

ORDER OF SERVICE  
Christmas 1 - December 26, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Jesus said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

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 Christmas. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the birth of our Lord.

Reading the lessons is Matthew Waterman. The anthems are performed by Jocelyn Belfer, accompanied by David McCartney on piano. And the litany is led by Avril Regault.

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, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

ANTHEM

Jocelyn Belfer, soprano; David McCartney, piano

LESSONS

Matthew Waterman

First Reading

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

THE PSALM

Psalm 148

Reader: From Psalm 148

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you angels of his; praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.

Praise him, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded, and they were created. He made them stand fast for ever and ever; he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing his will;

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds;

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

Young men and maidens, old and young together.

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name only is exalted, his splendour is over earth and heaven.

He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near him.

#### GOSPEL READING

LUKE 2:41-52

#### THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

#### HOMILY

Fr. Dean Mercer

#### ANTHEM

Jocelyn Belfer, soprano; David McCartney, piano

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Avril Regault

#### 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***

***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 Week 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 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: [deanmercerc@hotmail.com](mailto:deanmercerc@hotmail.com); Rectory phone: 416-497-6352.