

Welcome to

St. Michael's University Church

An inclusive and caring community
in the heart of Isla Vista

Last Sunday after Epiphany
February 11, 2024



This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

PRELUDE

RINGING OF BELL

Please stand if you are able.

God is with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

(The celebrant says the collect, to which the people respond **Amen.**)



***Whoever you are, whatever your story,
wherever you are on your journey,
you are welcome here.***

SONG: *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

*Lift every voice and sing,
'Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea*

*Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on 'til victory is won*

Please sit for the Reading and Psalm.

READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and

said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

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

People: **Thanks be to God**

PSALM: 50:1-6

1 The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken; *
God has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *
God reveals Godself in glory.

- 3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; *
before God there is a consuming flame,
and round about God a raging storm.
- 4 God calls the heavens and the earth from above *
to witness the judgment of God's people.
- 5 "Gather before me my loyal followers, *
those who have made a covenant with me
and sealed it with sacrifice."
- 6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of God's cause; *
for God is the judge.

Please stand if you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL HYMN: "Bless the Lord My Soul"

*Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.*

GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to MARK.

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

GOSPEL HYMN: “Bless the Lord My Soul”

SERMON: Rev. John Draper

SONG: *Give Me Love (Give Me Peace on Earth)*
- *George Harrison*

Please stand if you are able.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With wonder and compassion, we turn our hearts to God in prayer.

For all displaced people, victims of poverty, wars, and violence, for an end to all forms of oppression, suffering and discrimination, we pray.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For the expansive beauty of your creation and our renewed care for this planet, for the defenders of sacred lands and territories, we pray.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For leaders and nurturers, decision-makers, and those with influence, that they may lead, and guide with integrity, justice, and compassion.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For healthy bodies, minds, and spirits, for calm when anxious, and quiet when fearful.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For all of us on our different paths, from different faiths, yet united by a common Source of Love.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For the hopes and intentions of this community.

For our healing presence here and beyond.

Come Holy Spirit, and renew the face of the Earth.

For what and for whom else would we like to pray today?

(Pause)

For all of these prayers and the silent prayers in our hearts, we pray.

God of Love, hear the prayers of your people.

Amen.

PRAYER COLLECT

INVITATION (*the Deacon or Celebrant says*)

God is gracious and merciful and knows our needs even before they reach our lips. All that we are, have been, and will be is known to God. Still, we engage in confession, acknowledging to God all that rests uneasily in our hearts. Confident of God's love, let us make our confession now, first in silent prayer.

Silence

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (let us pray together):

Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives—that which is beautiful and that which is hurtful and hateful.

We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.

We love with condition.

We destroy your creation.

We judge and condemn.

We cast the first stone and keep the log in our own eye.

We do not always turn to you as the source of our healing.

**We believe you have the power to turn us around to a more abundant way of life, so we ask that you do that. We ask that you give us the energy, empathy, patience, and imagination to be your people in all we say and do.
Amen**

THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY: *Offerings are collected and all who are able stand, sing:*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to God.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant : It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Loving God. By water and the Holy Spirit, you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with every nameless and unremembered child of God, and with all the company of heaven, singing:

Celebrant and People sing "Santo, Santo, Santo"

Santo, santo, santo
Mi corazón te adora
Mi corazón te sabe decir:
“Santo eres, Señor”

Holy and gracious God: You made us in your infinite love, and when we turned away from that love, you sent Jesus Christ to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, and to draw us near to you.

On the night he was given over to suffering and death, Jesus took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed 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:

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

The Celebrant continues:

Recalling now Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection, we gather at this table with bread and wine in celebration of life and love, work, play and rest, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and Her presence in our lives. Send your Spirit upon these gifts. Let them be for us the Body and Blood of Christ. And grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may be filled with your life and goodness. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ:

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. AMEN.

And now, as Christ has taught us, we pray:

**Our God, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name
Thy kindom 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 kindom, and the power, and the glory
For ever and ever. Amen**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**
Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Everyone is welcome at God's table.

Holy Eucharist

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven. **Amen.**

The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation. **Amen.**

"Everyone is welcome at God's table. Please join us in a circle on the other side of the altar. Our bread is gluten free. For bread only and not the wine, please raise your left hand. For a blessing rather than communion, place your arms across your chest. "

SILENCE

[God's first language is Silence. Everything else is a translation. – Thomas Keating]

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand if you are able.

Celebrant Let us pray.

**Eternal God,
you have graciously accepted us
as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you and your people with gladness
and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BLESSING

SONG: *When The Saints Go Marching In*

*Oh when the saints go marching in
Oh when the saints go marching in
Oh Lord I want to be in that number
Oh when the saints go marching in*

*Oh when the sun begins to shine
Oh when the sun begins to shine
Oh Lord I want to be in that number
Oh when the sun begins to shine*

*Oh when the trumpets sounds its call
Oh when the trumpets sounds its call
Oh Lord I want to be in that number
Oh when the trumpets sounds its call*

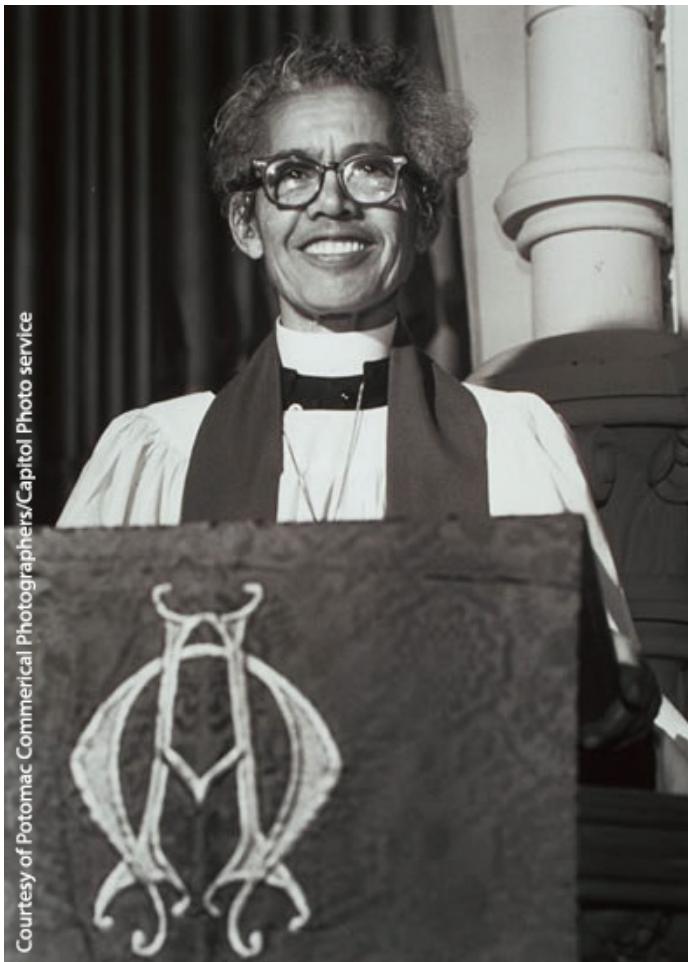
SENDING

Go in peace to love and serve God and all God's people.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebrating the life of Rev. Pauli Murray



"Seeing the relationship between my personal cause and the universal cause of freedom released me from a sense of isolation, helped me to rid myself of vestiges of shame over my racial history, and gave me an unequivocal understanding that equality of treatment was my birthright and not something to be earned. I would be no less afraid to challenge the system of racial segregation, but the heightened significance of my cause would impel me to act in spite of my fears." - Pauli Murray

**"Murray At Lectern," Washington, D.C., 1977 *The Church Awakens: African Americans and the Struggle for Justice*, accessed February 6, 2024
<https://episcopalarchives.org/church-awakens/items/show/288>.**

A descendant of a North Carolina enslaved woman and an enslaver, Pauli Murray was an early civil rights activist and the first African American female priest ordained in the Episcopal Church. She graduated from Hunter College in 1933 and was denied entry to the all-white University of North Carolina School of Law due to her race. The following year, she was denied entry to Harvard Law School due to her gender. She graduated from Howard University Law School in 1944 and earned a master's degree in law from UC Berkeley and a doctorate in juridical science from Yale University. She was a founding member of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and saw the civil rights struggle and the women's movement as intertwined. After the death of her life partner, she entered General Theological Seminary and was ordained at the National Cathedral in 1977. She was called to the Church of the Atonement in Washington, D.C. from 1979 to 1981 and then to Holy Nativity Church in Baltimore until she died in 1985. She is a poet and scholar, publishing *States' Laws on Race and Color* (1951); her family story, *Proud Shoes: Story of an American Family* (1955); *Dark Testament and Other Poems* (1970); and her memoir, *Song in a Weary Throat: An American Pilgrimage* (1987).



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