ST. PAUL'S
MORRIS PLAINS

Welcome to St. Paul's Morris Plains! We are thrilled that you are here. All that you need to fully participate in this service is either in this bulletin or in the hymnals and Book of Common Prayer in your pew. Welcome, and God bless you.



The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Liturgy of the Word

November 8, 2026 + 10:00 A.M.

In Today's Service

OFFICIANT AND PREACHER	Carol McCrea
MUSICIANS	The St. Paul's Choir, Tiffany Vintschger, Organist & Choir Director
CRUCIFER	Alethia Stone
ACOLYTES	
LECTOR	Karen Mack
LECTOR	Penny Jones
STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONY	
KEEPER OF THE FOLD	Bob Sullivan
USHER	Dave Rickwalder
AUDIO-VISUAL	
ALTAR GUILD	Mary Beth Wenrich

The remainder of this page has been left blank for you to reflect and take notes throughout the service.

Prelude

At The Procession

All stand, as able, and sing.

The Hymnal 1982 #680 (v. 1-3) O God, our help in ages past

The Welcome & Opening Acclamation

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

Officiant Together, let us pray.

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.

Gloria In Excelsis

All sing.

The Hymnal 1982 #S280 Glory to God in the highest

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father. Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord. You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect Of The Day

Officiant May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Together let us pray:

People **O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.***

Please be seated for the readings.

The Word Of God

The First Lesson

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Lector A reading from the Book of Joshua.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

"Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all

the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 78:1-7

Lector The appointed psalm for today is Psalm 78. The congregation is invited to say the verses printed in **bold**.

Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; *
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;
That the generations to come might know,
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;
So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments;

The Epistle

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Lector A reading from Paul's 1st Letter to the church of Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Sequence Hymn

All sing.

The Hymnal 1982 #68 (vs. 1) Rejoice! Rejoice, believers

The Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

Officiant A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Homily

Carol McCrea

After a period of silent reflection, all stand and say:

An Affirmation of Faith *

(Lutheran Theological College, South India, adapted)

Officiant During this season of Ordinary Time, let us affirm our faith as we say:

We believe in God, who creates all things,
who embraces all things, who celebrates all things,
who is present in every part of the fabric of creation.
We believe in God as the source of all life,
who baptizes this planet with living water.

We believe in Jesus Christ, seen in the suffering one,
the poor one, the malnourished one,

the climate refugee - who loves and cares for this world
and suffers with it.
And we believe in Jesus Christ, the seed of life,
who came to reconcile and renew this world
and everything in it.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of God,
who moves with God
and who moves among and with us today.

We believe in everlasting life in God.
And we believe in the hope that one day God will put an end to
death and all destructive forces.

The Prayers Of The People

Plenty Good Room, Adapted

Please stand or kneel.

Officiant Jesus said, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places." Trusting in God's abundance and welcome, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all creation.

Silence is kept.

Lector Gracious God, you have made plenty good room for us in your household. Inspire your church to be a place of welcome, generosity, and love. We thank you for the resources you have entrusted to us, and we pray for wisdom to use them in service of your mission.

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Lector God of community, you bind us together in relationships of care and compassion. Strengthen the bonds within this congregation, and guide us to extend hospitality to our neighbors near and far. In our parish cycle of prayer we pray for the Smith Family, Squillace Family and Stevens Family. For those

in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry and People of Calvary, Summit; and from the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially Sarah Mullally, our Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop, Carlye, our Bishop, Danielle, our Priest, and all lay Ministers at St. Paul's, Morris Plains.

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Lector God of abundance, you invite us to respond with gratitude for all your gifts. Bless this stewardship campaign, that our pledges of time, talent, and treasure may be faithful signs of our trust in you.

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Lector God of creation, you have made a world with plenty good room for all living things. Teach us to care for the earth and to share its resources with justice and joy.

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Lector God of mercy, your dwelling place has room for all who suffer. Be present with those who are sick, lonely, grieving, or in any kind of need especially Jim, Erica, the Norris family, Steve, Elizabeth, John, Mark, Courtney, Henry Wong, Gina, Bernie, Norma Jean, Deb, Sophie Hall, Dr. Donna, Dorothy Leon, Lisa, JoAnne, Linda, Maryclaire, Annie, Jack, Jan, Judy, Steve Berry, Sean O'Hara, Niko, Tim Gogerty, Harold, Thomas Makin and our homebound parishioners. Surround them with your healing and your peace.

We pray for our students returning to school and young people navigating the world around them.

We pray for those impacted by severe weather, victims of domestic and gun violence, and those struggling with addiction. For all who govern and hold authority in our nation and the nations of the world.
We pray for the local authorities who protect and serve, for those serving in our Armed Forces, and for peace throughout the world.

Silence is kept. The People may add their own petitions.

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Lector We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We are also thankful for our Warden, Vestry, Treasurer, and Diocesan Delegates.

Silence is kept. The People may add their own petitions.

Lector God of hope, you prepare a place for us in your eternal home. We remember before you those who have died, confident that they now rest in your embrace.

Silence is kept. The People may add their own petitions.

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

A Prayer for the Election season and weeks following

by Rev. Sarah Speed A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Officiant Holy God, we come to you today in prayer, full of emotions. Election seasons always seem to bring that out in us— worry and hope, fear and frustration. The list could go on. So today we bow our heads and ask for guidance. Open our ears to hear the groans of creation. Open our eyes to see the needs of others. Open our hearts to make room for empathy. Give us the wisdom to navigate challenging conversations. Give us the patience to disagree with grace. Give us the compassion to make decisions for the greater good. And when all else fails, bring us back to love. Bring our hearts and our hands, our dreams and our hopes, our anger and our frustration, our hurt and our fear, all back to love. With hope we pray, with hope we are sustained.

The Officiant adds a concluding Collect.

Officiant Loving God, you call us into your abundant life and promise that there is plenty good room for all your children. Hear our prayers and accept the offerings of our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

People **Amen**.

The Confession

The People may stand or kneel.

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

and People **Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;**
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

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

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome And Announcements

Plenty Good Room Stewardship Testimony

The Offertory

Officiant Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us an offering and sacrifice to God.

Giving

Each week, an offering is collected as an investment in our life together as the church. To make a one-time or recurring gift online, please scan the QR code to the left.

At The Offertory

Sung by the Choir.

The Hymnal 1982 #11 Awake, my soul

The Doxology

The Hymnal 1982, 380 vs. 3 Tune: Old 100th

Please stand, as able.

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

The Lord's Prayer

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

People **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 Concluding Prayer

Officiant God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: the Author of creation, the eternal Word of salvation, and the life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ revealed and rejoice in the glory he shared with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ☩ now and forever.

People **Amen.**

At The Recessional

All stand, as able, and sing.

The Hymnal 1982 #594 (v. 1-3) God of grace and God of glory

The Dismissal

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia!! Alleluia!!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!! Alleluia!!**

The Postlude

The Prayer List at St. Paul's

Community of St. John the Baptist, Danielle S., Kathy Schuenzel, Jasper Stone, Robin Valentine, the Stevens family, the Hill family, Robert, Jackie, Kim, Rich C., Jenna, Christian, David, Sister Eleanor Francis, Sister Victoria Michelle, Tim, A. Lorraine Jones, Inez Baker, Rev. Lorna, Sister Beatrice, and our homebound parishioners.

ST. PAUL'S
MORRIS PLAINS

TODAY AT ST. PAUL'S

The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, November 8 - 10:00 a.m.
Liturgy of the Word

Sunday School

Coffee hour hosted by Alethia Stone
Plenty Good Room Stewardship Q&A with John Squillace **returns on 11/15**

UPCOMING

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, November 15 - 10:00 a.m.
Liturgy of the Word

Plenty Good Room Stewardship Q&A with John Squillace

SERVING IN NEXT WEEK'S SERVICE

OFFICIANT AND PREACHER	Charles Park
MUSICIANS	The St. Paul's Choir, Kristin Cappuccino, Organist & Choir Director
CRUCIFER	Alethia Stone
ACOLYTE	
LECTOR	Kerri Lee Farrell
LECTOR	Erica Park
KEEPER OF THE FOLD	Bob Sullivan
USHER	Rob Whitestone
AUDIO-VISUAL	Nigel Park
ALTAR GUILD	Maureen Carter and Bob Sullivan

Plenty Good Room - Stewardship 2026. See The Epistle for more details.

St. Paul's Daily Veggies Ministry collects a large variety of fresh vegetables each year for Table of Hope. To date, we have harvested and donated a total of **3,913 lbs.** of produce.

Thanksgiving Table of Hope Food Drive. We're collecting non-perishable food items for Table of Hope. Donations can be left on the table at the Hillview Ave. entrance. Please visit The Epistle for details and a list of items that are needed. **Thank you!**

St. Paul's Bike Ministry is underway to benefit needy families in the area. Please bring gently used adult and children's bikes to 29 Hillview Ave., **Tues. - Thurs., 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. or Sunday morning**. Thank you for your support.

Save the Date - St. Paul's Fall Mental Health Awareness Day - **Saturday, November 14th.**

Walking Meditation - November 28th. Slow down. Be present. Connect with God. Embrace creation. Please visit The Epistle for details.

Healing Prayers will be offered by Reverend Danielle on **November 22nd** during the 10:00 a.m. service.

Your Photos Wanted! Sunday School wants pictures of our church family to decorate the bulletin board - church group ministry photos (choir, gardening, coffee hour, shaw, etc.), or family photos. Please leave photos on the piano in the lounge. Thank you!

152nd Annual Diocesan Convention - The Diocese of Newark is getting ready to gather for its 152nd Annual Diocesan Convention, November 13–14 at the Hilton Parsippany. Please visit The Epistle for more information. **Special thanks to our delegates, Kerri Lee Farrell, Jasper Stone and Bob Sullivan!**

Do you want to host a coffee hour? Do you want to request flowers for the altar? Sign up with the parish office or use the links in The Epistle.
Altar Flower Dates: 11/15, 11/22, 11/29
Coffee Hours Dates: 11/15, 11/29, 12/6

Please join us at **10 a.m. on the 2nd and 4th Sundays** of each month. **Children's Class:** For ages four (4) years to 2nd grade, and a **Youth Class:** For 3rd grade to 8th grade.

The Christian Meditation Group meets for an online meditation each Wednesday at noon via Zoom. All are welcome, and no experience is needed. To receive the Zoom link, contact Cathy Harris at ncfharris@gmail.com.

Prayer Shawl Ministry is needlework and prayer combined to make beautiful prayer shawls for those in great need. Come join us on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. in the Lounge. Please RSVP to Rose Ann. We have a generous supply of shawls. If you know someone in need of a shawl, please contact Rose Ann 973.394.9641 Rstevens@hstevens.com

Calling all bakers! Cookie Walk 2026 Saturday, December 12th , 10:00am-2:00pm in the lounge. We will share proceeds with North Porch. We would like 3-4 dozen of each type, and variety is appreciated. Please let Leena Varughese know if you can provide cookies for the sale and what you plan to make. Reach Leena by phone or text at 718-490-4456 or email at leena_devassy@yahoo.com.

Diocesan Immigrant Ministries. Your gift to Diocesan Immigrant Ministries helps support our immigrant neighbors at a time of urgent need. Please visit The Epistle for details.

St. Paul's Name Tags. Please contact the parish office if you need one.

At St. Paul's we are trying to be green! We have new coffee cups for coffee hour.

Masks are optional at St. Paul's.
Need WiFi at church? Here's the login info: WiFi = Sanctuary
Password = psalm116

ART, LITURGY, AND MUSIC

Cover Image: Artwork

An Affirmation of Faith adapted by The Lutheran Theological College, South India,

Liturgy:. Unless otherwise noted, Enriching Our Worship (EOW) and Book of Common Prayer (BCP).

Music: Unless otherwise noted, music is used by permission RiteSong©2022 Church Publishing Incorporated, New York, NY 10016.

The Hymnal 1982; LEVAS II (Lift Every Voice and Sing Volume II); WLP (Wonder, Love, and Praise)

ST. PAUL'S
MORRIS PLAINS

MINISTERS

The People of St. Paul's

The Reverend Danielle D. Baker, *Priest-in-Charge*

Amanda Boyadjis, *Parish Administrator*

Kristin Cappuccino, *Organist and Choir Director*

VESTRY

Bob Sullivan, *Senior Warden*

Karen Mack

Sue McCluskey

Charles Park

Gordon Patterson

Kristine Rickwalder

John Squillace

Alethia Stone

Jack Cox, Treasurer

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Morris Plains, NJ 07950
Parish Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
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