The flowers on the Altar of the Church
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Carolyn Bradford Stephenson, Samuel Randall Stephenson, and David Shapard Marks, Jr.,

The flowers in the Little Church
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Dr. and Mrs. Edward C. Barañano by their family.

The flowers in the Narthex of the Church
are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of
the marriage of Kathryn Olivia Nichols and Frank Leon Parker III,
and in loving memory of Frank Leon Parker, senior, Jameal A. Kahalley,
Mr. and Mrs. Robert George Nichols, junior, and Elizabeth Nichols Gittens.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Mobile, Alabama
December 14, 2025

The Third Sunday of Advent
A Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols—December 14, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Voluntary An Advent Prelude *C. Callahan*

Entrance Hymn 102 Once in Royal David's City *Irby*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Choir Let us prepare our hearts to receive the light of the world.
People **Our hearts are open; we welcome him with joyful song.**

Celebrant As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

People **Let there be light!**

The Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

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

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The children now leave for Sunday School. All sit for the lessons and stand for the singing of hymns.

Ministry of the Word

First Lesson, 2 Samuel 7:8-13 *God's promise to David* Reader: Andrea Rossillon

Hymn 615 Thy kingdom come! *St. Flavian*

Second Lesson, Isaiah 40:1-11 *Isaiah offers comfort* Reader: Lauren Moore Laird

Hymn 708 Savior like a shepherd lead us *Sicilian Mariners*

Third Lesson, Isaiah 11:1-9 *The promise of a Son* Reader: Carol Hunter

Hymn 66 Come, thou long expected Jesus *Stuttgart*

Fourth Lesson, Hebrews 1:1-9 *The Kingship of a Son* Reader: Kathy Miller

Hymn 73 The King shall come *St. Stephen*

Fifth Lesson, Luke 1:5-19 *Gabriel visits Elizabeth* Reader: Sullivan Daves

Hymn 89 It came upon a midnight clear *Carol*

Sixth Lesson, Luke 1:26-38 *Annunciation of Mary* Reader: Shane Hale

Hymn 265 The angel Gabriel *Gabriel's Message*

Seventh Lesson, John 1:1-18 *In the beginning* Reader: Eleanor Inge

Choral Anthem Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus *M. Burnett*

Homily The Rev. Jody Burnett

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

Offertory Anthem Even so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come *P. Manz*

Presentation and Doxology *Old Hundredth*

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B Book of Common Prayer, page 367

The Lord's Prayer Book of Common Prayer, page 364

Communion Music

What Child *P. Lohman*
Andre Chiang, Olivia Yokers

Hymn 304 I Come with Joy *Land of rest*

Hymn 110 The Snow Lay on the Ground *Venite Adoramus*

Hymn 105 God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Post Communion Prayer Book of Common Prayer, page 365

Final Blessing

Retiring Hymn 56 (v. 4-8) O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Voluntary Good Christian Men, Rejoice *W. Held* Katherine Hagen, violin, Danielle Portis, flute