

ORDER OF SERVICE
November 28, 2021 - Advent 1

INTRODUCTION

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations . . . Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul's gathers to mark the first Sunday of Advent. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord.

Reading the lessons is Jaqueline Abel. The anthem is performed by Gabriella Proffit, accompanied by David McCartney. And the litany is led by Linda Esty.

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, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

LESSONS

Jacqueline Abel

First Reading

1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

THE PSALM

PSALM 25:1-9

Reader: A reading from Psalm 25

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame; let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the

day long.

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly.

All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 21:25-36

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

HOMILY

Fr. Dean Mercer

ANTHEM

Gabriella Proffitt, soprano; David McCartney, piano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Linda Esty

THE LORD'S PRAYER & BLESSING

The 180th Anniversary of the Parish of St. Paul, L'Amoreaux

Dedicated - November 18, 1841, by Bishop John Strachan, 1st Bishop of Toronto

Recorded musical mementoes can now be found on the homepage of the church website: www.stpl.ca

All are encouraged to donate to the Outreach Program of St. Paul's

Help us through the 4th Quarter - St. Paul's is a strong parish and remains strong due to everyone's faithful support. *Through three quarters of the year, support has been outstanding* at a time when never has it been more important. The 4th quarter is always our largest challenge each year. Your faithful and regular gifts are important.

Gifts can be dropped off at the church or sent by mail. Kindly ensure that your name and envelope number is included. Or, members may wish to sign up for the Pre-Authorized Giving Program (contact the office). Members who use online banking can now make E-transfers (instructions here: www.stpl.ca/give.html). Gifts can also be made at our website through CanadaHelps: www.stpl.ca/give.html.

NOTE: Of the various means for online giving, we recommend *The Pre-Authorized Giving Program*. It is regular, matching the regular responsibilities of the parish, and once initiated all it takes is a phone call or e-mail to increase, decrease, or cancel the donation. The monthly amount is withdrawn on the 20th of each month, and the cost to the church is 50 cents per transaction, irrespective of the amount of the gift. This makes the PAG the most economical of all the online and electronic methods.

Good News - Safety Guidelines Update

Changes have been made to the safety guidelines:

*The College of Bishops have relaxed their COVID-19 restrictions as of November 24th to allow for congregational singing with masks and appropriate distancing. St. Paul's will proceed in measured fashion. Today, the Great Litany will be said but the congregational responses may be sung.

*Singing is now permitted, though masking and distancing continue.

*Readers, preachers and intercessors may remove their masks while speaking.

*The Bishops now permit as many people in the church who can maintain "physical distancing of 2 metres." Attendance at church services at St. Paul's has now increased to 100.

Advent and Christmas Schedule

Sundays of Advent - the ordinary schedule

Christmas Eve - 6 pm and 11 pm

Christmas Day - 8 am (Tamil); 10 am (English)

First Sunday of Christmas (December 26) - the ordinary schedule

Watchnight Service - 11 pm (December 31)

The Sacrament by Christmas - A note from Fr. Dean

With the signs pointing in the right direction, Christmas this year should be a lot more like what we expect than what we experienced last year. For that reason, by Christmas this year I would urge everyone to make plans to receive the sacrament - *at least once* - whether it be by attendance at one of the in-person services or by a request for home communion. Even with the remaining guidelines, that should be more than possible.

The ordinary and grateful obligation of a Christian is to gather on Sundays, to unite in prayer and praise, and to be nourished by both Word and Sacrament. The season of Covid was an exception, not a new normal, and we will work diligently to re-establish the ordinary habits of our Christian life - which is precisely what we are doing now as opportunity permits.

The 2021 Angel Tree Program - St. Paul's L'Amoreaux will be partnering for an eighth year with Prison Fellowship Canada to provide Christmas gifts for children with a parent that is incarcerated. This year, St. Paul's will be serving 20 children. Due to the generosity of the parish, we had a surplus of donations from last year that will cover the cost of gifts for this year. A team of volunteers has also signed up to deliver the gifts. Thank you St. Paul's for all your support!!

The Spiritual Companions Program - is a companionship program to encourage spiritual growth. Open to those who are 22 years or older, companions are placed in groups of two, committing themselves to meet weekly for reflection and prayer. Those couples may include married and dating couples. The materials for reflection are agreed on by the pair and may be a reading or Collect from Morning Prayer, from Our Daily Bread, or from another devotional source. Guided by respect, honesty and confidentiality, pairs will agree to a convenient date and time and may meet in person, over the phone, or on Zoom. For a copy of the manual and application, call the office (416-499-1545) or check online: <https://stpl.ca/spiritual-companions-program.html>
Questions - contact Carol Shih (Wycliffe student) - carol.shih@mail.utoronto.ca

Church Calendars 2022

Church calendars have arrived and can be picked up at the Sunday sign-in table or from the office.

St. Paul's Youth Music Program Now On - Pans and Strings

Our parish and community youth music program has re-opened with pan practice on Saturdays at 12.30 pm, and string practice at 4.30. A great group. Our largest string group ever. Registration at practice.

Introduction to Christianity & Simple ESL Class for Adults - Saturdays, 4.30 pm, in the church.

Morning Prayer on Zoom - Password Added

Morning Prayer is said Monday to Saturday at 7.30 a.m. Tuesday to Friday mornings, it is live-streamed from the church. For that reason there is now a password for those attending Morning Prayer on Zoom. Join us for prayer, Monday to Saturday morning at 7.30 a.m.:

Computer Access Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/397231088?wd=ekhBRm9XcDRmWXo5Z0Via2dyY2tpUT09>

Telephone Access - (647) 374 4685, or (647) 558 0588

Meeting ID: 397 231 088; Password: 549300

Schedule

The full schedule of in-person and online services and programs can be found on the online church calendar - www.stpl.ca/calendar.html - or here: www.stpl.ca/services.html. This is the quickest and easiest way to get service and program information.

Sunday Services by Phone on Zoom

The weekly Sunday recording can be heard by phone on Zoom. (It can also be viewed on Zoom, but the quality is diminished.)

Zoom Invitation: *By Phone:* 647 374 4685; 647 558 0588;

Meeting ID: 854 0290 8277; Passcode: 970844

Computer link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85402908277?pwd=Q1RIdkxCZXJNTFJJek5tYWpOTzIFUT09>

Ontario COVID-19 Vaccine Booking - You can currently book an appointment at a mass vaccination clinic through the provincial online vaccine booking system (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>) If you prefer to schedule an appointment by phone, call the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900 (TTY 1-866-797-0007). This line is available 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week. Information is available in more than 300 languages. *If St. Paul's can be of any help to you in this process, please let our office know.*

IMARA Generation Project Taibu Community Health Centre is conducting a consultation for parents and other concerned adults regarding Black youth and their mental health. For more information or to participate, please contact coladehinde@taibuhealth.ca

New Honorary Priest at St. Paul's

Effective December, 2021, The Rev'd Canon Kim Beard has been appointed by Bishop Robertson as honorary priest at St. Paul's, L'Amoreaux. Canon Beard is the recently retired priest of St. Paul on the Hill, Pickering. We welcome Canon Beard on Sunday, December 19. He will be the preacher that day.

Mission Trip to Tanzania 2022

Our incoming honorary assistant Rev. Canon Kim Beard will be leading a work mission trip to Tanzania in 2022. A second information session will be on November 30th, at 2:00 pm. Mark your calendars.

Sunday School Every Sunday at 10.00 on Zoom

Check the church calendar for links and information: www.stpl.ca/calendar.html

S.P.Y. - St. Paul's Youth - Friday nights at 7 pm.

Contact Sarah for more information: splyouthministry@gmail.com.

Friday Night Bible Study - join us *at the church or online* for a study of the Letters of Peter and Jude following the Bible study guide by Bishop Tom Wright. Study guides are available online (www.amazon.ca or www.parasource.com or www.christianbook.com) or may be ordered through Fr. Dean. The study on Friday, December 3 will be Lesson 8: 2 Peter 3.

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

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

Contact - The clergy of St. Paul's are all in the vicinity and visiting in homes again, abiding by diocesan safety guidelines. Don't hesitate to call or write. Website: www.stpl.ca; Church phone:

416-499-1545; Email: stpl@stpl.ca; Fr. Dean Mercer: deanmercercer@hotmail.com; Rectory phone: 416-497-6352.