

ORDER OF SERVICE
January 3, 2021 - Feast of the Epiphany (transferred)

INTRODUCTION

“When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul’s gathers on the Feast of the Epiphany, transferred from January 6. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord.

Reading the lessons is Olivia Waterman. The reflection is offered by Fr. Ajit John. The anthem is performed by David McCartney. And the litany is led by Vanessa Cambridge.

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

Eternal God, who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son. Guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
AMEN.

LESSONS

First Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6, NRSV

READER: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 60.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses’ arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The Psalm

PSALM 72.1-7, 10-14

READER: From Psalm 72.

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king’s son. May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice. May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness. May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor. May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations. May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth. In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more. May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of

Sheba and Seba bring gifts. May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service. For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper. He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

Second Reading

Matthew 2:1–12, NRSV

READER: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

CALL TO PRAYER - Feast of the Epiphany (transferred from January 6)
January 2, 2021

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

Feast of the Epiphany - January 6, Wednesday - 10 am, In-person (by reservation only).

The Annual Meeting of Vestry will be on Sunday, January 24 at 12.30 p.m. by Zoom.

Everyone is invited to attend. All members are invited to attend and vote.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89627479359?pwd=UkJjd0tTM0sra2hZb25LcTZ4bERLdz09>

By Phone: 647 374 4685; 647 558 0588;

Meeting ID: 896 2747 9359

Passcode: 623364

Reports to Vestry are due next Sunday, January 10.

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 1st and 2nd

Thessalonians. Study guides are available online (www.parasource.com or

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

Bible Study Guides - 1 & 2 Thessalonians - \$14 - only a few left at that discounted price. Contact Fr. Dean.

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.

Smartphone Deal for Seniors, Families and Youth on Government Assistance.

Right now SPLC is recommending a \$25 smartphone deal from Telus for seniors on government assistance (including those with disabilities, families and youth). More information is available here: www.telus.com/en/about/seniors/application

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. Members who use online banking may now also make E-transfers (contact the office).

The 2020 Envelopes Now Available. Church envelopes are now available and may be picked up on Sundays or by appointment at the office. In the meantime, offerings can be forwarded in any envelope on which is written your Name, Date and Church Envelope #.

We encourage every member to register their givings at St. Paul's as an act of membership and so that a record of your gifts can be included in the filing of your annual income tax form. For more information, contact the church office.

Contact - The clergy of St. Paul's are all in the vicinity and visiting in homes again, though according to diocesan safety guidelines and by appointment. If any one of us can be of service, don't hesitate to call or write. Website: www.stpl.ca; Church phone: 416-499-1545; Email: stpl@stpl.ca;

Fr. Dean Mercer: deanmercercer@hotmail.com; Rectory phone: 416-497-6352.