

**CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY** 

The Rev. Sarah Phelps, Celebrant The Rev. Dr. Cathy Deats, Homilist 9:00 A.M SERVICE NOVEMBER 23, 2025

Prelude

Carol Yeargin, Organ

Please stand if able **Processional** 

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Hymn 688

## Liturgy of the Word

## **The Opening Acclamation**

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 355

Celebrant

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

People

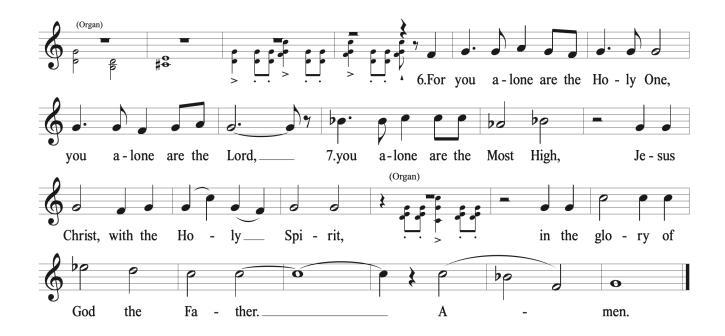
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant says

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

The following is sung.





## **Collect of the Day**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

Please be seated

Children's Processional

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God (v. 1) Children's Chapel is for children 3 years old through 5th grade.

Hymn 293

#### First Reading

Jeremiah 23:1-6

A Reading from Jeremiah.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm Psalm 46

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, \*
  - a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, \* and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, \*
  - and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 The LORD of hosts is with us; \* the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, \* the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 6 God is in the midst of her;

she shall not be overthrown; \*

God shall help her at the break of day.

- 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; \* God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- 8 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, \* what awesome things he has done on earth.
- 10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; \* he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
- 11 "Be still, then, and know that I am God; \*
  I will be exalted among the nations;
  I will be exalted in the earth."
- 12 The LORD of hosts is with us; \* the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

### **Second Reading**

Colossians 1:11-20

A Reading from the Letter to the Colossians.

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers-- all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Reader The Word of the Lord. People Thanks be to God.

Please stand if able

Gradual At the Name of Jesus (vv. 1,5 & 6)

Remain standing

The Gospel Luke 23:33-43

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. The people stood by, watching Jesus on the cross; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

People remain standing until the homilist invites all to be seated

Homily

The Rev. Dr. Cathy Deats, Homilist

Hymn 435

Please stand if able

#### **Nicene Creed**

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** 

People's Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

#### **Confession and Absolution of Sin**

BCP 360

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All who are able, kneel. Minister and People

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

The Celebrant says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.* 

Please stand if able

Peace BCP 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Please be seated

## Welcome & Announcements

If you would like to donate online, follow the QR code found here or on the giving card in the back of the pews.

At the end of the announcements, you are also welcome to come forward to make a special donation to Heifer International, a non-profit organization whose mission is to end hunger and poverty, to mark an anniversary, blessing, or other event.



# Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory O How Amiable Ralph Vaughan Williams

St. Paul's Choir

Melissa Raasch, trumpet soloist

O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts!

My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord.

My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:

Even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God

Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. They will be alway praising thee.

The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us; Prosper thou the work of our hands upon us.

O prosper thou our handiwork.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Please stand if able while the offering is presented

Offertory Response All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee.

## The Great Thanksgiving

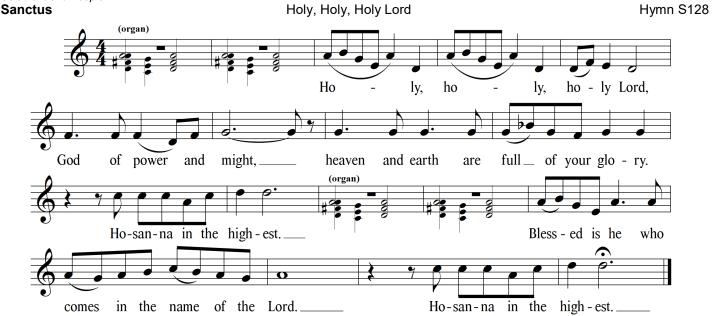
The People remain standing. The Celebrant proceeds
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

#### The Celebrant proceeds

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

#### Celebrant and People



Please stand or kneel if able The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, blessed Paul, and all the saints who have gone before us, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. *AMEN*.

## The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

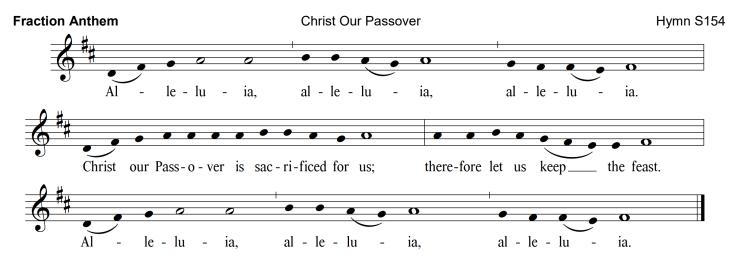
Lord's Prayer BCP 367

People and Celebrant

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.

#### **Breaking of the Bread**

A period of silence is kept.



## **Holy Communion**

The Celebrant says

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.

All are welcome to come forward for communion, including children. Please follow the ushers' guidance as you come to the rail. If you would like to receive the wine by intinction (dipping the bread in the cup), keep the bread in your hands and wait for the communion server to come to you. If you would like to receive from the common cup (drinking from the cup directly), please consume the bread first and then make your way to the steps at the end of the rail. A communion server will be there with the common cup. If it is not your custom to receive communion, you are still welcome to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms across your chest and the minister will offer a prayer.

A priest is available to provide prayers for healing in the back southwest corner of the church. Simply head to the back during communion distribution and wait for your turn.

### **Spiritual Communion Prayer**

For those worshiping with us online

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

**The Communion Music** 

King of Glory, King of Peace Surely it is God Who Saves Me Hymn 382 Hymn 678

Please stand or kneel if able

# Postcommunion Prayer

EOW 69

Celebrant and People

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

## **Blessing**

Please stand if able

**Recessional** All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine

Hymn 477

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Postlude Carol Yeargin, Organ

#### St. Paul's Brass Ensemble

Emery Anderson, trumpet
Melissa Raasch, trumpet
Barbara Prillaman, horn
Russell McKinney, bass trombone
All brass arrangements by Russell McKinney

### **TODAY – NOVEMBER 23, 2025**

Please wear your nametags when you're here at church! And if you don't yet have a nametag, please complete an order form in the narthex (lobby) so we can get you one!

New to St. Paul's? Welcome! Please let us know you are here by filling out a visitor card in the pew. Stop by our Connecting Station in the narthex (lobby) to chat and find materials that might help if you are new to St. Paul's or The Episcopal Church. Join a tour of our campus the third Sunday of the month at 10:15 a.m. to learn more and meet others. Contact Mary Kintz, our Community Connector, at mary.kintz@stpaulscary.org to find out more about us!

**Accessibility:** St. Paul's strives to make our services and programs comfortable and accessible to all. Ushers and Greeters are available to help. Please let us know how we can work together to improve your experience here.

Kids in Worship at St. Paul's: Children are always welcome in our worship services without exception, but if parents should wish for a space where your kids have more room to move around during the service, you are welcome to make use of the Comfort Room (glassed-in room at the rear of the worship space from which you can still hear and see the service). Ask an usher if you need help finding it. Also, our Kids' Club (free nursery care) is available during the 9 a.m. service, and infants/toddlers through 36 months (3 years old) are welcome to attend.

**Children's Chapel:** Children 3 years old through 5th grade are invited to process to Children's Chapel during the 9 a.m. service and will return to their families during announcements.

**Coffee Hour (Parish Hall):** Join us this morning after the 9 a.m. service for coffee and conversation, hosted today by the St. Nicholas Ministry. Find gift shopping suggestions and learn more about the agencies we serve.

Children's Sunday School - 5th grade and under (Education Building): Classes are meeting from 10:15-11 a.m.

Youth Sunday School - 6th thru 12th grade (Youth Wing): Classes are meeting from 10:15-11 a.m.

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC): Join us from 5-7 p.m. today in the Youth Wing for our 3rd Annual Friendsgiving Potluck.

#### PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Love Your Immigrant Neighbors Follow Up: All are invited to join us on TODAY at 12:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall for a discussion about what we can do as a community to respond to the crisis caused by increased ICE activity in our area. In October, our adult formation series on immigration helped us consider how we might bear witness and work in solidarity with our migrant neighbors. Follow up with us now as we share resources from SeimbraNC and local agencies reaching out to those in need.

**Holiday Office Hours:** The church office will be closed Nov. 26-28. Please call ahead before visiting the office during the holiday season, and for pastoral emergencies, please call the clergyperson on call at 919-454-4451.

Thank You for Contributing to our Drives: We had an incredible response to our recent drives for the Diaper Train and NeighborUp (Dorcas)! With very little fanfare, you all contributed 4207 diapers, 4244 wipes and more than 300 food items for those nearby who need a little lift. Thank you to all who made this possible!

Replenishing the Rector's Discretionary Fund: A Rector's Discretionary Fund (RDF), governed by church canon law, is used solely for outreach to individuals in need, inside or outside the parish. The clergy at St. Paul's use this fund to help people pay utility bills, make car and rent payments, pay medical bills, and help with other particular needs. At St. Paul's, this fund is supported by gifts from individuals, not by any regular funding source in the budget. Currently, our fund is quite low, and there are always needs in our community. Please consider donating to the fund, either through the church website (the blue donate button at the top) or by check.

St. Paul's Suncatcher Ornaments: Take a closer look at our St. Nicholas tree and you'll see some of our St. Paul's suncatcher ornaments, available for purchase for just \$8! Use the qr code on the tag or drop the money in the collection plate (note "ornament" in the memo) – all proceeds will become part of the Advent collection, supporting the work of our parish during this time of transition. Add one of these to your St. Nick gift – or your own tree! Get one while supplies last!

Our Sunday Livestream is Moving to YouTube: Beginning next Sunday, Nov. 30, our livestream of the 9 a.m. service will be moving to our YouTube channel (@stpaulscary). Please help us spread the word about this change. Morning Prayer will continue daily at 8 a.m. on Facebook Live, but the Sunday services will be broadcast on YouTube.

Card Making and Cookies: Everyone is invited to join with families in the parish hall during coffee hour (10:15 a.m.) on Nov. 30 to munch on freshly-baked cookies and make Christmas cards! The Children's Ministries Committee will share your cards with residents of Glenaire's Assisted Living Center when we visit them for caroling on Dec. 14. Enjoy some treats while sharing your creativity with others!

**Wednesday Contemplative Services in Advent Now Include a Service at Noon:** Join the clergy for contemplative Eucharist services during advent on Wednesdays, beginning Dec. 3. We will use the readings for Advent as our guide and have ample time for meditation and reflection. We will offer two services: at noon in the church, and at 7 p.m. in the chapel. Please join us for this special time of prayer and reflection in the midst of our busy days.

Visit the St. Nicholas Giving Tree: The St. Nicholas Tree is in the narthex, ready for you to select tags and do your shopping! Invite the elves in *your* life to join you in providing Christmas magic to a group of siblings. Find new information on the St. Nicholas website to guide your shopping; use the QR Code on the tag to find your way. Remember, all gifts should be brought to the church on or before Dec. 7, when St. Nicholas makes his annual visit at both the 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services. Monetary donations (supporting ministry costs and need-based supplemental gifts) are welcome; please indicate "St Nick" in the memo. Contact Colette Hibberd at hibberdfamily@yahoo.com for assistance.

**Openings at the Preschool:** St. Paul's Preschool currently has openings in our class for three-year-olds as well as our transitional kindergarten. Spread the word and let your friends know spots have opened up! Contact Brooke Bowersox at preschool@stpaulscary.org to learn more.

Prepare the Way, O Zion! An Advent Quiet Day with Julian of Norwich: A Quiet Day is a day set aside for prayer, listening, and honest reflection, allowing for new clarity on life and a widening connection to God. On Dec. 6, from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. at Church of the Good Shepherd in Raleigh, Fr. Robert, our associate interim rector, will lead retreatants through reflections from the great medieval mystic and theologian, Julian of Norwich. Refreshments and lunch will be provided, as will nursery care. Cost is \$50, and scholarships are available. More information is available in the narthex (lobby) and online. Contact Fr. Robert at robert@stpaulscary.org to register.

Advent Lessons and Carols: Mark your calendars for Sunday, Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. as the St. Paul's Choir, Voices of St. Paul's and the Bells of St. Paul's present the service of Advent Lessons and Carols, directed by Minister of Music Rusty McKinney, accompanied by Organist Carol Yeargin. The Bells of St. Paul's will perform a special prelude, and there will be congregational hymns throughout the service. Come join us for an afternoon of beautiful music and scripture readings in the Anglican Tradition. A reception follows in the narthex (lobby).

**Donate a Christmas Poinsettia:** Donate a poinsettia to honor the special people in your life! Christmas poinsettia envelopes are available now in the pews. Fill out the envelope with your name and the information about your loved one(s), noting whether it is given in memory of or in thanksgiving for them. Enclose \$35 per plant; drop the envelope in the collection plate or in the office by December 14; plants may be taken home after the 10 a.m. Christmas Day service.

Interest Survey for Children's Choir: We are investigating whether there is sufficient interest among the children and parents of St. Paul's to form a children's choir of 1st through 6th graders, and we need your help. Please learn more and complete a short survey online (bit.ly/49zd1Le) to help us discern the way forward. We'd appreciate your input by Dec. 15.

**St. Francis Christmas Tree Sale:** For 40 years, the Christmas Tree sale at St. Francis United Methodist Church in Cary has been a local holiday tradition, with proceeds supporting the mission and ministries of the church, serving our local community and beyond. We share common ground with St. Francis in many ways, working together through ONE Wake, the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) and our joint support of one another's big events (they love our lobsters). The tree lot is now open. Please consider purchasing a tree or wreath, harvested fresh from western NC, by visiting their lot (2965 Kildaire Farm Rd) or by ordering on their website. Weekend delivery is available.

**Prayer List:** We pray for Dave, Bob, Ann, Vickie, Ann, Laura, Margaret, Mary, Doug, Guy, Cathy, Jessica, John, Mary, Susan, Noah, Sally, Randy, Regina, Parrish, Jackie, Matias, Yosy, Barb, Peggy, Janet, Austin, Liddy, Mary, Sue, Nancy, Ben, Patrick, Sarah, Chris, Ted, Rania, Hilda, Jim, Tommy, Bonnie, Susan, Melanie, Dave, Chuck, Kay, Claudia, Sharon, Ron, Jack, Caryn, Gary, Max, May, Bryan, Ariell, Josh, Allison, Jan, Herman, Joyce, Carl, Martha, Farley, Jeff, Sandy, Clarence, Susan, Debbi, Ron, Carolyn, Rick, Elizabeth, Myrna, Laura, Ken, Christine, Steve, and Craig.

In the prayers for the deceased, we pray for Tom Mack, friend of Lori (David) Campbell; Bertha V. Bland, aunt of Aleta (Neil) McClenney.

If you have a name you would like to include on the prayer list, or a ministry event that you would like to announce in this printed bulletin, please send information to announcements@stpaulscary.org. Names included in the prayer list will remain for a month, and we are happy to extend at your request. Please note that there is a 2-week lead time on printed announcements.

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Worship. Serve. Grow.
Church Phone: 919-467-1477 Website: www.stpaulscary.org



St. Paul's Website

The Rev. Sarah Phelps, Interim Rector
The Rev. Robert Fruehwirth, Interim Associate Rector
Dr. Erica Ridderman, Minister for Children, Youth, and Family Formation
The Rev. Candy Snively, Deacon
Russell McKinney, Director of Music Ministries
Carol Yeargin, Organist

x 13 | sarah@stpaulscary.org x 12 | robert@stpaulscary.org x 39 | erica@stpaulscary.org candy.snively@stpaulscary.org x 15 | rusty.mckinney@stpaulscary.org carol.yeargin@stpaulscary.org