

ORDER OF SERVICE
July 19, 2020 - Pentecost 7

INTRODUCTION

“If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,” Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul’s gathers on the 7th Sunday of Pentecost. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord.

Reading the lessons and leading the litany is Matthew Waterman.

The reflection is offered by The Rev’d Dr. Annette Brownlee

The anthem is performed by David McCartney.

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, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence. Give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

LESSONS

READER: A reading from Genesis

Genesis 28:10–19 (NRSV)

10 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran.

11 He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place.

12 And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

13 And the LORD stood beside him and said, “I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring;

14 and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.

15 Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

16 Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!”

17 And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

18 So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and

set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it.

19 He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

READER: From Psalm 139

1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?

7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

8 If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

9 Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.

10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night."

11 Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.

22 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; *
try me and know my restless thoughts.

23 Look well whether there be any wickedness in me *
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.

READER: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 13.

(Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43, NRSV)

24 He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field;

25 but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away.

26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?'

28 He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'

29 But he replied, 'No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.'

30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.”

37 He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man;

38 the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one,

39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels.

40 Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.

41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers,

42 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

LITANY

Litanist: As we stand in God’s presence, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the whole People of God, that each one may be a true and faithful servant of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those drawing near to the light of faith, that the Lord will bring them to true knowledge of himself, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our families and friends, that the Lord will give them joy and satisfaction in all that they do, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are lonely, sick, hungry, persecuted, or ignored, that the Lord will comfort and sustain them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our country, that the Lord will help us to contribute to its true growth and well-being, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the whole human family, that we may live together in justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all you have done for us. We thank you for the splendour of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. 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

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 Coomasamy 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 13th 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 and incumbent’s stipend through to the end of June. The CEWS will continue until the end of August and depending on the diocesan application, we may be eligible for some months of coverage (we already know that not all months will be covered). 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: deanmerc@hotmai.com

Rectory phone: 416-497-6352