



Second Sunday After Christmas: January 3, 2021

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

A countless throng. I have always derived much comfort from the statement of Revelation 7:9 that the company of the redeemed in heaven will be 'a great multitude which no man could number'. I do not profess to know how this can be, since Christians have always seemed to be a rather small minority. But Scripture states it for our comfort. Although no biblical Christian can be a universalist (believing that all mankind will ultimately be saved), since Scripture teaches the awful reality and eternity of hell, yet a biblical Christian can -- even must -- assert that the redeemed will somehow be an international throng so immense as to be countless. For God's promise is going to be fulfilled, and Abraham's seed is going to be as innumerable as the dust of the earth, the stars of the sky and the sand on the seashore. -- John R.W. Stott

A half-truth masquerading as the whole truth becomes a complete untruth. -- J.I. Packer, *A Quest for Godliness: The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life* (Indiana University, 1990), 126.

You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending. -- C.S. Lewis

Lay Ministry

10:30 AM LECTOR

01/03: TBD

ACOLYTES

01/03: TBD

ALTAR GUILD

01/03: LAURA FUNK, GEORGIANNA HARRISON, GAIL ROLSTON

VESTRY PERSON OF THE DAY

01/03: ELIZABETH PORTER, MIKE LAVIGNE

01/10: DEBBIE SHAFFER, JOE BLEIER

CIRCLE OF CARE (WEEKLY)

ON HOLD UNTIL IN-PERSON MEETINGS RESUME

INTERCESSORY PRAYER (WEEKLY)

ON HOLD UNTIL IN-PERSON MEETINGS RESUME

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion.

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: Judy Shaddox, Jincy Jones, Rita Woods and family, 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.

Rev. Dr. Bill Shaddox would like to say a special thank you to the St. Paul's Church family for their generosity and thoughtfulness. The Christmas Eve gift was very much appreciated.

December 27

Offering: \$825.00

Attendance: 23

Cover Art: Anonymous, *The Three Magi before Herod* (Paris: Musée de Cluny, 15th century), stained glass window. Dimensions: 41 cm diameter, detail.

BCP = Book of Common Prayer (black)

H= Hymnbook (red)

A3 = Alleluia III (yellow)

10:30 — HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

Prelude

Processional Hymn H #497

*How bright appears the Morning Star
(Wie schön leuchtet)*

Opening Sentence BCP 355

Gloria in excelsis H #S280

The Collect BCP 233

The Lessons

First Reading Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm Psalm 84

Epistle Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Gospel Hymn H #128

*We three kings of Orient are
(Three Kings of Orent)*

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Funk

The Nicene Creed BCP 326

Prayers of the People (Form I) BCP 383

The Confession. BCP 360

The Peace. BCP 360

Announcements

Holy Communion

Offertory H #110

*The snow lay on the ground
(Venite adoremus)*

Offertory Anthem A3 #221

Doxology (Old 100th)

The Great Thanksgiving (Prayer D) BCP 372

Sanctus BCP 373

The Lord's Prayer BCP 364

Agnus Dei BCP 407

The Presentation BCP 362

Communion Hymns

Love came down at Christmas H #84
(Gartan)

What child is this, who, laid to rest H #115
(Greensleeves)

Post Communion Prayer BCP 365

The Blessing & Dismissal BCP 366

Recessional Hymn H #450

*All hail the power of Jesus' name! (1,2,3,6)
(Coronation)*

Rector's Update - January 1st, 2021

Greetings to the saints at St. Paul's,

Most of us are glad to see 2020 in the rearview mirror, and are praying that 2021 will be a better year. Perhaps the rain before New Year's helped to wash away some of the chaos of 2020. We've been through a pandemic of fear that has seen unprecedented events in our country and world. Few have not been jarred out of daily routines, and this provides opportunities (or requires us) to make choices on how we respond. In other words, a silver lining to the corona cloud is that we have gotten off autopilot, and we've had the opportunity to reevaluate what we're doing and reorder our actions to be in line with our priorities as disciples of Christ. This does not mean that our previous actions were 'bad,' but it means that the changing conditions force us to lean into the work of a disciple, or respond as fear dictates (whether that be frittering or fretting away the time). St. Augustine experienced significant ups and downs of Roman society, and he observed that the Church prospers in times of peace. He then noted that saints are crafted during times of difficulty. Perhaps that's the gift of 2020 – we've been given the opportunity to be crafted more into the image of our Lord Jesus. 2021 may also give us such opportunities, and I pray that we've grown enough in 2020 to meet them with faith, hope, and love. *Soli Deo gloria!*

I announced last Sunday that we've received new Diocesan directives about how we are permitted to gather in worship. Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases, all the churches in the Diocese are limited to gathering of 20 persons or less. Since it takes about 10 persons to handle the liturgy, music, and online broadcast, that means that only 10 additional persons will be permitted in the main church building. Most of y'all know that I have a difficult time turning people away when they are seeking to draw close to God, and that means we've had a few options to consider. The first option is to move the service outside into the breezeway, as the Diocese permits us to hold outside services without size restrictions. After considering that January and February are the coldest months of the year (not to mention the wind and wet), and how worshipping outside would impact the liturgy, music, and technology team, we've kicked around some alternatives. I've decided that the best (or maybe the least worst) option is to count the number of those handling the liturgy, music, and online broadcast, and then allow the first people who arrive at church to attend until we reach a total number of 20 in the main church. **This gives an incentive to come to church early!** After we reach 20 in the church, we'll have the overflow in the Parish Hall (up to 20). This allows us to handle a total of 40 on church property. If we need more than this, then we could have a third group in the Parlor (though we haven't had over 40 since this bruhaha started). We've set up some extra pews in the Parish Hall, and the big screen TV will offer a live feed of the service. **NB we will continue to broadcast concomitantly on Facebook and YouTube for those not on church property.** During the distribution of the Eucharist, I'll bring the consecrated hosts to those in the Parish Hall. It's serendipitous that I got a good deal on a number of silver patens last week, as we'll probably have about 5 patens in use on Sundays. It's worth noting that since these new directives will be likely be in effect at the time of our Annual Meeting, we'll probably handle the Annual Meeting in the same way (and with online streaming).

See y'all on the first Sunday of 2021!

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/UCCmlrRFxbQF7CSAnFS8H9FA>), 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 or as MP3s on our website.
- 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: Jincey Jones

