



St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
McHenry, IL



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## Weekly ePistle ~ December 16, 2020

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### ***St. Paul's Online Worship Opportunity for December 20th***

At this time, we cannot meet in person, but we can still meet virtually! We will be hosting our third service via Zoom this Sunday! Join us at **8:30 am** for Morning Prayer led by Rev. Eileen Shanley-Roberts. Even if you don't have a computer, you can join by phone!

To join by computer, click on this link: <https://zoom.us/j/95751784278>

To participate by phone, dial 312-626-6799 and be prepared to enter the ID below.

Our meeting ID is **957 5178 4278**

All participants will be muted upon entry to the service. If you are a reader, please be aware that you will have to unmute yourself in order to be heard. You do not necessarily have to have the video enabled if you do not wish to be seen.

We hope you will be able to join us (virtually!) for this fourth Sunday in Advent!

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### ***From Deacon Deb***

#### A Song of True Motherhood

God chose to be our mother in all things  
and so made the foundation of his work,  
most humbly and most pure, in the  
Virgin's womb.

God, the perfect wisdom of all  
arrayed himself in this humble place.

Christ came in our poor flesh  
to share a mother's care.

Our mothers bear us for pain and for death;  
our true mother, Jesus, bears us for joy and  
endless life.

Christ carried us within him in love and travail,  
until the full time of his passion.  
And when all was complete and he had carried us  
so for joy,  
still all this could not satisfy the power  
of his wonderful love.  
All that we owe is redeemed in truly loving God,  
For the love of Christ works in us;  
Christ is the one whom we love.

Canticle R, A Song of True Motherhood, Julian of Norwich, *Enriching our Worship 1* (New York: Church Publishing Inc., 1998) p.40.

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### ***Words from Wardens***

I recently read an article in the Living Compass Living Well Through Advent 2020 booklet that really resonated with me. I am re-printing it below. We are living in very trying times right now and while we are excited about the upcoming Christmas season, we are struggling with a virus that has turned our world upside down, a political climate that is unsettling, and the fact that we are facing a Christmas that may look very different than our previous Christmas gatherings. During our fourth Sunday of Advent Zoom worship service this Sunday, Eileen will be lighting the fourth and final candle. Please join us this week, and as you gaze at the candles on the Advent wreath, think about how you can be the light in the darkness.

Beth Lukas, Sr. Warden

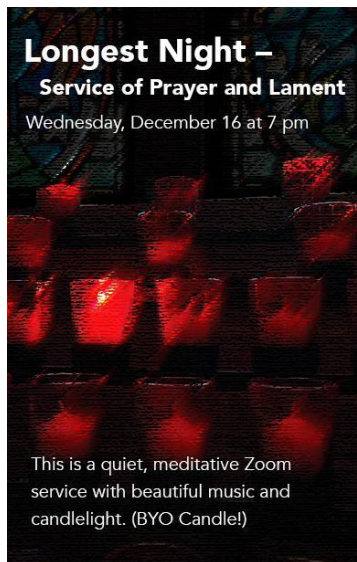
### **Lighting One Candle**

*The Rev. Dr. D. Scott Stoner*

Have you ever found yourself, perhaps when the power has gone out at night, in a completely dark room where you can hardly see at all? Now imagine yourself in that same situation but with a single candle and some matches. You light the candle and then, what happens? You likely are amazed at the power that one single candle has to dispel the darkness. Candles are an essential part of our celebration of Advent (just as they are for Hanukkah, which our Jewish sisters and brothers will celebrate starting next Thursday). Churches, and many homes, have Advent wreaths with candles to mark the four weeks of Advent and then Christmas. These candles are signs of hope, signs of the light of Christ coming into the darkness of the world. They also remind us that the darkness cannot overcome the light.

It has been said that “it is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.” I know that ultimately to be true, but I have to admit that in the darkness that is all too real in our world, I often struggle not to get stuck wringing my hands and cursing the darkness. This is another one of those times when hope can be a decision, an act of the will, an intentional choice to find a way to light one candle rather than to curse and complain about the darkness. Despair is real. It is powerful. However, the power of love and hope are even greater. If or when you find yourself cursing or complaining about all that is wrong in the world, you might instead choose to light a candle in the darkness and then take a few minutes to reflect on one thing you can do to be a light of love and hope for others in your corner of the world.

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### ***Service Tonight***

The Rev. Anne B Jolly, Rector at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church in Deerfield, has invited us to a special Zoom Advent prayer service. To join, please see the information below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82343361815?pwd=aDNwbDJZMjN1QzJ6WU5GSXlxVUIXQTog>

Meeting ID: 823 4336 1815

Passcode: 551239

One tap mobile 1-312-626-6799



### **The Rev. Canon Paula Clark Elected Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago**

*Washington D.C. Priest will be first Black person, first woman to hold the job*

The Rev. Canon Paula E. Clark was elected on December 12 to be the thirteenth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. She will be the first Black person and the first woman to hold the position.

Clark, who currently serves as canon to the ordinary and chief of staff in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, was chosen unanimously on the fourth ballot in an election conducted on Zoom from a slate originally composed of four candidates. She received 229 clergy votes and 284 lay votes.

“We Episcopalians are strong people who can model for the rest of this country and the world what it looks like to walk the way of love,” Clark told the convention over Zoom. “God is calling us to a new day and a new way of being.”

In 2004, she received a Master of Divinity degree from the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, and served at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Washington, D. C. and St. John's Episcopal Church in Beltsville, Maryland, before joining the staff of Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde. Her work for the diocese focused initially on clergy development and multicultural and justice issues. The bishop-elect is married to Andrew McLean and describes herself as "the proud matriarch of our blended family of five adult children and seven grandchildren."

Clark, who is scheduled to be consecrated on April 24, will succeed Bishop Jeffrey D. Lee, who is retiring on December 31, as bishop of a diocese that includes 122 congregations and more than 31,000 members in northern, central and southwestern Illinois. Under the canons of the Episcopal Church, the diocese's Standing Committee will serve as its ecclesiastical authority during the interim.

Thank you to our St. Paul delegates: Kathy Biggerstaff, Jeff Lynaugh, Al Robel, and Deacon Deb!

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### ***2020 Pledges - Are you caught up?***

The end of 2020 is approaching soon and now is the time to catch up on balances for 2020. If you're not sure where you are with your 2020 pledges, just call the church office and we can let you know. Statements will go out after December 31.

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### ***Mark your calendars - Annual Meeting***

Our Annual Meeting will be coming up on January 31st, via Zoom. The annual report will be available as a link for you to see prior to the meeting. We'll be reviewing 2020 and vote in the new vestry members: Heather Dodge, Jeff Lynaugh, and Al Robel.

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### ***January/February issues of the Upper Room are now available!***

Please let the office know if you'd like to stop by and pick one up or if you'd like one mailed to you.

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### ***Presiding Bishop Curry's Christmas Message 2020***

"Joy to the world! The Lord is come. In your hearts, in your homes, in your lives, prepare him room," Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael Curry said in his Christmas Message 2020.

The recording of the Presiding Bishop's message is available by clicking [here](#).

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**St. Paul's Prayer List**  
**Week of December 20 - December 26**

Please keep those on our prayer list in your thoughts during this time. If you wish to add to the list, please contact the church office.

**Ongoing prayers:** Yasmin, Kay, Edna, Amy, Tim, Marty, Barb, Marianne, Jim, Lucy, Vic, and Eleanor

**Current prayers:** Jenn, Stacy, Jeff, Keith, Bobbi, Rory, Bonnie, Brandy, Danielle, Shirley-Patricia, Sheila, Colton, Shannon, Terry, Isabella, Sophia, Joy, Christine, Jeff, Todd, Justine, Frank, and June

**For those celebrating birthdays:** Barbara Moriarty (Dec. 21)

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Cartoon by Rev. Jay Sidebotham

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**Questions or concerns?**

Please contact our Wardens - Beth Lukas (Senior Warden)  
or Jeffrey Zabor (Junior Warden).

**In need of pastoral care?**

Please contact Deborah Lang, our Deacon: [DeaconDeb@stpaulmchenry.com](mailto:DeaconDeb@stpaulmchenry.com)

**Office Hours**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
8:30 am - 1:30 pm

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St. Paul's Email - [stpaulmchenry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stpaulmchenry@sbcglobal.net)

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