

ORDER OF SERVICE  
December 19, 2021 - Advent 4

INTRODUCTION

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

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

Reading the lessons is Cliff Seenan. The reflection is offered by The Rev'd Canon Kim Beard. The anthem is performed by Jocelyn Belfer, accompanied by David McCartney. And the litany is led by Joshua Jayakumar.

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

Heavenly Father, who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour, now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; 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

Cliff Seenan  
HEBREWS 10:5-10

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

THE SONG OF MARY

CANTICLE 18, BAS (LUKE 1.47-55)

Reader: The Song of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 1:39-45

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

HOMILY

The Rev'd Canon Kim Beard

ANTHEM

Jocelyn Belfer, soprano; David McCartney, piano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joshua Jayakumar

THE LORD'S PRAYER & BLESSING

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***Help us through the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.stpl.ca/give.html)). Gifts can also be made at our website through CanadaHelps: [www.stpl.ca/give.html](http://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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

***The Annual Stewardship Letter and 2022 Pledge Card*** is now available - from the church office or online: <https://stpl.ca/give.html>

***The 2022 Offering Envelopes are Now Available for Pickup at the Church***

***Christmas Steel Concert*** - with the steel bands and the musicians of St. Paul's, Saturday, December 18, at 7.00 p.m. - sold out! Safety guidelines in place, and a limit of 80 tickets available. Recordings of parish musicians and selections from the live concert will be made available.

### ***Christmas Flowers***

The Flower Guild of St. Paul's is receiving donations for Christmas poinsettias. Please pass along the information below to the church office by mail or email. Please make cheques payable to St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Church. December 20 is the last date for donations. Poinsettias are \$6 each. Kindly indicate the following

\*In Memory of:

or as a Thank Offering:

\*Donor's Name:

\*Envelope #:

\*Amount of Gift:

### ***A Call for Restraint - Safety Guidelines Update (December 17, 2021)***

Due to spiking infection rates, a call for restraint by both the province and the bishops, and general uncertainty about the current wave of COVID, current safety guidelines have been adjusted. In particular, all must be masked at all times during church services. Readers,

preachers and intercessors are no longer permitted to remove their masks while speaking. Otherwise, the existing Amber Stage Guidelines remain in effect:

\*Congregational singing is permitted with masks and appropriate distancing. St. Paul's will proceed in measured fashion.

\*Attendance is restricted to as many people in the church who can maintain “physical distancing of 2 metres.” Attendance at church services at St. Paul's is 100.

### ***Christmas Schedule***

Christmas Eve - 6 pm and 11 pm.

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

Christmas Recording:

A Christmas recording will be available on Christmas Eve at 6.00 p.m. and will be replayed on Zoom on Christmas Day at 11.15 a.m.. The links will be available on the homepage ([www.stpl.ca](http://www.stpl.ca)) and here: <https://stpl.ca/services.html>.

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

Watchnight Service - 11 pm (December 31)

Each service is limited to 100 people. Seat reservations can be made here: <https://stpl.ca/services.html> or by calling the church office (416-499-1545).

Throughout Christmas, Morning Prayer is said every Morning, Monday through Saturday at 7.30 a.m.. The link can be found here: <https://stpl.ca/services.html>

### ***The Sacrament by Christmas - A note from Fr. Dean***

For Christmas this year I would encourage 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 existing 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 is an exception, not a new normal. 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. Those who ordinarily give to the Angel Tree Program are asked to consider the parish Christmas Hamper Program this year. Thank you St. Paul's for all your support!!

***Christmas Hampers*** are being prepared this Advent to be distributed to families in need. Monetary donations are being sought to fund this ministry and your generosity is greatly appreciated and much needed during these challenging times. Simply indicate that you would like your gift to go towards Christmas hampers.

***Tamil Congregation Service of Carols*** - Sunday, December 19th at 3:15pm..

***Walk-a-Thon Results*** are in and thanks to the generosity of St. Paul's we were able to raise \$12,920 for our outreach ministries. Thank you to all who gave of their time and resources for this important ministry fundraiser.

***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](mailto:carol.shih@mail.utoronto.ca)

***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. Practice resumes in the new year on January 15.

***Introduction to Christianity & Simple ESL Class for Adults*** - Saturdays, 4.30 pm, in the church. Class resumes in the new year on January 15.

***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](http://www.stpl.ca/calendar.html) - or here: [www.stpl.ca/services.html](http://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=Q1RlckxCZXJNTFJJek5tYWpOTzIzFUT09>

***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@taibuchc.ca](mailto:coladehinde@taibuchc.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 who is our preacher today.

### ***Mission Trip to Tanzania Rescheduled: July 2023.***

Fr. Kim Beard will be leading a work mission trip to Tanzania, now re-scheduled for 2023. Look for an information session this coming March.

### ***Sunday School Every Sunday at 10.00 on Zoom***

Check the church calendar for links and information: [www.stpl.ca/calendar.html](http://www.stpl.ca/calendar.html)

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

Contact Sarah for more information: [splcyouthministry@gmail.com](mailto:splcyouthministry@gmail.com).

***Friday Night Bible Study*** - join us *at the church or online* for study, following the Bible study guides of Bishop Tom Wright. The study guides are available online ([www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca) or [www.parasource.com](http://www.parasource.com) or [www.christianbook.com](http://www.christianbook.com)) or may be ordered through Fr. Dean. We are now on Christmas break, resuming Friday, January 14, and beginning a study of Ephesians - 15 copies are available from Fr. Dean for \$11. 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](http://www.stpl.ca); Church phone: 416-499-1545; Email: [stpl@stpl.ca](mailto:stpl@stpl.ca); Fr. Dean Mercer: [deanmercercer@hotmail.com](mailto:deanmercercer@hotmail.com); Rectory phone: 416-497-6352.