

ORDER OF SERVICE  
December 27, 2020 - Christmas 1

INTRODUCTION

“At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem .”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul’s gathers on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord.

Reading the lessons is The Rev’d Chris Miller. The reflection is offered by Matthew Waterman. The anthems are performed by Jocelyn Belfer, Delicia Raveentharrajan and David McCartney. And the litany is led by Veriann Chalmers.

So let us hear Holy Scripture, reflect and pray together, and open our hearts to the Living Word, Jesus Christ - our risen Saviour and Lord.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
AMEN.

LESSONS

First Reading

GALATIANS 4:4-7

READER: A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Psalm

PSALM 148

READER: Psalm 148

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.  
Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him, all his host.  
Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.  
Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.  
Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded, and they were created.  
He made them stand fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away.  
Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;  
Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing his will;  
Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;  
Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds;  
Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

Young men and maidens, old and young together.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name only is exalted, his splendour is over earth and heaven.

He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him.

#### Second Reading

LUKE 2:22-40

READER: A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Jesus' parents brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed and a sword will pierce your own soul too." There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Abigail Simon-Rasiah

Litanist: In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, "Lord, grant us peace."

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER & BLESSING

Leader: And now as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

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The full schedule of in-person and online services can be found on the online church calendar - [www.stpl.ca/calendar.html](http://www.stpl.ca/calendar.html) - or here: [www.stpl.ca/services.html](http://www.stpl.ca/services.html)

The Christmas recording, the Online Christmas Pageant, and E-cards from the Sunday School and Youth Group can be viewed here: [www.stpl.ca/christmas-2020.html](http://www.stpl.ca/christmas-2020.html)

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Here is our updated Christmas Schedule:

December 27 (Sunday) - Regular services

December 31 - 11.30 PM, Watchnight by Zoom

Computer Access Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83030630415?pwd=bzRkbVNYQ2sraFpIbVoyb1pxUkxFUT09>

Telephone Access - (647) 374 4685, or (647) 558 0588

Meeting ID: 830 3063 0415; Passcode: 669610

January 1 (Friday) - 10 AM, In-person (by reservation)

January 3 (Sunday) - Regular services

January 6 (Wednesday - Feast of Epiphany) - 10 AM, In-person (by reservation)

### **Sunday Services by Phone on Zoom - Sundays, 11.15 a.m.**

The weekly Sunday recording can now be heard by phone on Zoom on Sundays at 11.15 a.m..

Zoom Invitation:

*By Phone:* 647 374 4685; 647 558 0588;

Meeting ID: 854 0290 8277; Passcode: 970844

### **Order for 2021 Church Calendars**

Thank you for all those who ordered 2021 church calendars. They have arrived and are ready for pick-up during normal office hours.

### **Friday Night Bible Study - on Zoom - Fridays, 7.00 p.m.**

The Bible study will resume on Friday, January 15, with a 8-week study of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

Thessalonians. Study guides are available online at [www.christianbook.com](http://www.christianbook.com) or may be ordered through Fr. Dean+

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/830877703>

Telephone: 647-374 4685, or 647-558 0588; Meeting ID: 830 877 703

### **The Doors of St. Paul's Have Re-opened**

In a series of careful steps, the doors are re-opening and services and programs are being resumed - starting with Sunday Services. Four services (8, 10, 1pm Chinese, 3:45 Tamil) are offered in the church. Ten (10) people are allowed in the church proper - main floor and balcony - at any one time. The hall, kitchen and rooms downstairs remain closed. Morning Prayer will continue to be offered on Zoom, Monday through Saturday. Sunday School by Zoom and the Sunday recording continue.

NOTE: Due to heightened safety restrictions, regular office hours are suspended. Messages by phone and email will continue to be monitored closely but an appointment needs to be made if something from the office itself is needed.

**S.P.Y. - St. Paul's Youth** - off until new year

***Gifts and Offerings*** - Your faithful support is as important now as it has ever been. Church Envelopes can be sent by mail. Members may wish to sign up for the Pre-Authorized Giving Program (contact the office). Or, gifts can be made online at our website through CanadaHelps here: [www.stpl.ca/give.html](http://www.stpl.ca/give.html). Members who use online banking may now also make E-transfers (contact the office).

*The 2020 Envelopes Now Available.*

**Contact** - The clergy of St. Paul's are all in the vicinity and visiting in homes again, abiding by diocesan safety guidelines. If any one of us can be of service, don't hesitate to call or write.

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