THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST: PROPER 23

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

October 11, 2026 · 9:00 A.M.



THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL IN THE DESERT

125 West El Alameda Palm Springs, CA 92262
760.320.7488 ● stpauldesert.church

Find us on Facebook (@stpaulinthedesert) or Instagram (@stpauls_palmsprings)

Welcome to our Welcome Back Sunday EUCHARIST

Welcome! We're glad you're here with us today. Whether you're a regular member, curious visitor, or returning to church after time away, you are warmly invited to participate in this worship.

Today's service draws on both the Book of Common Prayer AND the worship of the **Iona Community**, rooted at Iona Abbey on a small island off the coast of Scotland. The abbey is home to an **international, ecumenical Christian movement** bringing together people from many traditions — including Anglican, Presbyterian, Catholic, and others — who share a common life of prayer, work, and service. Founded on the island's ancient Christian heritage established by St. Columba in 563 AD, the Iona Community is committed to **justice, peace, and spiritual renewal**, seeking to bridge theology with real-life action and advocacy for those on the margins. This liturgy reflects that vision: grounded in Scripture and tradition, shaped by participatory prayer and music, and attentive to God's call in the world today.

In this service you can expect:

- **A rhythm of gathering, Word, and Table** — we hear the Scriptures, offer prayers together, and share in the Eucharist (Holy Communion), celebrating God's generous love.
- **Participatory responses and music** that help form our community's prayer together.
- A spirit of **welcome, openness, and reflection**, rooted in the belief that worship is encounter with God and with one another.

Whether you're familiar with Episcopal liturgy or experiencing something new today, know that we are a community seeking to follow Christ together with open hearts. If you are drawn to the rhythm of this liturgy, we encourage you to consider trying out the 9AM service in the coming weeks as we return to 3 services starting October 18th: 7:30AM (Spoken Service – No Music); 9AM (Contemplative Iona Eucharist); 11AM (Traditional Rite II Eucharist with Choir). And we are so glad you are here!

THE WORD OF GOD

VOLUNTARY "Processional" William Mathias

WELCOME & OUR MISSION/VALUE STATEMENTS

The Church of St. Paul in the Desert:

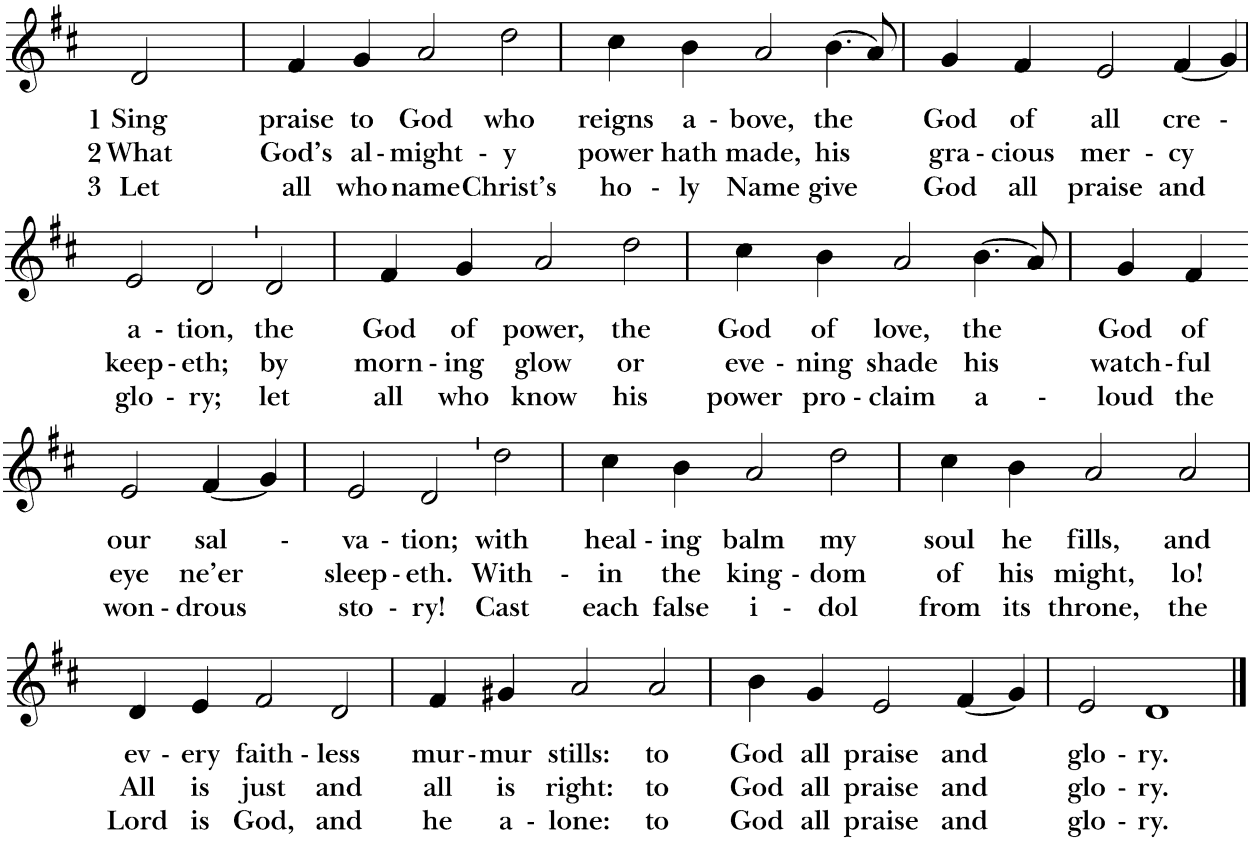
God has invited the Church of St. Paul in the Desert to share the abundant love of Jesus Christ in a caring and diverse community that gathers to worship and give thanks, support and inspire its members, and serve our neighbors.

- We are a sacramental, welcoming, empowering, and supportive community.
- We respect the dignity of every human being.
- We seek to be a spiritual oasis in the desert.
- Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you are welcome.

The Diocese:

The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego is a missionary community that dares to follow Jesus Christ in his life of courageous love for the world.

THE ENTRANCE HYMN 408 "Sing praise to God" *Mit freuden zart*

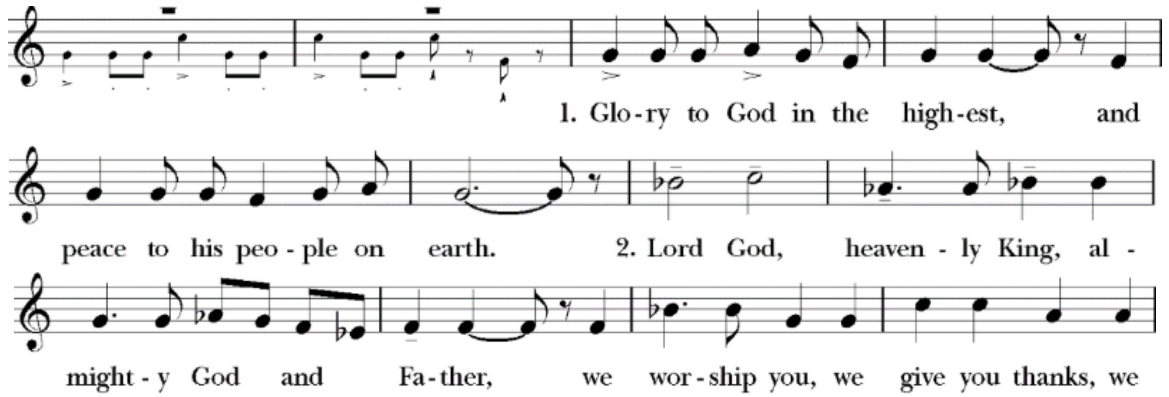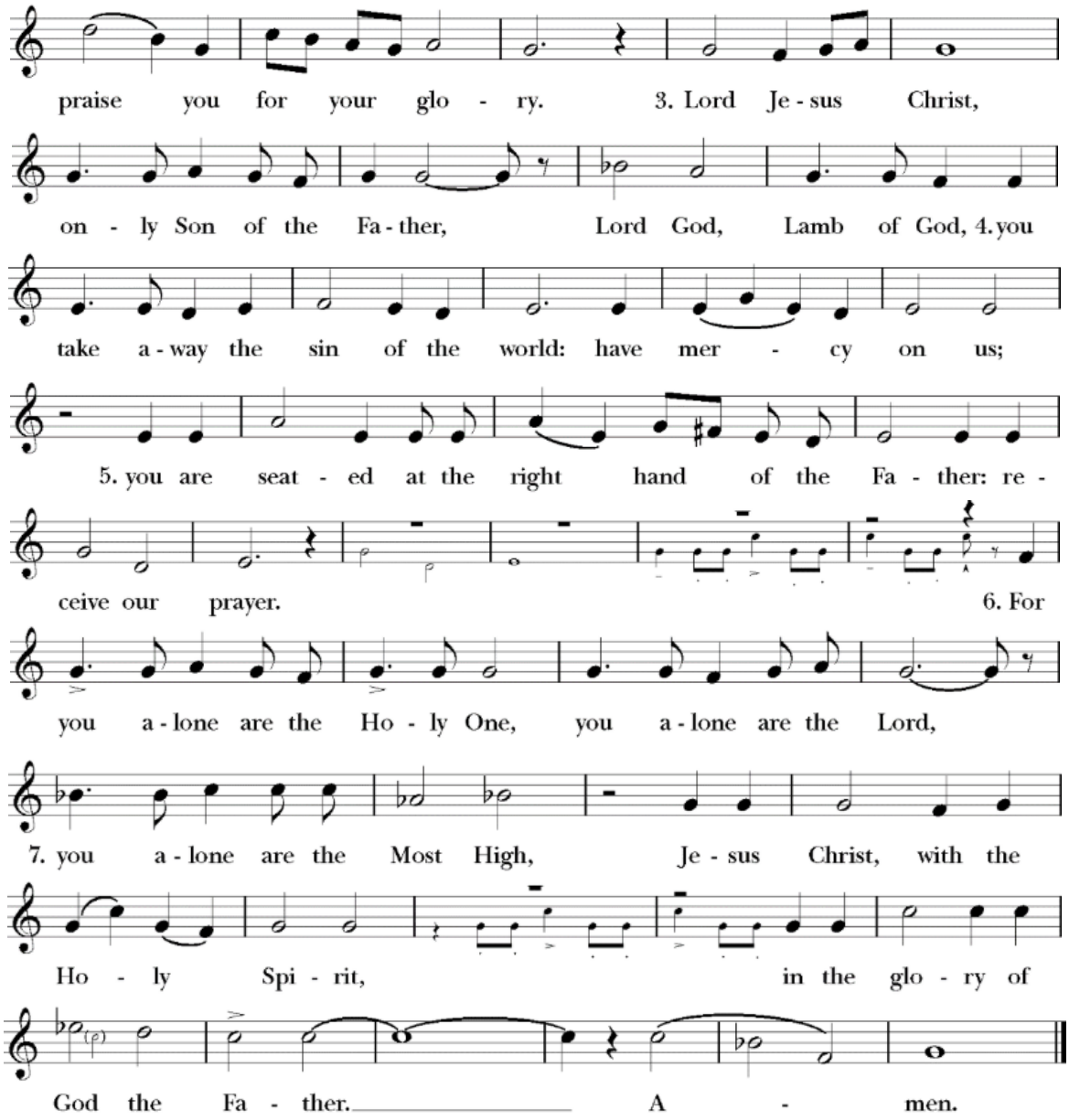


Words: Johann Jakob Schütz (1640-1690); tr. Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897), alt. Music: *Mit Freuden zart*, melody from "Une pastourelle gentille," 1529; adapt. *Pseaumes cinquante de David*, 1547, and *Kirchengeseng darinnen die Heubtartickel des Christlichen Glaubens gefasset*, 1566; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958), after Heinrich Reimann (19th cent.).

THE OPENING WORDS

Celebrant The Lord is here.
People **God's Spirit is with us.**
Celebrant This is the day which the Lord has made.
People **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE S 278 **Glory to God** *Gloria in excelsis* William Mathias





THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And also with you**.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LESSON **Philippians 4:1-9**

Reader A Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

THE PSALTER **Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23** *Confitemini Domino, Et fecerunt vitulum*

Reader Please join in praying Psalm 106 responsively by half-verse.

1 Hallelujah! Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD *
or show forth all his praise?

3 Happy are those who act with justice *
and always do what is right!

4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people, *
and visit me with your saving help;

5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect
and be glad with the gladness of your people, *
that I may glory with your inheritance.

6 We have sinned as our forebears did; *
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.

19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb *
and worshiped a molten image;

20 And so they exchanged their Glory *
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.
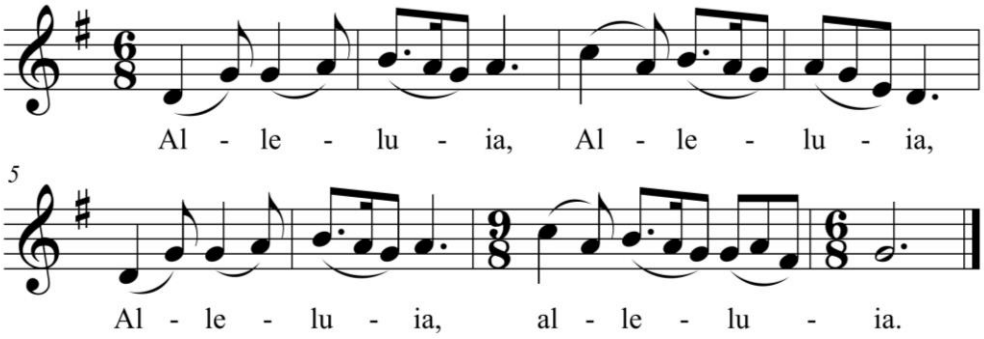
21 They forgot God their Savior, *
who had done great things in Egypt,

22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, *
and fearful things at the Red Sea.

23 So he would have destroyed them,
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, *
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.

Please stand if able and face the Gospel as it arrives in the midst of the gathered.

THE GRADUAL ALLELUIA "Celtic Alleluia"



Reprinted by permission via OneLicenseNet

THE HOLY GOSPEL **Matthew 22:1-14**

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

THE GRADUAL ALLELUIA

THE SERMON The Rev. Dan Kline & The Rev. Jessie Thompson

A time of reflection and silence follows the sermon.

Please stand if able.

THE 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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.
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant Let us pray to God the source of all being, through the eternal Word, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Holy One, teach us to care for those we do not know as much as we care for those who are close to us. We pray that we, the Church, would rise up in this time to be Your Love in this world in every nation. God of Love, **graciously hear us.**

Holy One, teach us to protect those who are threatened, those who are lonely, sick, hungry, persecuted, or ignored, that they will find comfort and be sustained by Your Good News. God of Love, **graciously hear us.**

Holy One, teach us to welcome those who are rejected, and to spread compassion to those who are far away, grant salvation to all in danger, all who are far from home, prisoners, exiles, and victims of oppression. God of Love, **graciously hear us.**

Holy One, teach us to make space for those who are voiceless, to work for justice, to defend those who are oppressed and abused, to find new and just ways of righting wrongs, of struggling against exploitation, greed, or lack of concern: that we may find joy together. God of Love, **graciously hear us.**

Holy One, teach us to forgive those who are burdened by guilt, that we too may be absolved of our sins and offenses. God of Love, **graciously hear us.**

Holy One, teach us to heal those who are broken and sick, and we pray especially for those who we name out loud or in our hearts… (*pause for prayers)*… that they may know your healing power and presence. God of Love, **graciously hear us.**

And we pray for those who have died, remembering especially… *(pause for prayers*)… that they may rejoice and be glad in fellowship with the Risen Christ. God of Love, **graciously hear us.**

Holy One, teach us to cultivate hearts of gratitude that do not shy away from naming all the good things you have done, the ways you have provided, and the gifts you have bestowed on us, on our loved ones, and in the world. We name out loud or in our heart those things we thank You for… *(pause for prayers) …* and we pray you give us courage to share of Your Good News to those around us. God of Love, **graciously hear us.**

Holy One, teach us to take the time to recognize our connectedness, that we are called to really get to know one another and to love as you have loved us, that we may be generous in sharing the good things you provide. God of Love, **graciously hear us.**

Celebrant Now to God who is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or conceive, by the power which is at work among us, be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all ages. **Amen.**

The CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Celebrant My beloved siblings, not out of dread and fear, but believing in the understanding and forgiveness of God, let us rid ourselves of what we need to carry no longer.

All **Merciful God, we need your healing:**
give us true repentance, that we may let go of those things
that hinder us from serving you and one another.
Some sins are plain to us;
some escape us, some we cannot face.
Forgive us; set us free to hear your word to us;
set us free to serve you. Amen.

The Celebrant declares God's forgiveness.

The PEACE

Celebrant Not an easy peace,
not a conditional peace,
not a half-hearted peace,
but the peace of Christ
is with us now.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us share it with each other.

You are invited to offer a sign of peace to those around you.

BLESSINGS AND GRATITUDE

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine and money or other gifts to the Table.

Text "STPAULSPS" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.

Standard text message and data rates may apply.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM "All are welcome" *M. Haugen, arr. Charles Peery*
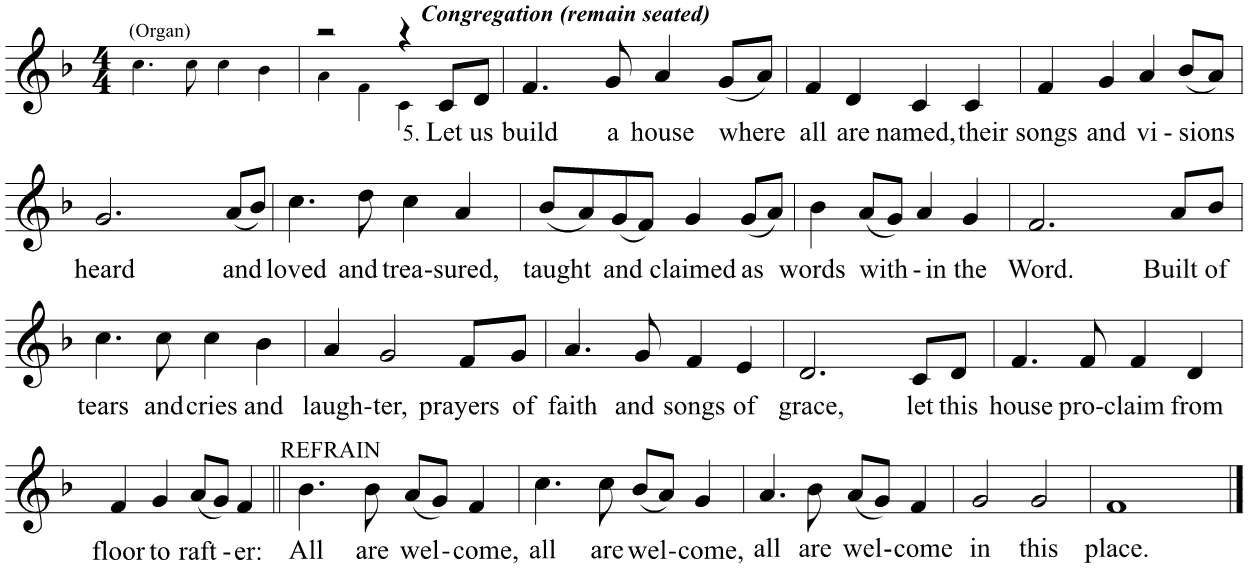
The congregation is invited to sing the refrain on verses 2-4, and all of verse 5, remaining seated.

1. *(Choir)* Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions. **All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

2. *(Choir)* Let us build a house where prophets speak and words are strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness, and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: **All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

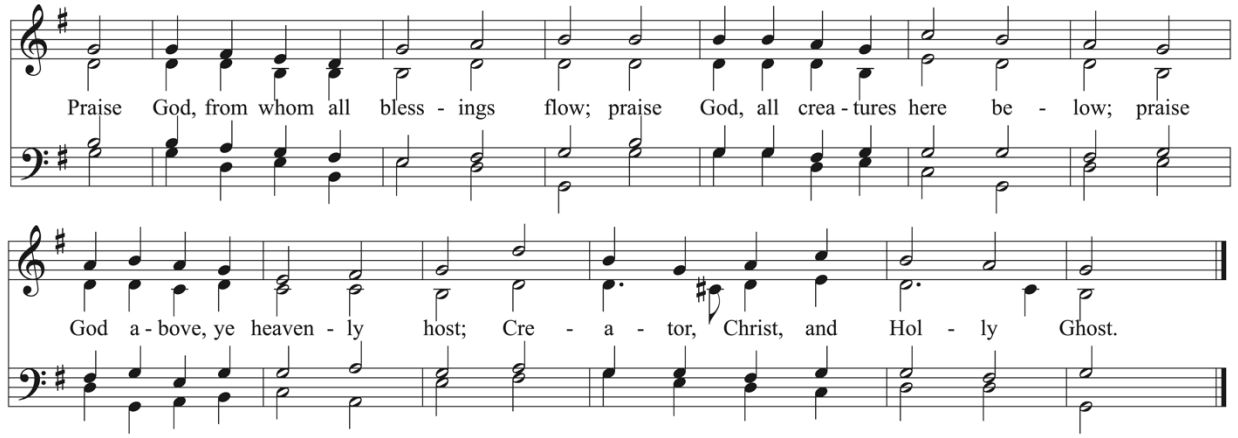
3. *(Choir)* Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat; a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and jus-tice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus is re-vealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: **All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**

4. *(Choir)* Let us build a house where hands will reach be-yond the wood and stone to heal and streng-then, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the out-cast and the stran-ger bear the im-age of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and dan-ger: **All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**



Please stand if able, while the offerings are presented.

THE PRESENTATION **Doxology** *Old 100th*



Celebrant All things come of you, O Lord.
People **And of your own have we given you.**

The GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

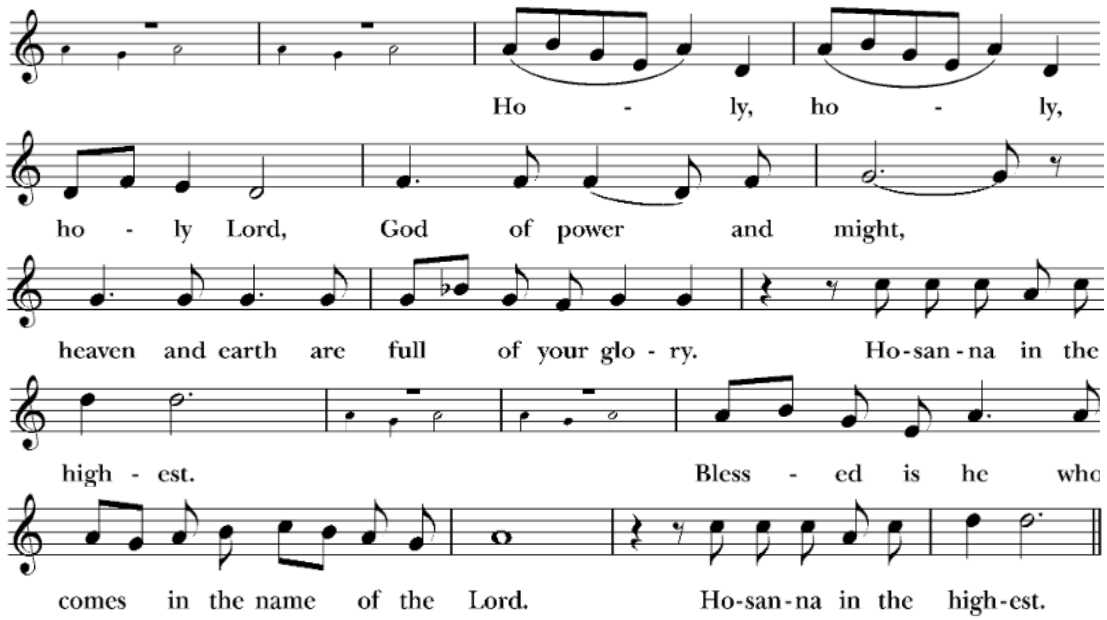
The Celebrant proceeds.

We offer you praise, dear God, and hearts lifted high, for in the communion of your love Christ comes close to us and we come close to Christ. We give you thanks for your blessing on this house of prayer, which we have journeyed to from far and near,

scattered from distant shores and from around the block, now gathered together again in a holy place for your holy people to once again be reminded of our holy connection to you. Through your grace we offer you the sacrifice of praise, and are built by the Spirit into a temple made without hands, even the Body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Therefore, with the whole realm of nature around us, with mountain, valley, and sky, we sing to you. With the angels of light who envelop us, with all the saints before and beside us, with siblings east and west, we sing to you. And with our loved ones, separate from us now, who yet in this mystery are close to us, we join in the song of unending greatness:

Celebrant and People

SANCTUS S 128 **Holy, holy, holy Lord** *William Mathias*



The people may stand or kneel as the Celebrant continues.

Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world's suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread. On the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread; and having blessed it, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "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."

Remembering now his life, death, resurrection, and ascension, we proclaim the mystery of Christ:

Christ has been among us.
Christ is with us still.
Christ will come again in fullness.

The Celebrant continues.

Hear us now, O Christ, and breathe your Spirit upon us, and upon this bread and this wine. May they become for us your body, vibrant with your life, healing, renewing, and making us whole. And as the bread and wine which we now eat and drink are changed into us, may we be changed again into you, bone of your bone, flesh of your flesh, loving and caring in the world.

Made one with him, and one with each other, we offer these gifts, and with them, ourselves, a single, holy and living sacrifice.

We ask these things in the Name of Jesus, by whom and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, world without end. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, in the language of our hearts,
as our Savior Christ has taught us,
we are bold to pray,

People and Celebrant

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Y ahora, en el idioma de nuestro corazón,
como nuestro Salvador Cristo nos ha enseñado, somos valientes para orar,

El Pueblo y El Celebrant

Padre nuestro, que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu Nombre,
venga tu reino,
hágase tu voluntad,
en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia.
Perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también nosotros
perdonamos a los que nos ofenden.
Y no nos dejes caer en tentación
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria,
ahora y por siempre. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia! As this broken bread was scattered upon the mountains and being gathered together became one,

People **So may your Church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom. Alleluia!**

THE INVITATION & THE COMMUNION

Ushers will direct you.

NAVIGATING COMMUNION

All are welcome. Please allow the ushers to direct you toward the Table.
Your options for Communion:

- ***Bread and the Common Cup.*** *Receive the Host from the priest and go to the chalice bearer who will guide the Cup to your lips.*
- ***Bread and Intinction.*** *If you wish the bread dipped in wine, put forward one hand with your palm facing up and one hand in the air. The priest will intinct the Host and hand it to you.*
- ***Bread without wine.*** *Place your two hands together, one on top of the other. Know that bread alone is full and complete Communion.*
- ***Blessing instead of Communion.*** *Approach the priest with your arms crossed over your chest.*

Gluten free wafers and non-alcoholic wine are available; let the priest know your preference and they will assist you.

If mobility issues prohibit you from walking up to the altar, please alert an usher and Communion will be brought to you.

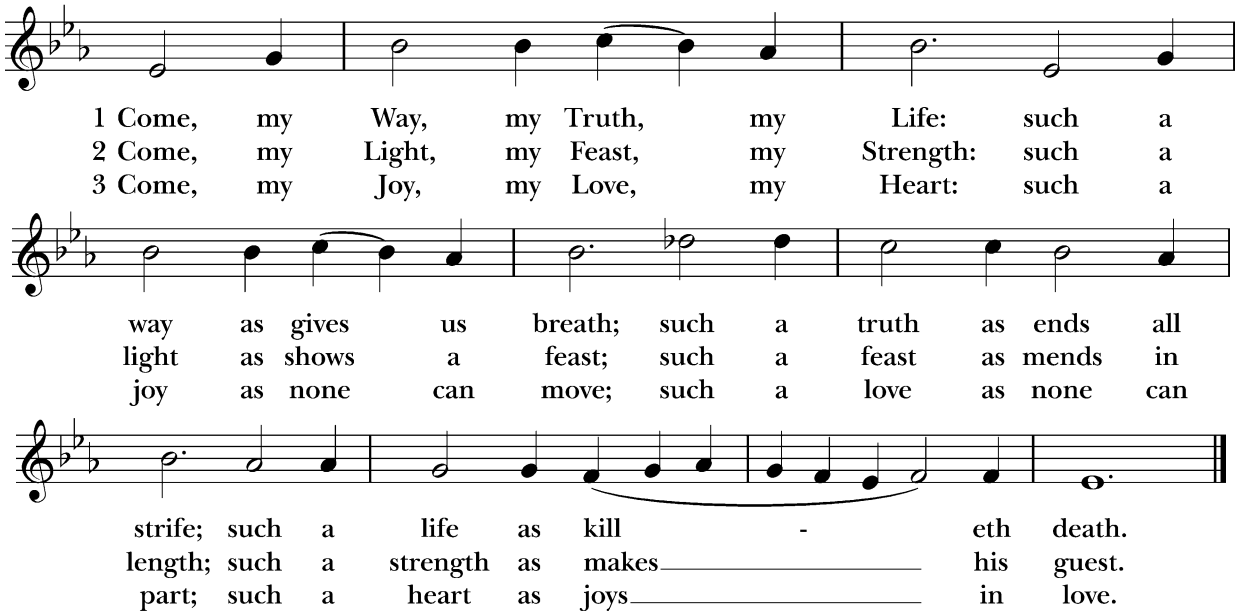
Let nothing hinder you from eating from this Table.



If you are watching the service at home and unable to be physically present for in-person worship, you are welcome to pray this prayer for spiritual communion from The Prayer Book for the Armed Services:

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, 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 invite 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 HYMN 487 "Come, my Way" *The Call*



Words: George Herbert (1593-1633). Music: *The Call*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

The Celebrant blesses any Lay Eucharistic Ministers visiting homebound parishioners.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER
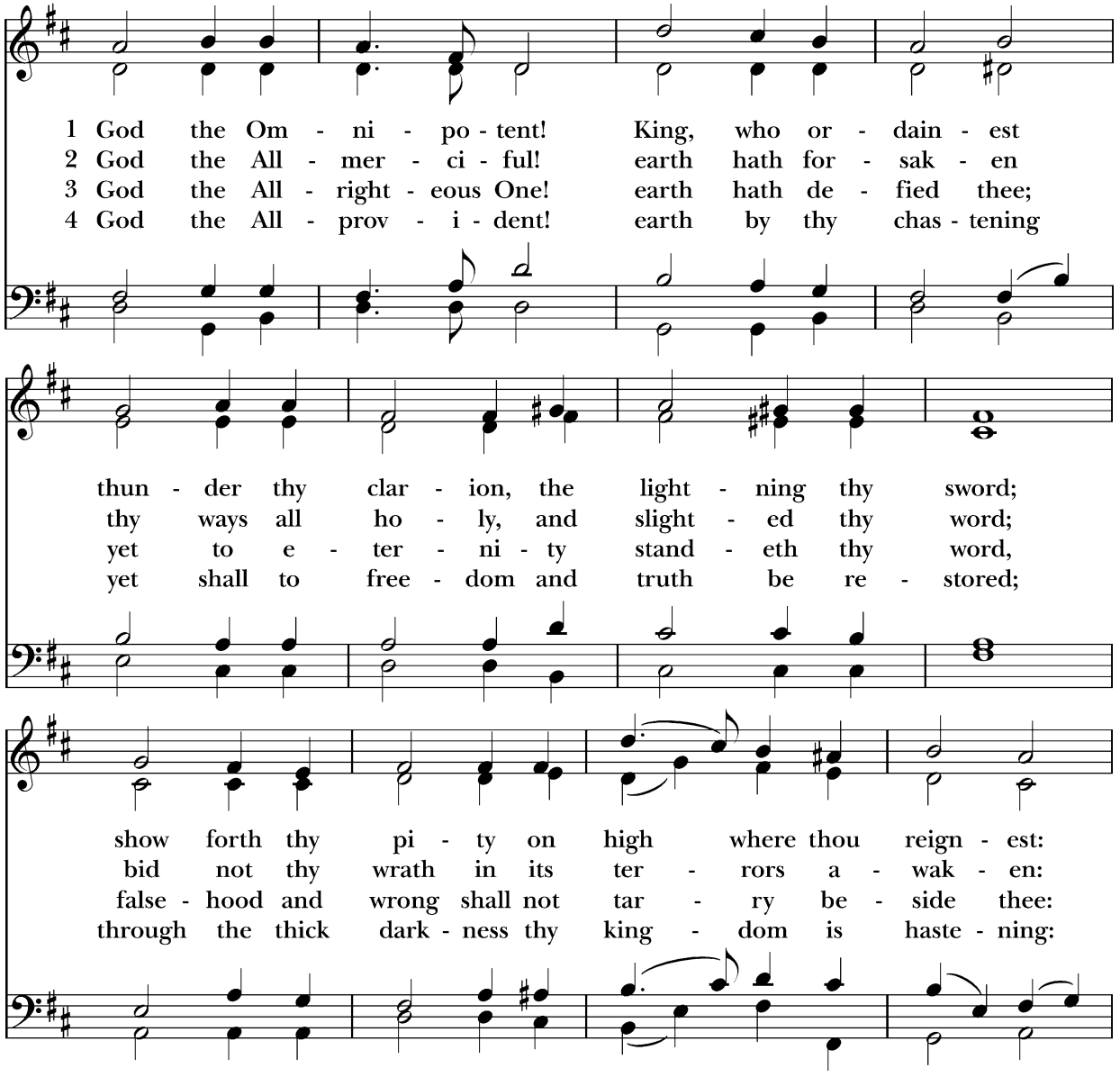
Celebrant Let us pray.
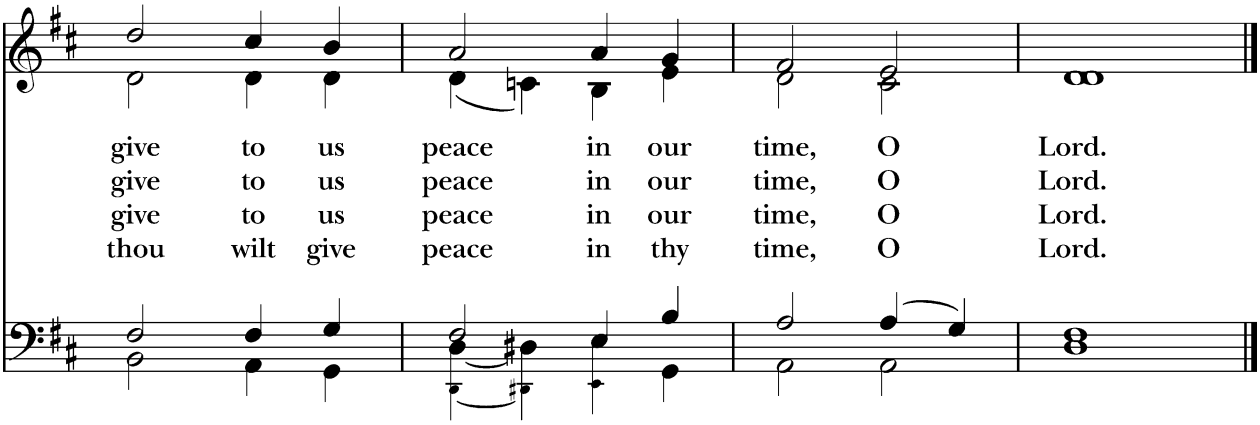
Almighty God, giver of all good things, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the precious body and blood of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We thank you for your love and care in assuring us of your gift of eternal life and uniting us with the blessed company of all faithful people. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name. Amen.

THE BLESSING

This is a sacerdotal pronouncement of God's love and favor, used by a bishop or priest.

THE CLOSING HYMN 569 "God, the omnipotent" *Russia*





Words: Sts. 1-2, Henry Fothergill Chorley (1808-1872), alt.; sts. 3-4, John Ellerton (1826-1893), alt. Music: *Russia*, Alexis Lvov (1799-1870).

THE DISMISSAL

Priest Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace. Alleluia, alleluia!
People **Amen. We go in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!**

POSTLUDE "Procesión Alegré" Gary A. Cornell

You are invited to remain seated and listen to the Postlude, or you can exit through the center aisle door. Our transept doors will remain shut until after the Postlude out of respect for the liturgy. Your presence today has been a blessing to all.

INVITATION

Please join us for our Welcome Back Brunch Potluck & Ministry Fair in the Parish Hall. Come connect and meet fellow parishioners and learn how you can get involved in St. Paul's Ministries.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

The Rev. Jessie Thompson & The Rev. Dan Kline, *Celebrant* & *Preacher*
Charles Peery, *Director of Music;* The St. Paul Choir
Jim De Mersman (WC), Alex Cherkas, Jim Downs, *Altar Ministers*
Jim De Mersman, Bonnie Stroock, *Altar Guild*
Tony McEwing, Samantha Hirsch, *Reader & Intercessor*
Kathy Kilmer, Helen Townsend, Nick Falconio, Mary Holmes, *Ushers*
Jim Lawrence, Chico Valdez, *Production Team*
Richard Osuna, Suzi Osuna, Summer Schoch, *Welcome Team*
John Raposa, *Vestry Welcome*

MUSIC CORNER

Scan this with your phone's camera to read more about the music in today's service.

CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Susan Brown Snook, *Bishop*

The Rev. Jessie Thompson, *Rector*
revjessie@stpauldesert.church

The Rev. Dan Kline, *Rector*
revdan@stpauldesert.church

STAFF

Charles Peery, *Director of Music*
musicdirector@stpauldesert.church

Nancy Leal, *Parish Administrator*
parishadmin@stpauldesert.church

Megan Goehring, *Director of Parish Life & Engagement*
parishlife@stpauldesert.church

Samantha Hirsch, *Diaconal Intern*
intern@stpauldesert.church

Roberto Carrillo, *Sexton*

VESTRY 2026

John Raposa, *Senior Warden*; Brooke Wolford, *Junior Warden*;
George Holliday, *Treasurer*; Jack McLean, *Clerk*;
Alex Cherkas; Nick Falconio; John Hampson; Steve Klinkerman;
Dusty Porter; Rick Nauman; Pete Smith; Marian Stinson+

THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL IN THE DESERT
Palm Springs, California

Text "STPAULSPS" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.
Standard text message and data rates may apply.

