

ORDER OF SERVICE
Feast of the Epiphany - January 2, 2022

INTRODUCTION

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.

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

Reading the lessons is Vanessa Cambridge-Smith. The reflection is offered by The Rev'd Ajit John. The anthems are performed by Jocelyn Belfer, accompanied by David McCartney on piano. 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

Eternal God, who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son. Guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

ANTHEM

Jocelyn Belfer, soprano; David McCartney, piano

LESSONS

Vanessa Cambridge-Smith

First Reading

EPHESIANS 3:1-12

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

THE PSALM

PSALM 72:1-7, 10-14

Reader: From Psalm 72

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;
That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness.
He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.
In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.
All kings shall bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.
For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, and the oppressed who has no helper.
He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; he shall preserve the lives of the needy.
He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 2:1-12

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' " Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

HOMILY

The Rev'd Ajit John

ANTHEM

Jocelyn Belfer, soprano; David McCartney, piano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Avril Regault

THE LORD'S PRAYER & BLESSING

Vestry Report Deadline: The 2022 Meeting of Vestry (annual general meeting) is by Zoom on Sunday, January 23, at 12.00 noon. Reports from all parish officers are due next Sunday, January 9, for distribution on January 16.

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, both the province and the bishops have issued a call for restraint. Current safety guidelines in the church have been adjusted. 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.

*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.

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

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 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 - 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=Q1RlckxCZXJNTFJk5tYWpOTzIzFUT09>

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

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

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

Contact Sarah for more information: 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 or www.parasource.com or 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

Thank you for your Faithful Gifts and Offerings - St. Paul's is a strong parish and remains strong due to everyone's faithful support. *Through the first half of the year, support has been outstanding* at a time when never has it been more 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.

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.