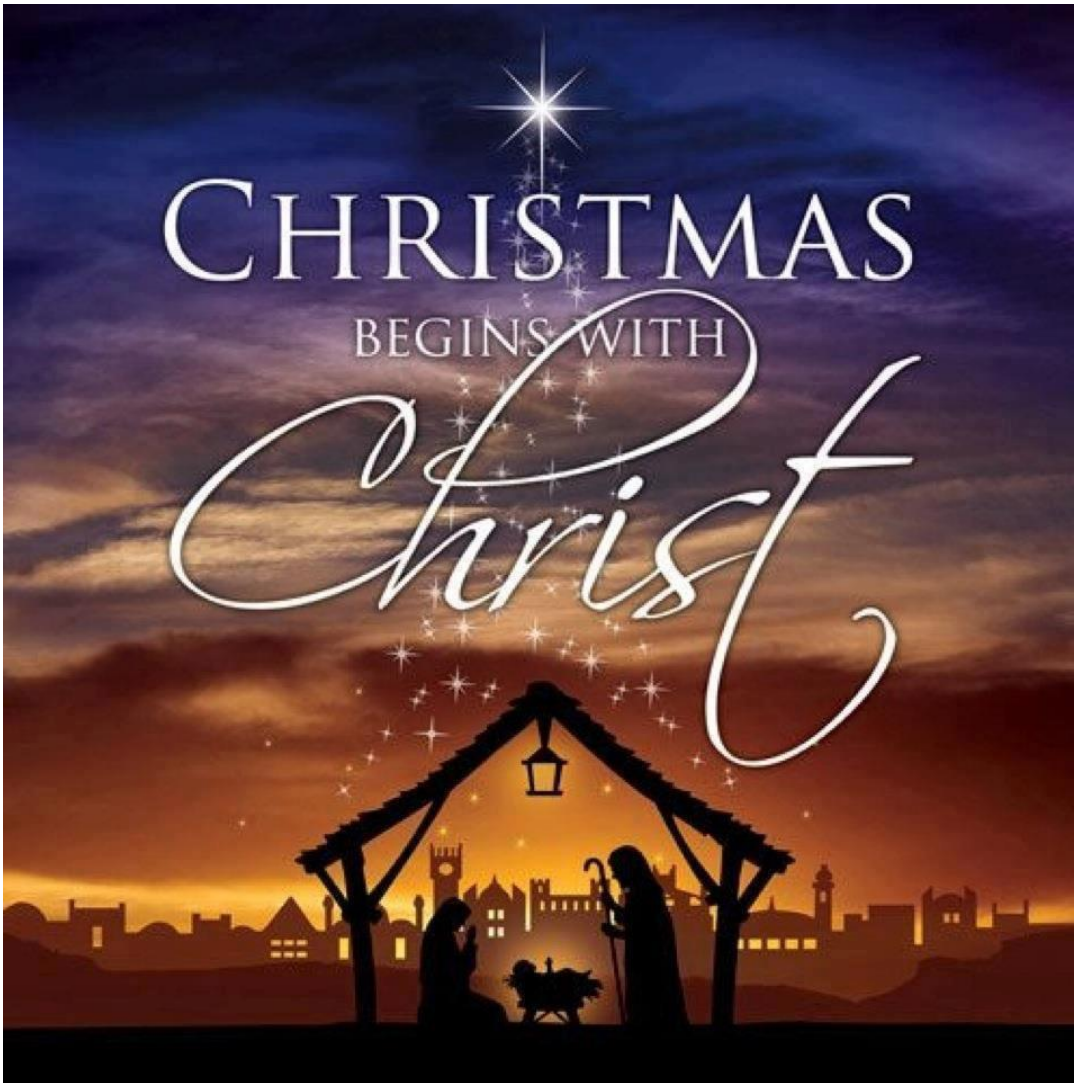


**Christmas Day**  
**December 25, 2024**



*"Sharing the Good News of Christ With All People."*

## HISTORY OF THE SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Festival of Lessons and Carols, which has been made famous by the choir of King's College, Cambridge, England, was first held on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who had just been appointed Dean of the college. A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn, "Once in Royal David's City." Other hallmarks of the service include the Bidding Prayer for All People, the singing of "O Come, All Ye Faithful" after the last lesson, and "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" as the recessional. In almost every year some carols have been changed or added. The backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged.

Almost immediately other churches adapted the service for their own use. It has been broadcast by the BBC annually since 1930, even during the Second World War, and has been heard by millions of listeners throughout the world. One person wrote the college that he heard the broadcast of the service while in a tent on the foothills of Mount Everest.

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, the pattern and strength of the service, as Dean Milner-White pointed out, are in the lessons, and not the music: "The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God seen through the windows and words of the Bible." The center of the service, God's promise of salvation through Christ, is still found by those who "in heart and mind go even unto Bethlehem," and who submit to follow where the story leads.

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# *In the Name of Jesus*

THE OPENING HYMN

*Once In Royal David's City*

LSB 376, stz. 1, 4

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His  
low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and  
ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He  
was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.

## THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, be it this holy and sacred time of year when we remember and give heart to the Incarnation of our Lord, let us give our care and delight as we prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels: in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the shepherds and the wise men adore the Child, lying in His mother's arms.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God, from the first days of our disobedience until the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and in company with the whole Church let us make this place, dedicated to the pure purposes of Christ, glad with our hymns of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of the whole world, for peace and goodwill over all the earth, for the wisdom and rule of the President of these United States, for our Governor, our City and County, and our own parish family.

And let us at this time remember in Christ's name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who do not know the loving kindness of the Lord.

Let us also remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but on another shore and in a greater light, a multitude which none can number, whose hope is in the Word made flesh: and let us pray that we may be counted among the communion of saints, receiving grace to offer unto God all that is good and pleasing to Him, living in unity and fellowship with all his people and giving reverence to all that He has made.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,

gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,

He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -

have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.



## *The First Lesson*

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head. GENESIS 3*

**A**nd they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

This, the First Lesson.

**Thanks be to God.**





1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,  
4 Lord Je-sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A-mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.  
As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man - i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace  
Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.  
That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

## *The Second Lesson*

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. GENESIS 22*

**A**nd the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

This, the Second Lesson.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly  
 4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of  
 kept His word And at last to us did send  
 gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me  
 Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
 Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

## *The Third Lesson*

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior. ISAIAH 9*

**T**he people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This, the Third Lesson.

**Thanks be to God.**





1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious  
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a  
light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In  
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All  
shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.  
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.

## *The Fourth Lesson*

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown. ISAIAH 11*

**T**here shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. But with righteousness he shall judge the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

This, the Fourth Lesson.

**Thanks be to God.**



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
 No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.



## *The Fifth Lesson*

*The angel Gabriel greets the Blessed Virgin Mary.* ST LUKE 1

**I**n the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. "And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" "And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

This, the Fifth Lesson.

**Thanks be to God.**





1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:  
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!  
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.

*Refrain*



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"



Merry  
*Christmas*

# *The Sixth Lesson*

*St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus. ST LUKE 2*

**I**n those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

This, the Sixth Lesson.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THE OFFERING** is received during the singing of the following hymn.





1 In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For His bed a cat - tle stall;  
 2 Flocks were sleep - ing, Shep - herds keep - ing Vig - il till the morn - ing new



Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
 Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry, Tid - ings of a Gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, An - gels sing - ing, Bells are ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:  
 Thus re - joic - ing, Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing, Greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!  
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!



# *The Seventh Lesson*

*The shepherds go to the manger.* LUKE 2

**A**nd in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

This, the Seventh Lesson.

**Thanks be to God.**





1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-ri-ous song of old,  
 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
 When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav’n’s all-gra-cious king.”  
 His word of peace shall to the earth God’s an-cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.  
 And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.



Merry  
*Christmas*



# *The Eighth Lesson*

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.* ST MATTHEW 2

**N**ow after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”” Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

This, the Eighth Lesson.

**Thanks be to God.**



HYMN

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

***Refrain***

O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign.

***Refrain***

5. Glorious now behold Him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice;  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Peals through the earth and skies.

***Refrain***



# *The Ninth Lesson*

*St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation. ST JOHN 1*

**I**n the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This, the Ninth Lesson.

**Thanks be to God.**





1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:

*Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!



# COMMUNION

## HYMN

### *What Child is This*

LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!



## THE COLLECT

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with your spirit**

P Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive Him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him, when He shall come to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

C **Amen.**

## THE BLESSING

P May Christ, who by His incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and keep you in His mystical body, the Church; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**





1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

### Dismissal

P Lord Jesus you lead us! Now we go as....

C **Disciples making disciples.**

P Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**



## STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministers provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

Call the church office at 954-384-9096 if you or someone you know would like to speak with a Stephen Minister.

### **ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

**Rev. Scott Henze, Pastor**

**Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry**

**Mrs. Kathy Henze, Preschool Director**

**580 Indian Trace, Weston, Florida 33326**

**Church Office (954) 384-9096 † [office@stpaulweston.org](mailto:office@stpaulweston.org)**

**[www.stpaulweston.org](http://www.stpaulweston.org)**

**Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM**

**Sunday School for children and youth: 9:45 AM**

**Adult Bible Study: 10:00 AM**



Website and online giving

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