

ORDER OF SERVICE
April 11, 2021, 2021 - Palm Sunday

INTRODUCTION

“Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."”

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

Reading the lessons is Veriann Chalmers. The reflection is offered by The Rev’d Dr. Annette Brownlee. The anthem is performed by David McCartney. And the litany is led by The Rev’d Chris Miller.

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 and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

LESSONS

First Reading

1 JOHN 1:1-2:2

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us - we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

The Psalm

PSALM 133

READER: From Psalm 133

PSALM

Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when brethren live together in unity!

It is like fine oil upon the head that runs down upon the beard,

Upon the beard of Aaron, and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

It is like the dew of Hermon that falls upon the hills of Zion.

For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: life for evermore.

Second Reading

JOHN 20:19-31

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

HOMILY

The Rev'd Dr. Annette Brownlee

ANTHEM

Hymn Medley, David McCartney

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER & BLESSING

Easter Lilies are given to the glory of God and by:

Shirley Bennett in loving memory of Claudette and Jemma. May they rest in peace.

Mary Lynn Watt in memory of Paul Watt

Janat Jayamanoharan in memory of Joseph Benedict

Terngu Adzua in memory of Timothy Adzua

Sonia Mongford for God's many blessings

Sandra Johnson in thankfulness and in memory of my parents Miriam and Christopher Johnson

George Coomarasamy in memory of Philip Coomarasamy

Anjeline Thisairajah in thanksgiving

Annette Brownlee in thanksgiving for my family, students, and church family

Pauline Bloomfield for God's blessings on all of us - Carleatha Bradshaw

A donor in thanksgiving for God's blessing of granddaughter Daniella

Norma McLean in memory of all those we have lost

Joe and Jennifer Sue-Ho

Pauline Williams

Cheryl Grant

Naomi Ammah

Debbie Preston

Provincial Stay at Home Order

On April 8, the Province announced a new stay-at-home order to combat the rising number of infections. The order maintains the 15% capacity restriction for church services. We support the stay-at-home order and as has been the case since last March, the ordinary Christian obligation of Sunday attendance remains in abeyance. Within the provincial order is permission for churches to offer services with the strict attendance limit of 15% of capacity and with full safety guidelines and practices in place. This we will continue to do. Prayers are ongoing for the health of the community and an end to the pandemic.

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 seen, but the quality is diminished.)

Zoom Invitation:

By Phone: 647 374 4685; 647 558 0588;

Meeting ID: 854 0290 8277; Passcode: 970844

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.*

Easter Food Drive Usually this time of the year, St. Paul's sponsors a three or four week Easter drive in support of the Agincourt Community Services Food Bank (www.agincourtcommunityservices.com/). St. Paul's is eager to support ACSA and the needs of the food bank. As always, a monetary gift is the most practical and serves the exact needs of the food bank. Donations can be given online: www.namf.ca/donate-now.html

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.

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: spcyouthministry@gmail.com. Check the online church calendar for link information: www.stpl.ca/calendar.html.

TAIBU

For several years now St. Paul's has benefitted from the services of TAIBU, a community service agency which provides health care and related services for Black populations across the Greater Toronto Area. Through the assistance of Kareem Marshall, St. Paul's began a reading club and Saturday exercise program. Right now TAIBU is providing special services for those touched by COVID. Services include education support, household support, homelessness support, income support, mental health services, access to food, masks, shields and sanitizer, social connections, and support using the internet and online devices. For more information, contact TAIBU: 416-803-8654, or Covid-19en@taibuqc.ca, or www.taibuqc.ca.

Friday Night Bible Study - on Zoom - Fridays, 7.00 p.m.

Join us Friday evenings for Bible study and prayer, right now in a 12-week study of the letters to Timothy and Titus. Study guides are available online (www.amazon.ca or www.parasource.com or www.christianbook.com) or may be ordered through Fr. Dean.

This Friday's study (April 16): 1 Timothy 4.

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

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

Thank you for your Faithful Gifts and Offerings - St. Paul's is a strong parish and remains strong due to everyone's faithful support. Gifts can be sent by mail. Kindly ensure that your name and envelope number is included. 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 and visiting in homes again, abiding by diocesan safety guidelines. If any one of us can be of service, 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.