Please pray for those on our prayer list this week: Ken Gunter, Dana Medford, Bill Rolston, Father Gordon, Dolores Miltenberger, Mike Lavigne, and Paula Reeves. We also pray for our Daughters of the King Ministry as they bring their strength and service together by praying for friends and for the people.

Contact our church office to add a name to our prayer list.

Stewardship Today

From Paul in his first letter to the church at Corinth:

“For we are God’s fellow workers... “ (1. Cor. 3:9).

Elsewhere, Paul mentions that we are “working together with him... “ (2 Cor. 6:1). God is at work in your life and around the world, and you have the privilege of participating in his work. Stewardship is the time to think about what you can give back with thanksgiving; the many blessings God has given you.

Jennifer Faunce
Stewardship Committee

November 22

Offering: \$5,550.00

Cover Art: Joseph Wright of Derby, *The Old Man and Death* (Hartford, CT; Wadsworth Atheneum, 1774), oil on canvas, detail.

BCP = Book of Common Prayer (black)
H= Hymnbook (red)
A3 = Alleluia III (yellow)

10:30 — HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

Prelude

Processional Hymn **H #59**

**Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding
(Merton)**

Opening Sentence BCP 355

Collect for Purity BCP 355

Summary of the Law BCP 351

Trisagion **H #S101**

The Collect BCP 159

The Lessons

First Reading Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalm Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Epistle I Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel Hymn **H #66**

**Come, thou long expected Jesus
(Stuttgart)**

Gospel Mark 13:24-37

The Nicene Creed BCP 358

Sermon The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Funk

Prayers of the People (Form I) BCP 383

The Confession. BCP 360

The Peace. BCP 360

Announcements

Holy Communion

Offertory **H #65**

**Prepare the way, O Zion
(Bereden vag for Herran)**

Offertory Anthem **A3 #221**

Doxology (Old 100th)

The Great Thanksgiving (Prayer D) BCP 372

The Lord’s Prayer BCP 364

Agnus Dei **H #S157**

Communion Hymns

Abba, Father A3 #145

Open the Eyes of My Heart A3 #131

Post Communion Prayer BCP 365

The Blessing & Dismissal BCP 366

Recessional Hymn **H #57**

**Lo! he comes, with clouds descending
(Helmsley)**

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion.

Greetings to the saints at St. Paul's,

Happy Thanksgiving! I hope that y'all had good Thanksgiving. A silver lining of the cloud of 2020 is that we can see how many things we have to be grateful for. We remained blessed to live in an area less impacted by COVID-19. We can also rejoice that our state understands that worship of Almighty God is an essential activity, and that adults can make informed decisions about getting together. I especially want to thank those who officiated Morning Prayer for the last two Sundays, and the Tech Team for continuing to broadcast the service (even when it was in the chilly breezeway). We remain blessed to have family and friends who stand with us in sickness and health, joys and pains, and in triumph and failure.

This Thanksgiving I particularly give thanks for the ease of my wife's and my recovery from COVID-19. I would characterize my experience as that of a mild flu. This downtime allowed me to finish James Michener's tome Texas. If you haven't read it, I recommend it. I did buy the movie too, but haven't watched it yet. Laura and I have followed the CDC procedures of quarantining after catching COVID-19. To get the details of what that means, go to the website "When You Can be Around Others After You Had or Likely Had COVID-19" at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/end-home-isolation.html>. The CDC also lists some advantages to having COVID-19 antibodies. For example, if exposed again, there's no need to quarantine. It's too bad that Europe still has a blanket quarantine on travelers, or with the cheap airfare Laura and I might take a fun trip after Christmas. Another thing someone who's had COVID-19 can do is donate their plasma to help others (<https://www.carterbloodcare.org>). One thing that my illness did take away was the opportunity for me to do some deer hunting during doe season. Since I hunt for meat, not trophies, I'm quite happy with a two-year-old doe or spike. Maybe next year.

Now Advent is upon us, and to help us prepare for Christmas we'll be having an Advent program beginning Thursday December 3rd. This year it will be "Jesus among other gods: the absolute claims of the Christian message" by Ravi Zacharias. It will follow the same format as previous years: dinner at 6:00 with the program and small group discussion from 6:30-7:30.

Our Bishop has an Advent present for us, and he writes, "Dear Brothers and Sisters, Greeting in our coming Lord Jesus. Here is a link to a video for the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby's sermon for the diocese. While fitting this Sunday best, it would work at any point in the season. http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Yw7h-1pwqWVXyh0Q5stHnVFhBcxHbckFSxeiqEijWir4x4q4gKQtn-avTUwb2mUcq_jUgs0YG0bkDMn3qg77Fmmypb-wV1-Zg03s8qWVWQw0m3yRppysRcm_pHRCfz_nhfjm7llVJhFlRofWUaVw9ZZg==&c=0IMSKRWSOdkOFpW25t-4Fi2Pf4rog698zVc-dz3v3lWJVtPWK8CJ18A==&ch=jCRBNk5KMiJGsE2Y-E4C4L1BPtUGkqgPA9R_r1lRsbuufbe6Ef-WdVQ== Enjoy! I'm looking forward to seeing y'all, leading worship and preaching in-person on Sunday!

Here's some other St. Paul's news for the week:

- Morning Prayer happens on Wednesdays at 10:30 via Zoom.
- Our Stewardship Committee has provided a QR code now appearing in our Sunday bulletin. The QR code will take you to the links on our church website for donating without having to handle money tactily.
- Since we're doing so much online our Google, YouTube, Facebook reviews are important. Please take a few moments to give us a 5-star review!
- Our 10:30 Sunday service is available in-person, on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCmlrRFx-bQF7CSAnFS8H9FA>), and Facebook (<https://facebook.com/stpaulsepiscopalgreenville>). Our recorded Sunday service is broadcast on the GEUS community Channel (Channel 34) on Wednesdays at 8 am and 6 pm. Previously recorded services may be accessed anytime on our Facebook and YouTube pages. The recorded sermons may be found on our website as MP3s.
- Remote Eucharist continues, and a few parishioners are helping distribute the Eucharist to parishioners' homes on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please let the Rector know by email (i.e. fathernickfunk@gmail.com) if you'd like to receive the Holy Sacrament remotely.
- The Parish office remains closed; however, we continue to check voicemails and emails regularly.
- St. Paul's Zoom Meeting access may be found at <https://zoom.us/j/9037772020>. Our Meeting ID is: 903 777 2020. To call in, use one tap mobile: +13462487799,,9037772020# or to dial: +1 346 248 7799.



Hospitalized, Rehab, or recovering at home: Bill Rolston, Ken Gunter