

St. Paul's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OAKLAND

December 2018
Volume 12 Issue 11

THE GOOD NEWS

To know Christ better and to make Him better known

WHO ARE WE?

By the Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson



Sometimes I wonder what it means to be who we are, all that we are, and whomever we are. As an Episcopal priest, I spend an inordinate amount of time

beatings under an oppressor's rod, I wonder why our hearts become so hardened toward each other that we are unable to summon the sacrificial love of Jesus within our hearts to love all people.

pondering what it means to be a member of the Anglican Communion and The Episcopal Church (this is the legal name of our church here in the United States of America). The reality is that this question comes to my mind for different reasons and in accordance with what we are currently saying and doing. Sometimes being a member of this branch of the Jesus Movement, as our Presiding Bishop regularly calls us, is a source of deep pride and rejoicing. When we raise our voices in support of those who struggle for justice, equity, and equality, I am inspired to see the Holy Spirit moving our lives closer to the godliness we strive to live into. When our voices bring humiliation and pain to any of God's children or are silent in the face of suffering and

I will confess that as I write these words my mind is set on the 'Pastoral Letter' that the Bishop of the Diocese of Albany in New York wrote to the clergy and people of that diocese on November 10th. In all honesty, I had been waiting to see how he was going to respond to the General Convention's decisions on marriage equality. From what was reported back in July, I imagined he would stand in opposition to the decisions made. What I did not expect was that in his arguments he would go as far as saying that the church has been "hijacked by the 'Gay Rights Agenda.'" Twice he uses Satan as part of his argument, first as the great deceiver leading people to believe they're anything other than

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PANTRY OF HOPE SPAGHETTI FEED BENEFIT

Have you tried the rector's cooking? If not, you haven't truly dined. Father Mauricio and Deacon Bolton are cooking spaghetti for us on December 9. Come and eat with us. The price of admission is a donation to the Pantry of Hope. Yum!



GIVING TREE IN NARTHEX

Sunday November 25, the last Sunday before Advent, the St. Paul's Annual Giving Tree will be in the narthex. This will not be a Christmas tree (it is too early!), but a tree of branches that will hold gift tags for the families that the Children's Hospital Center for the Vulnerable Child (CVC) has matched with St. Paul's.

The CVC serves foster children, homeless families, and families at risk for homelessness. They match St. Paul's with families in need, give us the families' hoped-for gift list, and we put the gift tags on the tree. Please come pick up a tag on the 25th (and be sure to sign the gift list, so we know who has what tag). Then please buy the present, which could be a new toy, or an item of clothing, or a gift card, and bring it back, wrapped, with the tag, to the church on or before Sunday December 9.

And please volunteer to help the Giving Tree Team! We need people to help with the logistics, sometimes to wrap presents, to help in this sweet mission. Please contact Paula Hawthorn <mailto:pbhawthorn@mindspring.com> if you can help.

This is an opportunity for us to share with those less fortunate. Sharon Pilmer says "The children and families who receive these gifts face extraordinary circumstances that are almost beyond the imagination."

ST. PAUL'S ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

December 2, First Sunday of Advent

4 p.m., Evensong

December 9, Second Sunday of Advent

Lessons and Carols

Spaghetti Feed, Pantry of Hope Fundraiser

December 16, Third Sunday of Advent

Cookies & Carols after the 10 a.m. service.

December 23, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Greening and Decoration of the Church after the 10 a.m. service

Compline, 8 p.m.

December 24, Christmas Eve

5 p.m. Family Service

10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Concert: Bach, *Cantata 140*

11 p.m. Sung Holy Eucharist

December 25, Christmas Day

10 a.m. Sung Holy Eucharist

The church office will be closed on Christmas Day.

December 30, The First Sunday of Christmas

10 a.m., Christmas Lessons & Carols



PANTRY OF HOPE

Item of the month

Please continue to support the work of our pantry by contributing items to its inventory.

December

Bottles of juice

January

Bottles of juice

February

Bottles of juice

Bring your donations to church and place them in the offering basket in the narthex.

Thanks!

NETS OVER THE CRÈCHE: GIVE THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON PROTECTING

A mosquito net over Baby Jesus' bed during Advent this year will remind St. Paul's parishioners of a chance they have to help prevent malaria, the number one infectious killer in the world. Every two minutes, a child in Africa dies of the disease, each year it infects 300-500 million people and kills 1 million of them. Episcopal Relief and Development has, for the last twelve years, partnered with NetsforLife (<http://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-we-do/our-programs/malaria>) to successfully lower child mortality on that continent. In 2010, a child died of malaria every thirty seconds. While the current rate is one quarter of that, it is still far too high, and continued use of the nets is essential if the ground that has been gained is to be maintained.



Your family's contribution of \$12 will give an African family the protection of a net; thirty nets from our "village" of St. Paul's will protect an entire village. During this holiday season, give two for the price of one! Generous donors to Episcopal Relief and Development have agreed to match your gift. For more information, please get in touch with Carolyn Knapp (csknapp@earthlink.net; 510 658-6547).

IT'S COOKIES & CAROLS TIME!

After the 10:00 am service on Sunday, December 16, we'll celebrate our traditional gathering to eat cookies while singing carols. Bring something you've either bought or baked and limber up those vocal cords.



ST. PAUL'S 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be held on January 20, 2019 at 10 a.m. during the 10 a.m. Choral Eucharist service.

DONATIONS TO ST. PAUL'S

Using your Smartphone, scan this QR Code to make a digital offering to St. Paul's Church. Your donation will be processed through SPEC's PayPal account.



2018 OFFICERS OF THE VESTRY

The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Wilson – *Rector*
 Alice Brilmayer – *Senior Warden*
 George Strait – *Junior Warden*
 Irene Plunkett – *Clerk*
 Sandra Anderson – *Treasurer*

VESTRY BY CLASS

Class of 2018

Alice Brilmayer
 George Strait
 Sandra Anderson

Class of 2019

Pamela Kruse-Buckingham
 Irene Plunkett
 Will Cowart

Class of 2020

Ben Clausen
 Allison Sass
 Dylan Versteeg

DEANERY DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES 2015

Delegates

Scott Buckingham
 Paula Hawthorn
 Sheila Sims

Alternates

Pamela Buckingham

MUSIC AT ST. PAUL'S

SPECIAL MUSIC IN DECEMBER

Sunday, December 2, The First Sunday of Advent

10 a.m. Choral Eucharist

Christopher Kula, Music Director.

Bach, *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*; Manz, *E'en so Lord Jesus*; Handl, *Orietur stella*; Mendelssohn, Finale from Sonata VI.

St. Paul's Chancel Choir. Christopher Kula, Music Director.

4 p.m., Evensong

This short Anglican service combines the end-of-day monastic offices of Vespers and Compline. Since the latter part of the 16th century, England's greatest composers have contributed to the rich musical tradition of this uplifting and beautiful liturgy.

St. Paul's Schola Cantorum. Christopher Kula, Music Director.

Saturday, December 8

4:00 pm, Concert

Season of Peace

Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble

Join Voci Women's Vocal Ensemble for a beautiful concert celebrating the spirit of the holiday season.

In collaboration with harpist Meredith Clark, we present Benjamin Britten's beloved masterpiece, *A Ceremony of Carols*, along with other works for women's chorus and harp. We surround this masterwork with inspiring settings of traditional Hebrew texts by Joseph Spivak, Sherry Kosinski and Sheryl Kaskowitz, as well as medieval and renaissance jewels by Hildegard von Bingen and rarely performed composer

Sulpitia Cesis (b.1577). Also including a premiere of *'Dans les ombres de la nuit'* by Artistic Director Mitchell Covington.

This fall's concerts mark the 16th year of Voci's *'Voices in Peace'* concert series. Begun in 2001, this fall tradition offers stunningly beautiful music to calm and inspire us on a path to peace.

Info at vocisings.org Tickets at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3642823>

Sunday, December 9, The Second Sunday of Advent

10 a.m. Choral Eucharist

Christopher Kula, Music Director.

Sowerby, *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*; Kula, *O heavenly Word, eternal Light*; Bairstow, *Let all mortal flesh keep silence*; J. S. Bach, *Zion hears the watchmen singing*; Howells, *A Spotless Rose*; Mawby, *Ave verum Corpus*; Woodward, *Toccatina*.

St. Paul's Chancel Choir and Holiday Children's Choir. Christopher Kula, Music Director.

7:30 pm, Concert

Carols by Candlelight

Young Women's Chorus

The premier ensemble of YWCP, the Young Women's Chorus, presents a candle-lit evening of beautiful holiday music, featuring *A Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten and a world premiere of David Conte's "The Harper's Song" for cellist Emil Miland, pianist Margaret Halbig and the Young Women's Chorus. Info at <https://www.ywcp.org/> Tickets at <https://www.ywcp.org/>

Newsletter contributors sought

We are interested in hearing from writers and photographers; please email us if you would like to donate your talents.

The deadline for each edition is the 25th of the month previous to publication.

Please send your submissions of no more than 500 words to: halice@pacbell.net.

fr.brownpapertickets.com/
event/3628308

Friday & Saturday, December 14 and 15

8:00 pm, Concert

Wintersongs by Candelight

Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble

Offering two concerts due to popular demand!! Wintersongs is Kitka's critically-acclaimed winter holiday program showcasing seasonal music from a wide variety of Eastern European ethnic and spiritual traditions. For countless centuries, people around the world have utilized the power of community singing to infuse warmth, cheer, spirituality, wishes for peace, health, and good fortune into the long, dark, cold and difficult winter season. Eastern Europe's geographic position as a crossroads between Europe and the Orient has produced an astonishingly rich and varied array of seasonal musical rituals. Kitka's 2018 Wintersongs program will feature songs ranging from rousing Slavic folk carols; to lush meditative Eastern Orthodox sacred choral works; to Baltic pagan incantations for the return of the Sun Goddess, to Caucasus Georgian Alilos (hallelujahs); to Yiddish songs for Chanukah; to Bosnian-Muslim ilahijas (devotional hymns). Traditional pieces will be woven together with new folk song arrangements and original compositions by Kitka members and contemporary American and Eastern European composers, all inspired by the customs, beauty, and mystery of wintertime.

More info at <http://www.kitka.org/events/2018/12/2/wintersongs-with->

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Tickets here <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3626379>

Sunday, December 16, The Third Sunday of Advent

10am, Choral Eucharist

Balbastre, *Josef est bein marie*; anonymous, *Rejoice in the Lord always*; Palestrina, *Alma Redemptoris Mater* à 8; Handel, *Voluntary in Eb*.

St. Paul's Chancel Choir. Christopher Kula, Music Director and organist.

11:30 a.m., Cookies & Carols

Sing along with us! A cozy fire, delicious cookies, and sing your favorite carols. In the Parish Hall.

4:00 pm, Concert

Jingle! Angels! Silent! Merry!

San Francisco Choral Artists

Celebrate the holidays by decking the halls with new traditions! We offer beloved seasonal music from around the world, from sublime to silly, old to new, and with (optional) audience singing. Works by Grieg, Howells, Taverner, Hassler, Puerling, Willan, Praetorius, Conte, Poulenc and others and new favorites for the years ahead. Introducing our *Composers-in- and Not-in-Residence*, Jean Ahn and Robinson McClellan.

Info at <http://www.sfca.org/>

Tickets at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3628186>

SAVE Stands-Ins against gun violence

SAVE (Soldiers Against Violence Everywhere) Oakland is taking a non-violent stand against the rampant murders in our community by having "Stand-Ins" from 11a.m. – noon near where a person was recently killed. Please contact Paula Hawthorn, 510-601-8388, if you would like to participate.

Contact Save@Truevine-Ministries.com to be put on the email list for future Stand-Ins.

WORSHIP ROTA ONLINE

The current rota for the Sunday worship services is posted on the St. Paul's Web site at :
<http://www.stpaulsoakland.org/RotaSchedule>

The rota includes the names of readers, sub-deacons, intercessors, and lay Eucharistic ministers.

New volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Fr. Mauricio or the Ven. Carolyn Bolton to volunteer or if you have any questions.

Sunday, December 23, The Fourth Sunday of Advent

10 a.m., Choral Eucharist

Merula, *Capriccio*; Howells, *Magnificat* "Collegium Regale"; Victoria, *Ave Maria*; Hancock, *Air*.

St. Paul's Chancel Choir. Christopher Kula, Music Director.

8 p.m., Compline

Gregorian chant, polyphony, and candlelight, in the church. Music of Byrd, Tallis, Victoria. Compline, a service of psalms and prayers, has been sung 'at the close of day' in monasteries, convents and churches for many centuries and is one of the best-loved services of the Church. It has been re-instituted in response to the renewed interest in plainsong (Gregorian Chant) and contemplative prayer. There is no sermon.

With St. Paul's Chancel Choir. Christopher Kula, Music Director.



Monday, December 24, Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ 5 p.m., Christmas Eve Family Service

Christmas pageant and carols, for the whole family!

Christopher Kula, Music Director.

10:30pm, Christmas Eve Concert with Orchestra

J. S. Bach, *Cantata 140*: "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme"

St. Paul's Chancel Choir with orchestra. Christopher Kula, Music Director.

11:00 p.m., Candlelight Midnight Mass with orchestra

First Mass for Christmas Day

Ley, *Communion Service in A Minor*; J. S. Bach, selection from *Christmas Oratorio*; Howells, *A spotless Rose* Bach, *In dulci jubilo*.

St. Paul's Chancel Choir with orchestra. Christopher Kula, Music Director and organist.

Tuesday, December 25, The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

10 a.m., Choral Eucharist

Balbastre, *Il est un petit L'ange*; Ley, *Communion Service in A Minor*; Howells, *A spotless Rose*; Bach, *In dulci jubilo*.

St. Paul's Chancel Choir. Christopher Kula, Music Director.

Sunday, December 30, The First Sunday of Christmas

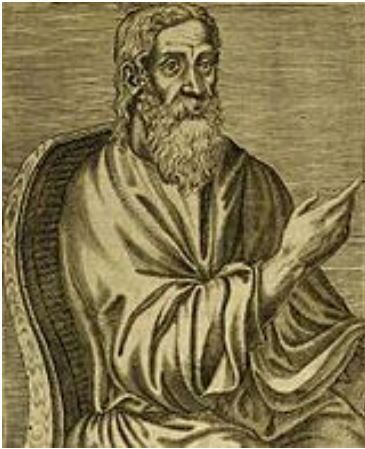
10 a.m., Christmas Lessons & Carols

Near, *Lo, How a Rose*; Ireland, *The Holy Boy*; Rheinberger, *Trio in Eb*.

Christopher Kula, Music Director.

SAINT OF THE MONTH

CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA, PRIEST, C. 210



Clement was born in the middle of the second century. He was a cultured Greek

world, rather than salvation of the world. Clement asserted that there was a true Christian Gnosis, to be found in the Scriptures, available to all.

Although his understanding of this Christian knowledge—ultimately knowledge of Christ—incorporated several notions of Greek philosophy which the Gnostics also held, Clement dissented from the negative Gnostic view of the world and its denial of the role of free will.

philosopher who sought truth in many schools until he met Pantheons, founder of the Christian Catechetical School at Alexandria in Egypt. Clement succeeded Pantheons as head of that school in about 190, and was for many years an apologist for the Christian faith to both pagans and Christians. His learning and allegorical exegesis of the Bible helped to commend Christianity to the intellectual circles of Alexandria. His work prepared the way for his pupil Origen, the most eminent theologian of early Greek Christianity, and his liberal approach to secular knowledge laid the foundations of Christian humanism. During the persecution under the Emperor Severus in 202, he fled Alexandria. The exact time and place of his death are unknown.

Clement lived in the age of “Gnosticism,” a comprehensive term for many theories or ways of salvation current in the second and third centuries, all emphasizing “Gnosis” or “knowledge.” Salvation, for Gnostics, was to be had through a secret and rather esoteric knowledge accessible only to a few. It was salvation *from* the

What Rich Man Will Be Saved? was the title of a treatise by Clement on Mark 10:17–31, and the Lord’s words, “Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven.” His interpretation sanctioned the “right use” of material goods and wealth. It has been contrasted to the interpretation of Athanasius in his *Life of Antony*, which emphasized strict renunciation. Both interpretations can be found in early Christian spirituality: Clement’s, called “liberal,” and that of Athanasius, “literal.” Among Clement’s writings are the hymns, “Sunset to sunrise changes now” and “Master of eager youth.”

O God of unsearchable wisdom, you gave your servant Clement grace to understand and teach the truth as it is in Jesus Christ, the source of all truth: Grant to your Church the same grace to discern your Word wherever truth is found; through Jesus Christ our unfailing light, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Dear Readers:

In an effort to reduce paper waste and printing/ mailing expenses, we are asking anyone who gets the on-line version of The Good News and no longer needs a paper version mailed to his or her home to let us know. If you don’t get the newsletter online and would like to, or if you want to take yourself off the snail-mail list, please contact Parish Administrator at 834-4314, Ext. 501 or admin@stpaulsoakland.org. Many thanks.



St. Paul's

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Services

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SUNDAYS

8 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*
10 a.m. *Choral Eucharist*

4 p.m. *Evensong*
(*First Sundays, Oct.-June*)

8 p.m. *Compline*
(*4th Sundays only*)

WEDNESDAYS

12:10 p.m. *Holy Eucharist*
(*with Healing prayer on
the 1st Wednesday of the
month*)

heterosexual, and second as the promotor of the divisions among us as a result of the disagreements about human sexuality.

This basis for an argument disappoints me primarily because it becomes a dialogue stifler. If what I say is automatically viewed as motivated by Satan and the arguments of others always inspired by Jesus, then there is no conversation to be had. Satan's side is always wrong and in need of condemnation. Those of you who know only a little about me are aware that I do not subscribe to that way of being in relationship with others, even those who disagree with me or follow a different faith tradition or none at all.

It is my firm belief that as we are all

God's children with a good, bad, or no relationship with God, we inherently carry within us some portion of the FULL truth of God, and it is only when we welcome each other in humble conversation that such truth becomes more fully known and lived.

It would bring me great joy if the Bishop in question could come and see how at St. Paul's in Oakland we go about doing the very imperfect hard work of being loving, diverse, inclusive, and even deeply respectful of our differences. However, I imagine that right now he is very busy dealing with the consequences of his own words within his own diocese.