

ORDER OF SERVICE
July 12, 2020 - Pentecost 6 - Cemetery Memorial

INTRODUCTION

“As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit.”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul’s gathers on the 6th Sunday of Pentecost. And in our prayers today, we mark the annual St. Paul’s Cemetery Memorial Service, giving thanks for the St. Paul’s chapter of the Communion of Saints. 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 leading the litany is The Rev’d Chris Miller.

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 made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. May we find peace in your service, and in the world to come, see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

LESSONS

READER: From Psalm 119 (Psalm 119:105–112, NRSV)

- 105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
- 106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.
- 107 I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word.
- 108 Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances.
- 109 I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.
- 110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.
- 111 Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.
- 112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

READER: A reading from Romans, chapter 8 (Romans 8:1–11, NRSV)

- 1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.
- 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son

in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,
4 so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.
6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.
7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot,
8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

READER: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 13: **(Matthew 13:1–9, 18-23)**

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.
2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.
3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow.
4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up.
5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil.
6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away.
7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.
8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
9 Let anyone with ears listen!"

18 "Hear then the parable of the sower.
19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.
20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;
21 yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.
22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.
23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

LITANY

Litanist: Let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Let us pray for the peace of the world: the Lord grant that we may live together in justice and faith.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for this country, and especially for Queen Elizabeth, the Governor General, the Prime Minister, and all in authority: the Lord help them to serve this people according to his holy will.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for children and young people: the Lord guide their growth and development.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the sick: the Lord deliver them and keep them in his love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all who are condemned to exile, prison, harsh treatment, or hard labour, for the sake of justice and truth: the Lord support them and keep them steadfast.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We remember the prophets, apostles, martyrs, and all who have borne witness to the gospel: the Lord direct our lives in the same spirit of service and sacrifice.

Lord, hear our prayer.

A COLLECT FOR THE MORNING

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being. Guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

A PRAYER ON THE OCCASION OF THE ST. PAUL CEMETERY MEMORIAL SERVICE

God of grace and glory, we thank you for those laid to rest in the cemetery of St. Paul's, who were near and dear to us, and who have been taken from us. We thank you for the friendship they gave and for the strength and peace they brought. We thank you for the love they offered and received while they were with us on earth. We pray that nothing good in their life will be lost, but will be of benefit to the world; that all that was important to them will be respected by those who follow; and that everything in which they were great will continue to mean much to us now that they are dead.

We ask you that they may go on living in their children, their family and their friends; in their hearts and minds, in their courage and their consciences. We ask you that we who were close to them may now, because of their death, be even closer to each other, and that we may, in peace and friendship here on earth, always be deeply conscious of your promise to be faithful to us in death.

May God grant us courage and confidence in the new life of Christ. We ask this in the name of the risen Lord. Amen.

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord. And let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Prayers

The parish of St. Paul's is called to prayer this morning at 10.30 a.m.. A short video and handout are available for those who wish to follow along: www.stpl.ca/services.html.

A service is also conducted in Tamil. Please contact Fr. Milton Solomon directly: (solomon.milton@ymail.com).

A Bible study and prayer meeting in Chinese is organized by Pastor Andrew and Kevin Zhang, Saturday evenings at 8.00 pm. To participate, contact Pastor Andrew: shenxunhong@gmail.com

Sunday School every Sunday morning at 10 am

Information about how to connect is available on the Church Calendar: www.stpl.ca/events.html

Evening Prayer on Sundays via Zoom

Evening Prayer is said every Sunday at 6 pm. Information about how to connect is available on the Church Calendar: www.stpl.ca/events.html

Or, directly here:

Computer link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/729301821?pwd=N29KK1JtTXp0RzVvcHZBMzN0ZXpDZz09>

Telephone: 647-374-4685, OR 647-558-0588

Meeting ID: 729 301 821

Password: 010558

Annual Cemetery Memorial Service Next Week

This week is the Annual Cemetery Memorial Service which will be made part of the Sunday recording. We give thanks for the Christian inheritance bequeathed to us by our ancestors at St. Paul's. We give thanks for the faithful service of our Cemetery Committee: Colin Raines, director, Joe Sue-Ho and Clive Esty, members, and the faithful support of donors. If you wish to make a donation, contact one of the committee members or the church office.

York-Scarborough Area Grant

Our sincere thanks to Bishop Kevin Robertson, his secretary Sue Willoughby, and the applications committee for the York-Scarborough Area Grant for making this grant available. And in the parish, our thanks to George Coomarasamy for coordinating the application process. Joshua Jayakumar, Timothy, Jeyamanoharan, and Aliyah Knetsch were this year's parish recipients.

The Berthebell Moo & St. Paul's Memorial Academic Scholarships and the St. Paul's Memorial Music Scholarship

Each year bursaries of \$600 each are awarded to St. Paul's youths who are High School graduates and are pursuing post-secondary education at a university, a community college or in an apprenticeship program. The number of bursaries awarded is decided upon receipt of applications. The Bursary Program is also open to students who have already enrolled in the

university, college or an apprenticeship program.

Additionally, bursaries of \$600 are awarded to young people who are members of St. Paul's and/or are involved in the St. Paul's youth music program, who show promise in music and are pursuing musical studies.

Dead line for both: August 31.

The bursaries are awarded on Thanksgiving Sunday

Forms available here: <https://stpl.ca/applications-forms--reports.html>

Re-opening - September 13

The Archbishop for the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario and all Bishops in the Province (which includes Toronto), have instructed that churches will re-open for in-person services and programs in September. On Friday, Bishop Asbil announced that churches in Toronto will re-open *September 13*, in accordance with safety guidelines now being released. The Ecclesiastical Province has issued general guidelines. On June 30, the Diocese of Toronto offered specific safety guidelines for the re-opening.

When we re-open, there will be a blend of in-person and online programs because there will still be a sizeable number who will not be participating in group activities, whether it be due to their own hesitation or strict orders from their families.

And, as has been true all along, the situation remains dynamic. We'll do our best to keep everyone updated.

ACSA Food Bank

Thanks to Jim Karygiannis for highlighting the needs of the Agincourt Community Services Food Bank. As always, St. Paul's is eager to support ACSA. A monetary gift is the most practical and serves the exact needs of the food bank. Gifts can be given online:

<https://www.agincourtcommunityservices.com/donate>

S.P.Y. - St. Paul's Youth - Friday Nights, 7 p.m. - Resuming in September

Friday fellowships carry on. Information about how to connect is available on the Church Calendar: www.stpl.ca/events.html

Morning Prayer - Now Daily

The regular schedule of Morning Prayer according to the Book of Common Prayer meets Monday to **Sunday** at 7.30 a.m. and will continue throughout the summer. All are welcome and may participate by phone or internet. It's short, simple and quiet, but a proven path and one of the gems in the Anglican tradition. We follow the Book of Common Prayer, beginning on page 6. If you want to look ahead, the lessons from the Old and New Testaments, as well as the Psalm, are taken from The Daily Office Lectionary and can be found here: <https://lectionary.anglican.ca/>.

Here's the link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/397231088>

Here are the phone numbers and ID: 647-374 4685, or 647-558 0588; Meeting ID: 397 231 088

Looking for Work

Slowly, businesses are opening and jobs are resuming, and while some of the employment projections are encouraging, we could also be looking at a lot of lost jobs. If you're looking, or know someone who is, this is the national job site: www.jobbank.ca

Friday Night Bible Study - on Zoom - Resuming in September

On May 22, we began a study of the Book of Revelation, a book that is often avoided due to its coded language and many symbols. But here's from the study guide we will follow: "In fact, Revelation offers one of the clearest and sharpest visions of God's ultimate purpose for the whole creation, and of the way in which the powerful forces of evil, at work in a thousand ways, can be and are being overthrown through the victory of Jesus the Messiah and the consequent costly victory of his followers."

Paperback copies or electronic versions of the study guides can be purchased online at Amazon.

Paperback: [Revelation \(N. T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides\) - Paperback](#)

Kindle: [Revelation \(N. T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides\) - Kindle](#)

For those interested, the commentary is also available: [Revelation for Everyone](#)

The study resumes in September.

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/830877703>

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

Church Calendar

We have updated the online Church Calendar to list all the events that are available online - www.stpl.ca/events.html. It includes:

*Sunday School every Sunday at 10 am, led by Leila and the teachers, with Rob and U3ia.

*A regular Bible study for the Tamil congregation by Zoom every Wednesday at 7.30 pm for a study of the Gospel of Luke. Pastor Vive is also helping with the study. Please contact Fr. Milton Solomon directly: (solomon.milton@ymail.com).

*Regular Bible studies and prayer meetings in Chinese organized by Pastor Andrew and Kevin Zhang. To participate, contact Pastor Andrew: shenxunhong@gmail.com

*The regular Friday Night Small Group and Bible Study.

*Morning Prayer, Monday to Saturday.

The regular events are being listed on the online church Calendar, including the information about how to phone in or connect by internet.

Extension of the Diocesan Jubilee - Month of June

In light of the Covid-19 outbreak and the large financial strain on the parishes, Bishop Andrew Asbil announced a Jubilee through to the end of May. On Friday, May 22, it was announced that the Jubilee has been extended to include the month of June due to the help of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), in place through to the end of August. During the Jubilee, parishes will not be required to pay their allotment to the Diocese or to pay the costs of clergy remuneration (stipend, housing and associated benefits).

The extension of the Jubilee is closely related to the September 1st re-opening of the churches for in-person Sunday services. As mentioned above, guidelines are being released “for congregations to follow to ensure a safe return.”

The May 22 update from Bishop Asbil and Robert Saffrey (Executive Director) can be found here: www.toronto.anglican.ca/2020/05/22/letter-to-the-diocese-from-bishop-andrew-and-robert-saffrey/

The assistance from the diocese and federal government has relieved parishes of their diocesan assessments, clergy stipends and up to 75% of staff wages through to the end of June. The CEWS will continue until the end of August. For this assistance we give thanks, and for the faithfulness and generosity of the parish.

It is important to remember that the situation is in a state of constant flux right now, one of the large unknowns being what we will face when and as the emergency measures are lifted. But these offers of support are of great assistance, and the support of the parish remains strong.

Faithworks Easter Appeal

This year’s campaign is a very special effort as a generous donor has offered a \$100,000 matching challenge grant for all new and increased donations. That means for every dollar raised over last year’s amount, FaithWorks received an extra dollar. To date, our Easter Appeal has raised over \$60,000 in new or increased donations. THANK YOU to all who have been so generous. However, we will only receive the Matching Challenge Grant of \$100,000 if we raise the full \$100,000 ourselves. We still have a ways to go. So please help us reach our goal by making your donation today at our web site www.faithworks.ca. It's easy to do!

Brother’s and Sister’s Keepers

If you are willing to be your brother’s or sister’s keeper by being in regular contact with one or two other persons from the parish, please contact the office or any of the clergy for more information.

Have you moved?

If you have moved recently, kindly notify the office of your new address, phone number and e-mail address. We appreciate your help.

Gifts and Offerings - E-Transfers now Available

The emergency measures and suspension of all church services and programs presents a large challenge to churches and charities dependent on regular gatherings and fundraising events. 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). Gifts can now be made by E-Transfer (call or email the church office). Or, gifts can be made online at our website through CanadaHelps here: www.stpl.ca/give.html

Please note - the church office is closed and the deposit of gifts received is usually once every three to four weeks.

Thank You - through all the ways you've given, the parish has been faithful and the situation has remained steady through the quarantine. Thank you. God bless you.

One generation shall laud your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.
(Psalm 145:4)

Staying in Touch

The clergy of St. Paul's are all in the vicinity. If any one of us can be of service, don't hesitate to call or write.

Church website: www.stpl.ca

Church phone: 416-499-1545

Church email: stpl@stpl.ca

Fr. Dean Mercer: deanmercerc@hotmail.com

Rectory phone: 416-497-6352