

ORDER OF SERVICE
October 4, 2020 - Pentecost 18

INTRODUCTION

“Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord..”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul’s gathers on the 18th Sunday of Pentecost. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord.

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

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 built your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. Join us together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may become a holy temple, acceptable to you; 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

READER: A reading from Philippians

PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-14

If anyone has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

READER: Psalm 19

PSALM 19

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

Their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world .

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can tell how often he offends? cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offence.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

READER: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

MATTHEW 21:33-46

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the

son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

LITANY (#3)

Litanist: Let us offer our prayers to the source of all love and all life, saying, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Merciful Lord, we pray for all who call themselves Christians: that we may become a royal priesthood, a holy nation, to the praise of Christ Jesus our Saviour.
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for Andrew bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers: that they may remain faithful to their calling and rightly proclaim the word of truth.
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for Elizabeth our Queen, for the leaders of the nations, and all in authority: that your people may lead quiet and peaceable lives.
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for this city and those who live here, the poor and the rich, the elderly and the young, men and women: that you will show your goodwill to all.
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the victims of our society and those who minister to them: that you will be their help and defence.
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those preparing for baptism and those recently baptized: that they may be strengthened in the faith.
Lord, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all the saints who have found favour in your sight from earliest times, prophets, apostles, martyrs, and those whose names are known to you alone: and we pray that we too may be counted among your faithful witnesses.
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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notes from Fr. Dean on behalf of Outreach

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

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

- 1) To signup - (call the office or send an email; we're hoping for at least 30)
- 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. The sponsorship form will be available online by Wednesday (October 7).

Secondly, we are hoping to re-start the after school program, concentrating on tutorials in Math and English. Due to safety guidelines, the number of students will be limited to 12. We are in search of volunteers willing to tutor in English and Math, up to Grade 8.

Thirdly, 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 the Outreach Coordinator.

The Doors of St. Paul's Have Re-opened - Sunday, September 13.

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 over the next few weeks. However, because the virus remains active, safety guidelines are in effect and all online services will continue for the foreseeable future.

Beginning September 13, 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. General cleaning by cleaning staff resumes as before, and between services trained volunteers will ensure that high-touch areas will be cleaned: door handles, bannisters, the top of chairs, etc..

Seat Reservations

Those attending are encouraged to reserve a seat. Registration is now open and available by calling the church office (416-499-1545) or by registering online here: <https://stpl.ca/services.html>

Choose and click on the service you wish to attend and complete the registration. Kindly pass the word along to those you know who may wish to attend but do not have internet access.

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

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

Friday Night Bible Study - on Zoom - Next Friday, October 2. Revelation 11, Lesson 11.

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. If any one of us can be of service, don't hesitate to call or write.

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