

ORDER OF SERVICE  
April 25, 2021, 2021 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

INTRODUCTION

“ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.”

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

Reading the lessons is Vanessa Cambridge. The anthem is performed by David McCartney. And the litany is led by Olivia Waterman.

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

O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
AMEN.

LESSONS

First Reading

1 JOHN 3:16-24

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us - and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The Psalm

PSALM 23

READER: Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Second Reading

JOHN 10:11-18

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

HOMILY

Fr. Dean Mercer

ANTHEM

Hymn Medley, David McCartney

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER & BLESSING

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### ***Revised Provincial Stay at Home Order***

On April 16, the Province announced a heightened stay-at-home order to combat the rising number of infections, effective Monday, April 19. The new order reduces attendance to 10 persons at 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. Sunday services will now be reduced to 10 persons with full safety guidelines and practices in place. 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](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 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/](http://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](http://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](http://www.stpl.ca/calendar.html)

***S.P.Y. - St. Paul's Youth*** - Friday nights at 7 pm. Contact Sarah for more information: [spleyouthministry@gmail.com](mailto:spleyouthministry@gmail.com). Check the online church calendar for link information: [www.stpl.ca/calendar.html](http://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@taibuchc.ca](mailto:Covid-19en@taibuchc.ca), or [www.taibuchc.ca](http://www.taibuchc.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](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.

This Friday's study (April 30): 1 Timothy 6.6-21.

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](http://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](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.