

ORDER OF SERVICE

November 8, 2020 - Pentecost 23 - Remembrance Sunday

INTRODUCTION

“Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul’s gathers on the 23rd Sunday of Pentecost and Remembrance Day Sunday. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord.

Reading the lessons is Dr. Rob Knetsch. The anthem is performed by David McCartney. And the litany is led by Jacqueline Abel.

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.

On Remembrance Day Sunday - a Collect for Peace.

A COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give peace to your Church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Eternal God, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning, grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN.

LESSONS

First Reading

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

Reader: A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Psalm

PSALM 78:1-7

READER: From Psalm 78

Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, and the wonderful works he has done.

He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, which he commanded them to teach their children;

That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

So that they might put their trust in God, and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments.

Second Reading

MATTHEW 25:1-13

READER: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 5.

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

LITANY (#7)

Litanist: Let us pray in faith to God our Father, to his Son Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, saying, "Lord, hear and have mercy."

For the Church of the living God throughout the world, let us ask the riches of his grace.
Lord, hear and have mercy.

For all who proclaim the word of truth, let us ask the infinite wisdom of Christ.
Lord, hear and have mercy.

For all who have consecrated their lives to the kingdom of God, and for all struggling to follow the way of Christ, let us ask the gifts of the Spirit.
Lord, hear and have mercy.

For Elizabeth our Queen, for the Prime Minister of this country, and for all who govern the

nations, that they may strive for justice and peace, let us ask the strength of God.
Lord, hear and have mercy.

For scholars and research-workers, that their studies may benefit humanity, let us ask the light of the Lord.
Lord, hear and have mercy.

For all who have passed from this life in faith and obedience, let us ask the peace of Christ.
Lord, hear and 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 & 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.

A New AV Team at St. Paul's

In September St. Paul's received a grant to purchase equipment for audio and video recording. The grants were made available from the Diocese of Toronto for churches now having to record and stream online services and programs due to Covid-19.

However, in making our application, we were also eager to encourage our musicians and our community music program. Musicians are one of the hardest hit groups in this pandemic. To that end we proposed recording our musicians in an empty church and according to safety standards sometime during the week, and then playing the video in church on Sunday morning on our large screen TV, and adding it to our weekly recorded service. We have done this on the last four recordings and in church.

In our application, we also proposed adding a new group to our community youth music program. While the program presently includes a children's choir, a youth choir, a string ensemble and a steel band, we would like to add an Audio-Video Team who are trained in audio/video recording, mixing and production. Nowadays, almost every musical group has need of these skills. Each skill has unique and specialized requirements. And because of the power of ordinary home computers, there is a great deal that can be done that was once possible only in expensive studios.

This idea was inspired by the generosity and encouragement of Ron Royer, the current director of the Scarborough Philharmonic Orchestra and a great friend of our youth music program. He and his wife Kaye came to Toronto from Hollywood where he was a film score composer and producer. Kaye is a talented cellist. You can read about him here: www.ronaldroyer.com

This past Thursday, Ron led an introduction to AV production for our new team. Additionally, he has contact with doctoral students at the University of Toronto in AV engineering. All things being equal, one will be invited to supervise and teach our new AV team.

And next Sunday, November 15, you'll see the Steel Band and their work at church and online.

Order for 2021 Church Calendars

We are now taking advance orders for 2021 Church calendars at @ \$5.00 each. Please email the church office at stpl@stpl.ca or phone 416-499-1545 to reserve your copy, until November 22, 2020. You will be advised when they have arrived.

Job Opening for a young person (15 -30 years) at ACSA Food Bank

The Food Bank is looking for young people to fill three contract positions at the food bank. If you are interested, a full description is available (contact Fr. Dean or the office) or contact Kirsten at ACSA (wkirsten@agincourtcommunityservices.com - no phone calls). The deadline is this Wednesday, November 4.

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

News from S.P.Y. - two weeks ago, Sarah invited Terry Grooms to speak to our young people. Terry is a former player in the NFL and AFL and a friend of Sarah. What a great night, and more to come. Thank you, Sarah.

Thanksgiving Food Bank Drive

Please consider a gift to the Agincourt Community Services Food bank during our annual Thanksgiving food drive. And this note - you can make your financial donation directly by contacting ACSA, or you can make it through St. Paul's by using your envelopes and indicating that it is a "special" offering for "The ACSA foodbank". Doing it through St. Paul's eliminates the commission fee for making a donation by credit card as well as contributing to the total gift from St. Paul's to ACSA.

Faithworks Reminder - A note from Peter Mentis, Director

. . . As we enter the final quarter of this year's FaithWorks campaign, I'd like to give you a brief update. To date we have raised \$710,000, almost half of this year's goal of \$1,500,000. On a monthly basis we are ahead of last year by almost 30%. Individual donations to date are \$299,000, up by 42% over all of last year. This increase so far is due to a generous response to our appeals and the pandemic. Also, the Easter Appeal was conducted online for the first time as well as by direct mail. Thank God, people want to help!

But we are still short of our 2020 goal of \$1.5 million. This final quarter is the season of parish campaigns. To give us added inspiration to reach our goal a generous donor has offered a \$100,000 matching challenge grant for increases in parish contributions over last year. Will you be able to help FaithWorks take advantage of the opportunity this matching challenge grant offers us?

At St. Paul's, last year's total was \$5850. So far, about \$4000 has been raised.

Outreach Walk-a-thon

This year's annual Outreach Walk-a-thon has finished. Forms and donations are now being received. And if you have a picture of where you walked, send it in (stpl@stpl.ca). We'll create a collection of all the trails our walkers walked.

Most have completed their walks but the pandemic has caused a few interruptions. Late submissions are still welcome and gratefully received. If needed, the sponsorship form is available from the office or online: www.stpl.ca/outreach.html

And be on the watch for our "Virtual Maytime Melodies Concert" of St. Paul's musicians, with proceeds to Outreach.

For more information, contact the office or Kathy.

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. We are working toward the resumption of other services and programs. However, because the virus remains active, safety guidelines are in effect and all

online services will continue for the foreseeable future.

Four services are offered in the church. Ninety (90) people, which is 30% of capacity, are allowed in the church proper - main floor and balcony - at any one time. The hall, kitchen and rooms downstairs remain closed.

Sunday Schedule:

8.00 a.m. (at the church)

10.00 a.m. (at the church)

10.00 a.m. - Sunday School (online - see the church calendar)

10.30 a.m. - English service (online - see the church calendar)

1.00 p.m. (Chinese)

3.45 p.m. (Tamil) - also being streamed.

6.00 p.m. - Evening Prayer (online - see the church calendar)

Morning Prayer will continue to be offered on Zoom, Monday through Saturday, as of September 13th. Sunday School and the Sunday recording will continue to be offered.

Safety Guidelines

St. Paul's is following the safety guidelines issued by the Diocese of Toronto which can be read on the Diocesan website

Other Services, Programs and Meetings - Gradually, we plan to resume other services, programs and meetings, but safely and carefully. Watch for updates and announcements.

Summary - Due to broad cooperation across the country, the safety guidelines ensure that it is relatively safe to come back to church in the same way that it is now relatively safe to go to the grocery store, drug store, or hardware store. We are grateful to the Bishops and Diocese for their guidance. Small steps, but all in the right direction. And, as has been true all along, the situation remains dynamic. We'll do our best to keep everyone updated.

Looking for Work - If you're looking, or know someone who is, here's the national job site: www.jobbank.ca

Friday Night Bible Study - on Zoom - Next Friday, November 6. Revelation 16, Lesson 16.

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

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

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 - 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). 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).

Contact

The clergy of St. Paul's are all in the vicinity and can visit again, while observing the safety guidelines of the Diocese of Toronto. If any one of us can be of service, don't hesitate to call or write.

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Church phone: 416-499-1545;

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Rectory phone: 416-497-6352.