A Sermon for Steinbeck Sunday  (Feb. 24, 2013)

Today we remember and honor one of St. Paul’s most favorite sons the great if not the greatest American author, John Steinbeck. A member of this congregation in his youth, he was an acolyte, and a member of the choir, and according to what may be an urban legend of his own creation, or an embellishment of an actual event, the lad who dropped the processional cross upon the bald shining pate of the bishop during a confirmation service, ending his career as a crucifer. I’ve actually checked the processional cross wondered if perhaps the dent in the cross may be evidence of this event having actually taken pace.

In any event, Steinbeck was a life-long Anglican, and even if he had some grave and justified misgivings about the institution of the church, he loved the liturgy and music and the sacred texts. John Steinbeck considered himself an agnostic in his beliefs, but certainly he was a deeply spiritual person who was greatly influenced by the sacred texts of the bible and the faith tradition in which he grew up.

Steinbeck’s “Credo” from his book East of Eden, which we will hear after this homily, is indicative of Steinbeck’s commitment to intellectual freedom and his abhorrence of any institution, secular or religious that seeks to limit or control this freedom. For me, Steinbeck is a prophetic figure of the 20th century. He was a champion of the downtrodden and oppressed and often he was shunned and despised by those in the established halls of power who were challenged by his words.

“Credo” from East of Eden

“And this I believe: That the free, exploring mind of the individual human is the most valuable thing in the world. And this I would fight for: the freedom of the mind to take any direction it wishes, undirected. And this I must fight against: any idea, religion or government which limits or destroys the individual. This is what I am and what I am about. I can understand why a system built on a pattern must try to destroy the free mind, for this is the one thing which can by inspection destroy such a system. Surely I can understand this, and I hate it and I will fight against it to preserve the one thing that separates us from the uncreative beasts. If the glory can be killed, we are lost.”

Continued on page 2
Whilst ‘Credo’ holds up the free, exploring mind of the individual human as the most valuable thing in the world, Steinbeck was not, as Susan Shillinglaw points out in her wonderful introduction to Steinbeck’s novel, The Winter of our Discontent, “a gritty individualist.” He believed and stated that a human being is at the same time a social animal and an individual, and ‘that he cannot successfully be the second until he has fulfilled the first.” (“Some Thoughts on Juvenile Delinquency,” 1955 as quoted by Shillinglaw in her introduction to The Winter of our Discontent on pg xx).

I believe Steinbeck would have resonated deeply with our Gospel reading this morning. In this passage there are beautiful words,

“Jerusalem, Jerusalem... How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings...”

Here Jesus subverts gender stereotypes by comparing himself to a nurturing mother. Jesus stretches out his arms to lovingly gather us in. We also hear words that give us a glimpse of Palm Sunday that lies ahead.

“And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

But there are also darker more threatening words here. There are the Pharisees who come to Jesus to warn him off by revealing Herod’s plans to kill him. Whether the true motivation or these Pharisees is to warn Jesus or to intimidate him, is not certain. But one thing we can see is that here there is death, and darkness, something evil and threatening, beyond the warning of the Pharisees, which Jesus sees and responds to with words of courage and words of sorrow.

I feel that the first part of this reading speaks of Jesus’ courage – not only to speak out against the powers of domination, against the forces of oppression, injustice and death, but also to step consistently towards Jerusalem where he knows those forces will be fully arrayed against him.

The second part speaks of his heart. Jesus walks towards Jerusalem, not waving flags of defiance or judgment, but with a heart full of love; the kind of love that breaks his heart as he sees this city’s inability to love and listen.

Jesus longs to shelter Jerusalem, but Jerusalem is unwilling; maybe unable, engulfed in unpleasantness, hurt, and pride. Jesus longs to stretch out sheltering wings to show Jerusalem that there is refuge, that there is forgiveness and redemption for all her missteps and tragedies. Jerusalem may be broken and Jerusalem may be proud, but Jesus longs to give her the words she needs to be healed. In many ways Jerusalem is a metaphor of the human heart, yours and mine and all humanity. For it is in the human heart that the prophets are stoned, where the son of God is crucified, and it is to the human heart that Jesus comes offering peace, reconciliation and new life.

Jesus also sees Palm Sunday ahead. With Palm Sunday his followers will see a new opportunity for Jerusalem. And Jesus, knowing Jerusalem, knows that Palm Sunday’s opportunity to embrace the Son of Man, though important, will also be insufficient. There will be a chorus of praise, but that will not stop the dark days from coming. There is so much yet ahead – Holy Week with its echoes of exodus, its table fellowship when brothers and sisters sit down together and connect, its garden songs, mixed with Jesus’ agonizing prayers. And yet in this moment, when Jesus is still on the road and the days of his Passion are still ahead, we are strongly reminded that what Jesus longs to offer us is love. Beyond fear and beyond threat, Jesus offers loving shelter and amazing grace, even when we are unable to see clearly. Even on the road to Palm Sunday and Good Friday. Even to us in all our proud Jerusalem’s, Jesus offers us love, forgiveness and acceptance. Amen.
Saint Paul’s and San Pablo—We are One in Christ

For almost 30 years San Pablo and Saint Paul’s have been sharing the same worship, education, meeting and gathering space. San Pablo was originally formed as a Mission congregation of the Diocese of El Camino Real. In recent years we have been in conversation with one another wondering if God is calling us to go beyond the old mission model of two separate congregations sharing the same space, one as owner and the other as renter, to see ourselves as one parish of brothers and sisters, multi-cultural, yet united in Christ with bonds of love and mutual respect. I am happy to say that we have come a long way and with the support and blessing of our Bishop, we have entered into a new phase of our union as one parish family through the establishment of a commission comprised of members of both congregations and clergy to work out all the necessary steps to make this dream into a reality. The first meeting of this commission will be on Thursday, March 7. In the coming months we will be communicating to both congregations and seeking the input and ideas of all who have something to contribute. St. Paul’s members serving on the commission are: Dave Mora (convener), Mary Orrison, Cecelia Sanchez, Marilyn Dorman, Bob Beery, Otis Lloyd, Fr. Jim Ezell. Members of San Pablo: Javier Mejia, Maria Amezquita, Jesus and Maria Franco, Arturo Perez, Fr. Mario Macias.

One of the questions/concerns I would like to address at the outset was raised by several parishioners of both congregations: “Will we still have English and Spanish worship services or will all our services be bi-lingual?” In joint meetings of leadership from both parishes we have both agreed that the worship services that we currently have will continue to be the norm. English at 8 and 10 and Spanish at 12 on Sunday mornings. On occasions we will combine congregations for bi-lingual worship to celebrate special festivals in the church calendar or special events in the life of our church. Rest assured that we will all continue to have worship in our primary language, but we will also have opportunities for bi-lingual and multicultural worship as we move forward into the future.
A Free Six-Part Public Series:
Sunday Evenings during Lent beginning February 17 at 5pm. A light supper will follow each session.

A series of six weekly Lenten discussions of John Steinbeck’s spiritual lessons for modern readers in four of his masterpieces. Open to people of every age, affiliation, and background with a desire to learn how to live life with greater compassion. No previous reading of Steinbeck’s work required, no preparation needed, and no books to be brought to the sessions. Instead, guests will hear professional audio CD readings of relevant passages focusing on spiritual truths in Steinbeck’s seminal works, starting with Tortilla Flat, written while Steinbeck watched as his mother lay dying in Salinas, and ending with East of Eden, written in the East following his expulsion from the Garden of Eden of his beloved Monterey Peninsula, where he had experienced his greatest happiness. Steeped in the King James Bible and Episcopal liturgy, Steinbeck observed the universal human condition more deeply beyond the church: from summers working in the fields, from friendship with people of color in a white-dominated town, and from the suffering of world war, personal estrangement, and persecution by establishments both social and intellectual. Refusing to repeat himself in subject or style, he sought to communicate new understanding to common readers. No writer other than Shakespeare, Milton, or Blake has more to teach us about our humanity than this dreamy child of Salinas and St. Paul’s.
Ash Wednesday, February 13
♦ 12 Noon - Ash Wednesday Liturgy & Holy Eucharist
♦ 7pm - Ash Wednesday Liturgy & Holy Eucharist (bi-lingual)

Every Monday During Lent
♦ 7:30am - Morning Prayer

Holy Week, March 24 - 30
♦ Palm Sunday Eucharist 8 & 10am
♦ Morning Prayer Mon. - Friday 7:30am
♦ Maundy Thursday Supper & Liturgy - 5pm Supper, 6pm Liturgy
♦ Vigil at the Altar of Repose - Thursday 8:30pm to Friday 7:30am; Good Friday Liturgy, 12 Noon; Silent Lunch 1pm; Organ Meditations on the Cross of Christ 2pm
♦ Morning Prayer Saturday, 9am

The Great Vigil of Easter will be celebrated at St. Paul's at 7:30pm on Saturday March 30.

The Great Easter Vigil is one of the Church’s oldest historical Easter worship services. Originally it was a time when adult converts to the Christian faith, after having undergone two years of instruction and 40 days of prayer and fasting during Lent and Holy Week, received baptism and confirmation into the family of Christ on the eve of Easter.

Gathering at sundown outside the church, they would kindle a new fire from which the Pascal Candle would be lit. This, the first of four parts of the Great Vigil is known as the service of light. After lighting the Pascal Candle the Exsultet would be sung or chanted, (this will take place in our chapel). This ancient song links our Pascal feast with the first Passover and with God’s deliverance of his people at the Red Sea. The song introduces the theme of God’s saving acts through history, which is developed through the second part of the service, The Readings. Each of the appointed readings chosen for this night are followed by a few moments of quiet reflection. The third part of the service gives believers an opportunity to profess and renew their faith with Baptism and/or Reaffirmation of Faith.

An atmosphere of solemn anticipation and meditation is maintained in relative darkness until the great Easter Acclimation when the congregation processes into the church marking a dramatic transition from darkness to light, from death into life. The tone for the Eucharistic part of the service is one of solemn joy. It is a beautiful meditative service in form and style; the highest festivities and musical celebrations occur on Sunday morning.
Come Join Us

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31st · 9:00 am

Our two English services will be combined on Easter Sunday for one glorious celebration of our Lord’s Resurrection! The Chancel Choir directed by Janette Ford and accompanied by our organist, Dr. William Ray and trumpeter Stan Soroken will enrich our worship with glorious Easter hymns. Followed by:

St. Paul’s & San Pablo

EASTER BRUNCH - YOUTH FUNDRAISER
at 10:30am

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
1071 Pajaro Street, Salinas CA 93901
(831) 424-7331
The Women’s Book Club and dinner will next meet on Tuesday February 5th in the Parish Hall Lounge at 6:30pm. This month’s book is:

Caleb’s Crossing
By
Geraldine Brooks
Please BYO supper.

ECW Prayer

Almighty God, Heavenly Father, source of all knowledge and truth, be present with each of us meeting together as the Women of the Episcopal Church. Grant us open minds, compassionate hearts, honest words and gentle ways. Give us the grace to know your will, the courage to accept it and the strength to accomplish it. May we not forget the lessons from the past nor fear the challenges of the future. Bless us with your peace today and all the days to come, and may we ever pray, “Thy will be done”. We live in your presence and pray in your Holy Name. Amen

The next Men’s Fellowship Dinner will be Friday, February 8. Meet at the St. Paul’s parking lot for a 6pm departure to Rancho Cielo!

All St. Paul and San Pablo men are welcome!

RSVP - Fr. Jim (512-7412)
St. Paul's Teams with Transportation Non-Profit to Provide Rides for Seniors

Independent Transportation Network Monterey County is a non-profit organization that provides rides to Senior and Visually-Handicapped individuals through a network of volunteer drivers. St. Paul's has established a Ride Services Program with ITN, for members to receive rides, free of charge, to and from church and church-sponsored activities any day of the week. Members can also use the service for any other purpose they desire, but those rides would be paid for by the rider. There is a Ride Scholarship Program for low-income participants.

In order for our transportation program to serve as many people as possible, we also need Volunteer Drivers to provide the rides our members need. There are a number of benefits for Drivers, including mileage reimbursement or earned ride credits for their own use, or for a friend or family member to use.

For more information, please contact ITN Monterey County at 831-240-0850 or Deborah Ingram, Senior Services Director for Episcopal Senior Communities at 831-424-0911.

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**SENIORS**

**Lunch & Bingo!**

**Thursday, February 28, 2013**

**In the Parish Hall, 12 Noon to 2pm**

(Meeting the 4th Thursday of every month)
St. Paul's Resurrection Chapel Columbarium

St. Paul's has a beautiful Columbarium. It is located in the small Resurrection Chapel at the front of the Church. Thanks to the original Columbarium Management Committee, the artwork and location give our St. Paul's family and friends an option for a final resting place. When you go into the Chapel for a moment of prayer and reflection, look at some of the names that have gone before us and pray for them also.

The Mortuaries and St. Paul's work together to put ashes in the Columbarium. An engraved plate indicates who is buried there. Fortunately, there are still empty spaces in the Columbarium. The price is only $800.00 per space. If you and your family are interested in a beautiful Columbarium space, please call Lucy Murguia in the Church Office, 831-424-7331

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FOOD FOR THE HOMELESS AND THE HUNGRY DONATIONS NEEDED!

Our Food Panty continues to feed over 50 people a week and the needs are continuing to grow. Each week on Friday we distribute 22 bags of groceries in addition to fresh produce and refrigerated items as available. Every Tuesday parishioners from St. Paul’s prepare and serve cooked lunches for 120+ individuals and families at First United Methodist Church. We also have pledged $300 a month to First United Methodist and Dorothy's Kitchen to feed hungry people in Salinas. These ministries depend upon your contributions on the 3rd Sunday of each month through the special offering envelope found in the bulletin and donations from the collection can which is placed at the entrance to the church every week and at the Sr. Produce Market on Wednesday mornings. Please give generously, these ministries help hungry people survive.
WHY IS A COFFEE HOUR IMPORTANT?

Coffee hour is important so that we can share time and get better acquainted with our St. Paul’s family, so that we can get church work done, and so that we can greet and welcome newcomers. Visitors are not as easily drawn to a church if there is no vehicle to meet people and hear about the many programs. Coffee Hour is one such vehicle.

So again we are asking people who attend the 10 am service to host one or more coffee hour during the year on or near his or her birthday or a wedding anniversary. What would serving entail?

1. If Ken Fisher is not able to make coffee (he most always is) follow the instructions which are attached to the wall to the right of the coffee maker, more detailed instructions are taped inside the cabinet mentioned in 2.

2. Coffee is located in the upper cabinet just to the right of the coffee maker.

3. Creamer, artificial sweetener, and sugar may be with the coffee or look in the upper cupboard just to the right of the door which goes to the outside. Lemonade or Kool-Aid for the kids can be found in the same upper cupboard as the sugar or there may be juice, cream, or lemonade in the refrigerator.

4. Tea bags are in the upper cupboard to the left of the big stoves.

5. Trivets are in the drawer to the right of the coffee maker.

6. China cups are in the moveable holders in the lower cabinets to the right of the coffee maker. Small china plates are in the upper cabinet to the far right of the coffee maker. If you prefer to use disposable cups or plates, we ask you to bring recyclable cups or plates, not Styrofoam.

7. Table cloths are optional. Some of them are in the bottom drawers just to the right of the kitchen door to the outside or there are table cloths in boxes in the tall lounge cupboard which is next to the kitchen door.

8. Regarding food; simple is fine. Something sweet like cookies, muffins, cake, coffee cake, donuts, etc. and perhaps some fruit are plenty. Plan for about 35 people.

9. Clean up involves wiping off tables in the parish hall and washing cups, plates, coffee pots and silverware and putting them away. Turn off the coffee maker by using the switch on the left side of the coffee maker. DO NOT UNPLUG THE COFFEE MACHINE. Make sure that all kitchen doors are closed & locked and all lights are off.

10. If you want help in serving or cleaning up call Sally Parker at 663-2519, Ina Dow at 449-3658, or Janet Hedlund at 422-6607.

11. If you cannot serve on the date(s) requested, please try and switch dates with someone else on the list or contact Janet at 422-6607.
### 10 AM COFFEE HOUR HOSTS’ LIST FOR 2013

Please check this list carefully & confirm your date(s) by calling Janet at 422-6607 or Lucy at 424-7331 Available 3/24, let us know.

| JAN. 20 | ANNUAL MEETING | JAN. 27 | Lorna (BD 1/30 & Ken Fisher (BD 1/2) | 633-4487 |
| FEB. 3 | Suzie Way for Zack’s (BD 2/2) | 484-9254 | FEB. 10 | Lucy & Danny Murguia (ANN 2/14) | -- 272-3186 |
| FEB 17 | Marvel’s Mary’s (BD &Ann 2/14) | 455-8150 | FEB. 24 | Collin Cooper (BD 2/22) | 455-9609 |
| MARCH 3 | Lynn Ezell | | MARCH 10 | Hedlund’s – Ruby (BD 3/11) | 753-1530 |
| MARCH 17 | Sally Parker (BD 3/18) | 663-2519 | MARCH 24 | | |
| MARCH 31 | EASTER | | APRIL 7 | Arnold Hedlund (BD 4/23) | 422-6607 |
| APRIL 14 | Blount’s (Ann. 4/18) | 768-9900 | APRIL 21 | Fisher’s (ANN 4/25) | 633-4487 |
| APRIL 28 | Bob Bonacci (BD 5/7) | 384-0103 | MAY 5 | Cathi Beery (BD 3/8) | 443-1307 |
| MAY 12 | MOTHERS’ DAY | | MAY 19 | Pentecost L & J Ezell’s (ANN 5/22) | 758-8112 |
| MAY 26 | Otis Lloyd (BD 5/23) | 710-0191 | JUNE 2 | Kathy Blount (BD 5/31) | 768-9900 |
| JUNE 9 | J & H Johnson (ANN 6/4) | 679-2473 | JUNE 16 | FATHERS’ DAY | | |
| JUNE 23 | Janet Hedlund (BD 6/16) | 422-6607 | JUNE 30 | McDonough Jack & Lucia (BD 7/5), Ona (BD 7/8), Harry 7/9 | |

**DURING JULY AND AUGUST THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE SERVICE AT 9 AM, SO THE COFFEE HOUR WOULD BE AFTER THAT SERVICE**

| JULY 7 | Susie Way (BD 3/25) | 484-9254 | JULY 14 | J & P Ford’s (ANN 7/13) | 484-9603 |
| JULY 21 | Trapani’s (ANN) 7/22 | | JULY 28 | Scott Wilson (BD 9/22) | 442-8428 |
| AUG. 4 | Jeannie Baker (BD 8/3) | 678-0566 | AUG. 11 | Wm. Thompson’s (ANN 8/14) | 678-0464 |
| AUG. 18 | C & B Beery’s (ANN 8/16) | 443-1307 | AUG. 25 | Hedlund’s, Jeremy (BD 8/23) | 753-1530 |
| SEPT. 1 | Angela Jackson (Ann 9/5) | 675-2499 | SEPT. 8 | HOME COMING | |
| SEPT. 15 | Cooper’s (Ann 9/15) | 455-9609 | SEPT. 22 | Donna Elder-Holifield (BD 9/19) | 424-7739 |
| SEPT. 29 | Bowker, Nicole (BD 8/30) | Jamie (BD 3/8) | 422-9122 | | |
| OCT. 13 | Fred Womble (BD 10/1) | 484-9107 | OCT. 6 | Relindis Diaz BD 11/8 | 442-8123 |
| OCT. 27 | BISHOP’S VISIT | | OCT. 20 | Diana Thelander (BD 10/24) | 758-5323 |
| NOV. 10 | Treleven’s (ANN 11/10) | 262-2156 | NOV. 3 | Ina Dow (BD 9/2) | 449-3658 |
| NOV. 24 | Bob Beery (BD 11/11) | 443-1307 | NOV. 17 | C&S Wooden (ANN 11/10), Carol (BD 11/17) | 757-1720 |
| DEC. 8 | Gumke’s Jacob (BD 12/19) | Travis (BD 2/15) | | | |
| DEC. 22 | Mc Donough, Shane (BD 12/09) | 753-9404 | DEC. 1 | Sally Parker (ANN 11/22) | 663-2519 |
| DEC. 15 | Pat Ford (BD 12/18) | 484-9603 | DEC. 29 | | |
WEEKLY FREE FRIDAY NOON TIME PIPE ORGAN RECITAL

ST. PAUL’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1071 PAJARO STREET
SALINAS, CA 93901
BRING AND ENJOY YOUR OWN LUNCH
(831) 424-7331
Senior's Produce Market

Please join us at our WEEKLY AT-COST produce market just for senior citizens!

Seasonal Produce, Great Prices, FREE Refreshments from
9:30 am to 10:30 am
Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church
1071 Pajaro Street, Salinas

Presented by St. Paul’s Episcopal Church and Episcopal Senior Communities
March Birthdays

- Daniel Murguia 3/2
- Jonathan Romeyn 3/2
- Marek Dorman 3/6
- Jamie Bowker 3/8
- Ruby Hedlund 3/11
- Cecilia Sanchez 3/14
- Marshall Treleven 3/15
- Steven Wooden 3/17
- Sara Parker 3/18
- John McGinnis 3/22
- Suzie Way 3/25
- Aiden Ingram 3/26
- Christian Kohn 3/30
- Linda Little 3/30

March Anniversaries

- Robert & Theresa Bowker 3/6

SCRIP PROGRAM

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Interested in a particular store not on this list? Let us know, we make special orders.

Scrip is available in the church office and in the Parish Hall after Sunday service.

Questions:

call Sally Parker 663-2519
## March 2013

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<th>Sun</th>
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<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
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<th>Fri</th>
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| 3 Eucharist  
8am & 10am  
Worship Com 11:30  
San Pablo - Noon  
Choir 8:30am  
I-Help 5pm  
Lenten Study 5pm | 4 | 5 Feed the Homeless  
8:30am - 12:30pm  
Book Club 6:30pm | 6 Sr. Market  
9:30 - 10:30am  
Bible Study 11am | 7 St. Paul /San Pablo Commission 7pm | 8 Food Pantry 8am  
Staff Meeting 10am  
Tai Chi - 10:00am  
Organ Concert 12pm  
Men’s Fellowship Dinner 6pm | 9 |
| 10 Eucharist  
8am & 10am  
San Pablo - Noon  
Choir 8:30am  
I-Help 5pm  
Lenten Study 5pm  
Daylight Savings | 11 Morning Prayer  
7:30 pm  
Prayer Shawl Ministry - 12pm | 12 Feed the Homeless  
8:30am - 12:30pm  
ECW - 11am | 13 Sr. Market  
9:30 - 10:30am  
Bible Study 11am | 14 | 15 Food Pantry 8am  
Staff Meeting 10am  
Tai Chi - 10:30am  
Organ Concert 12-1pm | 16 Bell Choir - 9:30am |
| 17 Eucharist  
8am & 10am  
San Pablo - Noon  
Choir 8:30am  
Lenten Study 5pm  
Villa Serra - 7pm | 18 Morning Prayer  
7:30 pm | 19 Feed the Homeless  
8:30am - 12:30pm | 20 Sr. Market  
9:30 - 10:30am  
Bible Study 11am | 21 Vestry - 6pm | 22 Food Pantry 8am  
Staff 10am  
Tai Chi - 10:30am  
Organ Concert 12-1pm | 23 Spring Work Day  
9am |
| 24 Palm Sunday  
Eucharist  
8am & 10am  
San Pablo - Noon  
Choir 8:30am  
Lenten Study 5pm | 25 Morning Prayer  
7:30am | 26 Morning Prayer  
7:30am  
Feed the Homeless  
8:30am - 12:30pm | 27 Morning Prayer  
7:30am  
Sr. Market 9:30  
Bible Study 11am | 28 Maundy Thursday  
Morning Prayer  
7:30am  
Supper - 5:30  
Eucharist - 6:30  
Prayer Vigil - 8:30 | 29 Morning Prayer  
7:30  
Tai Chi - 10:30am  
Good Friday Liturgy - 12pm  
Organ Concert 2pm | 30 Morning Prayer  
9am  
Altar & Flower Guilds 9:30am  
Easter Vigil 7:30pm |
| 31 Easter Sunday  
Eucharist - 9am  
Easter Brunch - 10:30  
San Pablo Eucharist. - 12pm | | | | | | |

**ST. PAUL’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**