

ORDER OF SERVICE  
October 25, 2020 - Pentecost 21

INTRODUCTION

Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul's gathers on the 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Pentecost. 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 The Rev'd Ajit John. The anthem is performed by David McCartney. And the litany is led by Vanessa Cambridge-Smith.

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

Lord God our redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery, free us from the tyranny of sin and death, and by the leading of your Spirit bring us to our promised land; 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

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-8

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

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

READER: From Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.

You turn us back to the dust and say, "Go back, O child of earth."

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night.

You sweep us away like a dream; we fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.

Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry? be gracious to your servants.

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us and the years in which we suffered adversity.

Show your servants your works and your splendour to their children.

May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

Second Reading

MATTHEW 22:34-46

READER: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 22:

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

LITANY (#5)

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.

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.

### **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. Donations will be accepted until the end of October.

### **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.

### **Notes from Outreach**

A couple of notes on behalf of the Outreach Committee. Several things are in the works, but these are starting to roll.

First, the annual Outreach Walk-a-thon has been adapted. We are asking walkers:

- 1) To sign up - (call the office or send an email)
- 2) To collect sponsorships as usual,
- 3) to complete a 6 kilometer walk on their own (which is the distance of our usual walk),
- 4) and then to hand in forms, donations and pledges on All Saints Day - Sunday, November 1.
- 5) And . . . take a picture and send it in ([stpl@stpl.ca](mailto:stpl@stpl.ca)). We'll create a collection of all the trails our walkers walked.

The sponsorship form is available from the office or online: [www.stpl.ca/outreach.html](http://www.stpl.ca/outreach.html)

Secondly, start looking ahead for a "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.

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

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

**Friday Night Bible Study** - on Zoom - Next Friday, October 30. Revelation 15, Lesson 15.

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](http://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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