

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH
CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL EUCHARIST 11:00 P.M.

Book of Alternative Services

December 24, 2011

*"I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people;
for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10, 11)*

St. Paul's chorus: Unto us a boy is born

Processional Hymn: Hark the herald angels sing **RB.407**
Greetings

Children's Advent song: A Candle is burning

A Candle is burning A flame warm and bright, a candle of hope
in December's dark night, while angels sing blessings From
heaven's starry sky, our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

We honour Messiah with Christ candle's flame, our Christmas
Eve candles glad tidings proclaim. O come all you faithful,
rejoice in this night, as God comes among us, the Christian's true
light.

The Gathering of the Community **pg. 185**

The Collect of the Day:

Eternal God, our heavenly Father, this holy night is radiant with the
brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of
that light on earth, bring us to see the splendor of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word **pg. 187**

O.T. Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2 - 7 **pg. 606**

Chorus: Infant holy, infant lowly

N.T. Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

Gradual Carol: In the bleak mid-winter **RB.418**

Holy Gospel: St. Luke 2: 1 - 20 **pg. 55**

The Nicene Creed **pg. 188**

Sermon: Linda Faith Chalk

Chorus: Sleep Holy Babe
The Prayers of the People – **(Insert)**
Christmas Confession and Absolution **(insert)**
The Peace **pg. 192**
The Celebration of the Eucharist **pg. 192**
Offertory Hymn: "O Come all ye faithful" **RB. 415**
Eucharistic Prayer #3 **pg. 193**
The Lord's Prayer **pg. 211**
The Breaking of the Bread No. 6 **pg. 213**

The Communion

This is the Lord's table and all who are communicant members
in their home churches are welcome to receive here. Those who
do not receive communion, are invited to come to the sanctuary
railing to receive a blessing.

**Communion Hymns: Anthem: Jesus, Saviour, Friend Away in a
manger** **RB.419**

Ablutions Hymn: "Silent Night" **RB.416**

Prayer after communion: God our Father, in this night you have
made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm
our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the
Morning Star rises in our hearts. **Amen.**

**The Blessing: Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready
to meet him when he comes in glory: and the blessing...**

Hymn: "Joy To The World" **R.B. 401**

Dismissal: Let us bless the Lord

Response: Thanks be to God.

Service Schedule:

December 25th, 2011 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (BCP)

The Birth of our Lord

TAX RECEIPTS To be eligible for 2011 tax receipts, all donations to St. Paul's need to be received by December 31, 2011

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A blessed Christmas to all and every
blessing for the New Year

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A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Bible study starts January 11, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. At the Rectory. Study- John's gospel.

SERVICE SCHEDULE ***

January 1, 2012 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion BCP

The Naming of Jesus 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)

December Mission Project – H.O.P.E.

The Isaiah 40 Foundation is looking for towels. As they have many guests staying there on an ongoing basis and the towels they have are rather threadbare. If you have some towels in your linen closet that you are not using please consider a gift of towels to them. Our Pastor goes there and can take them with her when she goes.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

In the past few weeks as we have met for worship we have lit candles on the Advent wreath. Our weeks of Advent have given us the voice of the prophet Isaiah echoing through the ages, Elizabeth the mother of John the Baptist who knew the coming Messiah. Mary who accepted God's call to be the mother of Jesus. The last Sunday of Advent gave us John the Baptist's message as he proclaimed the coming of Jesus: these voices of proclamation have led us to this very night. Tonight on this most Holy night we light the Christ candle. Our Lord promised, I am the light of the world He who follows me will not walk in darkness. God the Father has sent Jesus as the light of the world and we celebrate His birth. (Light the Christ candle)

Prayer: O God of hope, and peace, and joy, and love. From that stable so long ago your light shines out into every corner of the world. Help us to sing with the angles of the joy of your coming. Help us to live by your light not only today, but throughout the whole year, so that tidings of peace and goodwill to all will truly transform everything. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, [*in this holy night*] your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God

Response: hear our prayer.

[*In this holy night*] there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God

Response: hear our prayer.

[*In this holy night*] Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand [...and] all who are in pain or distress. Holy God

Response: hear our prayer.

[*In this holy night*] your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to [...and] all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God

Response: hear our prayer.

[*In this holy night*] the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in [...and in] all the world. Holy God

Response: hear our prayer.

[*In this holy night*] shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. Holy God

Response: hear our prayer.

[*In this holy night*] strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God

Response: hear our prayer.

[*In this holy night*] heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand [...and] all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom. Holy God

Response: hear our prayer.

[*In this holy night*] Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Holy God

Response: hear our prayer.

Father, [*in this holy night*] angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Christmas Confession

God our Father, you sent your Son full of grace and truth: forgive our failure to receive him. Lord, have mercy.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger: forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. Christ, have mercy.

Response: Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of Love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call: forgive the hardness of our hearts. Lord, have mercy.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION: