

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Conversion of Saint Paul

January 22, 2023 10:00 AM

The Rev. Paul DeWitt Reid, Rector
7809 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027 215.635.4185

ST PAUL'S ELKINS PARK

An Inclusive Multicultural Episcopal Church

The Rev. Paul DeWitt Reid, Rector
The Rev. Simpson Coriolan, Priest Associate
David Antony Lofton, Music Director

Welcome to St. Paul's Elkins Park!

***We are on a mission to know Christ;
to make Christ known in our community;
and to follow His Way of compassion and service to others.***

Online Sunday Service

10:00 AM Family Communion

with Sunday School; contemporary worship with ancient depth,
with all kinds of music.

Online Tuesday Service

10:00 AM Spoken Morning Prayer

*St. Paul's Episcopal Church is a multi-cultural community of faith
with members from all over the world.*

*We welcome all at the Holy Table in our church,
without exception, wherever you are in your spiritual journey.*

Front cover illustration: *Caravaggio*

Holy Eucharist

The Rev. Paul DeWitt Reid, Rector
The Rev. Simpson Coriolan, Priest Associate
David Antony Lofton, Music Director
Tessika McClendon, Music Minister
Shango-Jamal Lewis, Music Minister

The Ministry of the Word

Prelude: *Children of the Heavenly Father* Swedish Folk Melody
arranged by Howard Helvey

WELCOME

Opening Hymn

In Christ there is no East or West

Lift Every Voice #62

Join our soloists and sing along at home!

In Christ there is no East or West,
In Him no South or North;
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Him shall true hearts everywhere
Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord,
Close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, members of the faith,
Whatever your race may be!
Who serves my Father as a son
Is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West,
In Him meet South and North;
All Christly souls are one in Him
Throughout the whole wide earth.

Opening Sentence

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Blessed be the Lord Our God.

People

For ever and ever. Alleluia.

Hymn of Praise

The Lord is my Light

Join our soloists and sing along at home!

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Whom shall I fear?

Whom shall I fear?

Whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the Strength of my life

Whom shall I fear?

In the time of trouble, he shall hide me

In the time of trouble, he shall hide me

In the time of trouble, he shall hide me

Whom shall I fear?

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In the time of trouble, he shall hide me

Whom shall I fear?

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Lift Every Voice #58

O God, by the preaching of your apostle Paul you have caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we pray, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may show ourselves thankful to you by following his holy teaching; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Lesson

A reading from Acts 26:9-21

Paul said to King Agrippa, "Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with authority received from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme; and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities.

"With this in mind, I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, when at midday along the road, your Excellency, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The Lord answered, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles-- to whom I am sending you to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

"After that, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do deeds consistent with repentance. For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 67

May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

The Second Lesson

A reading from Galatians 3:26-29; 5:5-6

In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise. For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working through love.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn

Just as I am

Lift Every Voice #137 vs. 2 & 5

Join our soloists and sing along at home!

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt
Fightings and fears within, without
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

Just as I am, thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down
Now, to be thine, yea thine alone
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

The Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John 17:18–23

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

Looking up to heaven, Jesus said, “As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”

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

The Homily

The Rev. Paul DeWitt Reid

Our Affirmation of Trust in all that is Holy

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

You create our world and give us life.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.

You came to us before we came to you.

You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,

who lived and died and rose again.

You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcame death.

You are God. We worship you.

Taken from the New Zealand Prayerbook

The Prayers of the People

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

(Silence)

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For Congress and the President, for peace among the nations, for all those in uniform now serving in harm's way, and for those who suffer for the sake of conscience.

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

Give us hope in this time of uncertainty. Strengthen those who are afraid and give us courage in the face of violence and hate. Open our hearts and the hearts of our enemies to your ways of peace;

Make us instruments of reconciliation and show forth your love.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for our assisting Bishops; for Paul, our Rector, for Simpson, our Priest Associate, for David our Music Director, for Shango and Tessika, our Music Ministers, and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation,

(The People may add their own petitions, either silently or aloud)

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.
(The People may add their own thanksgivings either silently or aloud)

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.
(The People may add their own petitions for those who have died.)

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

People

**Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
*Amen.***

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of Christ be always with you.

People

And also with you.

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

Words of Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Enriching Our Worship

Eucharistic Prayer I

The Offertory

I Want to Be a Christian / I'd Rather Have Jesus by Unknown / George B. Shea
Shango-Jamal Lewis, baritone

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 our thanks and praise.*

Celebrant

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give us knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus

Celebrant and People

Blue Hymnal #S130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of the universe and giver of life.
You formed us in your own image
and called us to dwell in your infinite love.
You never ceased to care for us and prepared
the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah,
you called us into covenant with you.
You delivered us from slavery,
sustained us in the wilderness,
and raised up prophets
to renew your promise of salvation.

Then, in the fullness of time,
you sent your eternal Word,
made mortal flesh in Jesus.
Born into the human family,

and dwelling among us,
he revealed your glory.

Giving himself freely to death on the cross,
he triumphed over evil,
opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us,
Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his friends, 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,
and when he had given thanks,
he 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.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

Remembering his death and resurrection,
we now present to you from your creation
this bread and this wine.

By your Holy Spirit may they be for us
the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that we who share these gifts
may be filled with the Holy Spirit
and live as Christ's Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage
of your daughters and sons,
that with Saint Paul and all your saints,
past, present, and yet to come,
we may praise your Name for ever.

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.

And now, let us say together the words our savior taught us,

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People: We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei

Blue Hymnal #S164

People and Celebrant

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:
give us your peace, give us your peace.

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God.
All are welcome at the Lord's table.

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant and People

Loving God, we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Celebrant pronounces a Blessing

Closing Hymn

God is Love, let heaven adore him

Blue Hymnal #379

Join our soloists and sing along at home!

God is love, let heaven adore him;
God is love, let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him
and exalt him with one voice.
God who laid the earth's foundation,
God who spread the heav'ns above,
God who breathes through all creation:
God is love, eternal love.

God is love; and love enfolds us,
all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp God holds us,
ev'ry child of ev'ry race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then we find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

God is love; and though with blindness
sin afflicts all human life,
God's eternal loving-kindness
guides us through our earthly strife.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain:
God is love, so love forever
o'er the universe must reign.

The Dismissal

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

The People respond *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Postlude: *Immortal, Invisible* arranged by Howard Helvey

Coming Soon

Saturday February 18, 2023 – 7:30pm Gala Mardi Gras Celebration with Dave Posmontier's Fabulous Authentic New Orleans Preservation Hall Jazz! A seven-piece band with two singers, including our own Shango-Jamal Lewis. Tickets \$15

Saturday March 11, 2023 - 7:30pm The Pine Forge Academy Choir
The world-renowned Pine Forge Academy Choir is a group of vocally diverse, talented, and dedicated youth. The choir is noted for its full, rich, and powerful harmonious quality as heard through its spirituals, gospels, anthems, and classical repertoire. Travel is an integral part of this talented group. During the school year, the choir is engaged in concerts, church services, extensive tours, and other community events several times a month. These engagements have placed the choir in many parts of the continental United States and around the world. Tickets \$12.

Saturday April 1, 2023 – 7:00pm Serenades in Spring
Featuring the Suite for Violin and Piano by William Grant Still, famed composer of the Harlem Renaissance; Méditation for Violin from "Thaïs" by Jules Massenet and Arias by Mozart, Chevalier de Saint-Georges and Massenet with Tessika McClendon, soprano; Belinda Whitney, violin; and David Antony Lofton, piano. Tickets \$12.

Saturday May 6, 2023 - 7:30pm Countertenor Augustine Mercante graced our 2022 Bach by Candlelight concert last December and we asked him back for an eclectic recital including standards from the Great American Song book, and featuring renowned composer and pianist John Daniel Carter's song cycle of Spirituals, "Cantata for High Voice and Piano." Tickets \$12.

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The Rev. Paul DeWitt Reid, Rector
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The Vestry

Godwin Anyanwu
Veronica Flemings
Gretchen Hammond
Gil & Laurinda Hoffer (Job Share)
David Kary
Sarah Krause
Shango-Jamal Lewis
Robert Lockyer
Candace Majors
Doug Martin
Laura Pillsbury
Janet Starwood

Sunday Service

10:00 AM Family Communion
In the Sanctuary or on Zoom
Contemporary worship with ancient depth, with lots of music.

Tuesday Service

10:00 AM ZOOM Spoken Morning Prayer
Start your day with beauty and devotion with this 15-minute service.
11:00 AM ZOOM Bible Study
www.stpaulselkinspark.org
www.stpaulsfriends.org

Front cover illustration: *Caravaggio*