

ORDER OF SERVICE  
September 6, 2020 - Pentecost 14

INTRODUCTION

“This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul’s gathers on the 14th Sunday of Pentecost. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord.

Reading the lessons is Sandra Johnson; the reflection by Matthew Waterman, the anthem performed by David McCartney; and the litany led by George Coomarasamy.

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

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people, that richly bearing the fruit of good works, we may by you be richly rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

LESSONS

First Reading

READER: A reading from Exodus.

**Exodus 12:1–14 (NRSV)**

**1** The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt:

**2** This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you.

**3** Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household.

**4** If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

**5** Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.

**6** You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight.

**7** They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it.

**8** They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

**9** Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs.

**10** You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn.

**11** This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD.

**12** For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD.

**13** The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

**14** This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

READER: Psalm 149.

**Psalm 149**

Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song; sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.

Let Israel rejoice in his maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their king.

Let them praise his name in the dance; let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.

For the Lord takes pleasure in his people and adorns the poor with victory.

Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; let them be joyful on their beds.

Let the praises of God be in their throat and a two-edged sword in their hand;

To wreak vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples;

To bind their kings in chains and their nobles with links of iron;

To inflict on them the judgement decreed; this is glory for all his faithful people. Hallelujah!

READER: A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

**Matthew 18:15–20 (NRSV)**

**15** “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.

**16** But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

**17** If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

**18** Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

**19** Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

**20** For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

LITANY (#6)

Litanist: As we gather 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 & 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

### **The Doors of St. Paul's Re-open on 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 the online services will continue for the foreseeable future.

Beginning on *Sunday, September 13*, five services will be offered. Ninety (90) people, which is 30% of capacity, are allowed in the church proper at any one time. The hall and kitchen and rooms downstairs will be locked.

#### *Sunday Schedule:*

8.00 a.m.

10.00 a.m.

1.00 p.m. (Chinese)

3.45 p.m. (Tamil)

6.00 p.m. - Evening Prayer - beginning in October. It will continue on Zoom.

Morning Prayer will continue to be offered on Zoom, *Monday through Saturday*, as of September 13<sup>th</sup>. The Sunday recording will continue to be offered and will be available by early afternoon.

#### *Safety Guidelines*

As required, St. Paul's is following the safety guidelines issued by the Diocese of Toronto. Anyone is welcome to read the detailed guidelines available on the Diocesan website, but the following Ten Commandments are offered as a working summary:

1. Please do not enter the church if you have a temperature, feel ill or have been in contact with a COVID-19 positive individual over the past two weeks.
2. Reserve a seat - online ([www.stpl.ca](http://www.stpl.ca)) or by calling the church office (416-499-1545). Maximum attendance is 60 on the main floor and 30 in the balcony.
3. Wear a mask.
4. On Sundays, enter and sign-in at Entrance A (the main church door). During the week, sign-in at Entrance C.
5. Wash your hands.
6. Keep your distance (six feet, except with your family or members of your "bubble").
7. No singing.

8. No eating (snacks for children may be brought, but not shared with other children). And BYOW - “bring your own water”.

9. Communion is in one kind (bread only) and in procession.

10. One at a time in washrooms and the elevator (with the exception of parents/guardians with children).

#### *Before and After*

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*

Due to a seating limitation of 30% capacity for group gatherings in the Diocesan safety guidelines, we request that you reserve a seat for Sundays. 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 slowly and carefully. Watch for 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.

#### **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](http://www.stpl.ca/services.html).

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

**Sunday School every Sunday morning at 10 am - on Break until September 13.**

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

**Backpacks for School**

Ivy Matthews has a supply of backpacks for kids headed back to school. If interested, call her at: 905-947-4635. Thank you, Ivy.

**ACSA Food Bank**

Thanks to Councillor 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, and more soon to come. Information about how to connect is available on the Church Calendar: [www.stpl.ca/events.html](http://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 *Saturday as of September 13* at 7.30 a.m. and will continue for the foreseeable future. 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](http://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 - Revelation, chapter 9.*

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](http://www.stpl.ca/events.html) - including the information about how to phone in or connect by internet.

### **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](http://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](http://www.stpl.ca)

Church phone: 416-499-1545

Church email: [stpl@stpl.ca](mailto:stpl@stpl.ca)

Fr. Dean Mercer: [deanmercerc@hotmail.com](mailto:deanmercerc@hotmail.com)

Rectory phone: 416-497-6352