

ORDER OF SERVICE  
Last Sunday of Epiphany - February 27, 2022

INTRODUCTION

“And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul’s gathers to mark the Last Sunday after Epiphany. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord. Reading the lessons is Dr. Rob Knetsch. Special music is performed by Gabriella Cunha, accompanied by David McCartney on piano. And the litany is led by Sandra Johnson.

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, on the holy mount you revealed to chosen witnesses your well-beloved Son, wonderfully transfigured: mercifully deliver us from the darkness of this world, and change us into his likeness from glory to glory; 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

Dr. Rob Knetsch  
2 CORINTHIANS 3:12-4:2

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

THE PSALM

PSALM 99

Reader: From Psalm 99

The Lord is king; let the people tremble; he is enthroned upon the Cherubim; let the earth shake.

The Lord is great in Zion; he is high above all peoples.

Let them confess his name, which is great and awesome; he is the Holy One.

"O mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob."

Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and fall down before his footstool; he is the Holy One.

Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among those who call upon his name, they called upon the Lord, and he answered them.

He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; they kept his testimonies and the decree that he gave them.

"O Lord our God, you answered them indeed; you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds." Proclaim the greatness of the Lord our God and worship him upon his holy hill; for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 9:28-36

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" - not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

HOMILY

Fr. Dean Mercer

ANTHEM

Gabriella Cunha, alto; David McCartney, piano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sandra Johnson

THE LORD'S PRAYER & BLESSING

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### ***Safety Guidelines Update - Public Services Resume - February 23, 2022***

On Wednesday, February 23, the Bishops of Toronto announced that masks may be removed by speakers and readers, and that ashes may be imposed on Ash Wednesday. The in-person Sunday services resumed on Sunday, February 6. The church will now be open for Morning Prayer, Tuesday to Friday, and for Bible Study on Friday evenings. All other online programs continue as they were.

Information about all the services is available on the online church calendar or here:

<https://stpl.ca/services.html>.

### ***Ash Wednesday and beginning of Lent - Wednesday, March 2 - with Several Additions***

Ash Wednesday is on March 2. The Lenten schedule returns to the usual routine of Lenten Wednesday eucharists at 7.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. and 7.30 p.m..

At the succeeding Wednesday evening eucharists, there will be a series of reflections on the topic, "How Are We to Have Life in Christ?":

March 9 - The Dignity of the Human Person - Fr. Dean Mercer

March 16 - Human Community - Fr. Kim Beard

March 23 - The Church - Fr. Milton Solomon

March 30 - The Ten Commandments - Fr. Arthur Boers

April 6 - The Great Commandment - Fr. Arthur Boers

NOTE: The Wednesday evening service will be live-streamed. Link information will be available on the website calendar and here: <https://stpl.ca/services.html>.

### ***Holy Week 2022***

April 10 - Palm Sunday

April 13 - Stations of the Cross, 7.30 pm

April 14 - Maundy Thursday, 7.30 pm

April 15 - Good Friday, 10.30 am (English) & 3 pm (Tamil)

April 16 - Easter Vigil, 8 pm

April 17 - Easter Sunday

### ***Wednesday Bible Study - after the 10.30 a.m. Eucharist - Resumes on March 2***

With study leader Don St. Kitts.

### ***War in Ukraine***

by Fr. Dean+

This was a sad and alarming week with the military invasion of Ukraine. Alarming most of all is a major military conflict in Europe rising from the Russian president's aim to re-establish the former borders of the USSR.

Here are three words.

First, we pray for the people of Ukraine, now under attack, facing overwhelming and deadly odds.

Secondly, we pray for the courage of Ukrainian, European and North American leaders to see clearly and to stand firmly.

But thirdly, as I learned a long time ago, Westerners think in terms of years (if even that long) while Eastern Europeans think in terms of centuries. Westerners think in terms of individuals rights; Eastern Europeans, of the good of a nation and people. This is very much part of Mr. Putin's claims about the conflict and, specifically, about the Russian and Ukrainian Orthodox Churches. As Ray Pennings puts it: "Their history and, more importantly, their sense of history and identity, operates longer and deeper than ours, making it easy for us to misunderstand." Consequently, it will be one thing to stare down the Russian president. It will be another thing to establish a just and enduring peace.

If you wish to read more, and from a Canadian perspective, I recommend Ray Pennings, a Christian and Canadian commentator, and the Executive Vice-President of Cardus, a Christian and non-partisan Canadian think tank ([www.cardus.ca](http://www.cardus.ca)).

His initial response to the attack can be found here:

<https://learn.cardus.ca/shared/webmail/682833/466759888/09e97562819984d26ec7817bb642ebb9525cc7fcb312f42fa6ffc973edf08f09>

### ***Sarah Mair - new Youth Coordinator for York Scarborough Area***

Congratulations to Sarah Mair who has been appointed Youth Co-Coordinator for the York-Scarborough Area. It is a position she will hold alongside serving as Youth Director for St. Paul's. Congratulations, Sarah. They recruited one of the best.

### ***Community Youth Basketball Program Resumes - the long wait is over - the week of March 1.***

Last week the Toronto District School Board re-opened their gyms for community groups and with the approval of the Bishops we are able to resume the youth basketball program, now the week of *March 1*. Safety guidelines will be in place. Details to follow. For more information, contact Sarah Mair - [splcyouthministry@gmail.com](mailto:splcyouthministry@gmail.com).

***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 Resumes with the Strings***

Our parish and community youth music program re-started on Saturday, February 5, with string practice at 4.30. A great group. Our largest string group ever. Registration at practice.

### ***Steel Pans Return on March 1***

The St. Paul's Steel Pan band resumes on Saturday, March 5, at 12.30 noon. Hope is in the air.

### ***Morning Prayer on Zoom - Password Added***

Morning Prayer is said Monday to Saturday at 7.30 a.m. on Zoom. Join us.

Computer 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.

### ***Indigenous Centre in Scarborough: General Meeting with Archbishop Mark MacDonald***

Saturday, March 12, 2.00 p.m., at St. Paul, L'Amoreaux.

Would an Indigenous centre for prayer, for residential and personal services to elders, and of programs for youth be a welcome addition for the indigenous community in Scarborough? A discussion about that possibility will be led at 2.00 p.m. on Saturday, March 12, at St. Paul, L'Amoreaux, by Archbishop Mark MacDonald, Bishop for all indigenous Anglicans in Canada.

The idea of a spiritual centre and bridge to senior and youth services rose from a recent discussion between Archbishop MacDonald and officers from SPLC, St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Residential Centre for Seniors, and St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Church. The senior residence and services serve a part of Toronto where seniors are notably "underserved". A recent demographic study, presented to SPLC, also identified a significant community of indigenous seniors within the region.

The general meeting will feature a presentation by Archbishop MacDonald, followed by an opportunity for discussion and reflection. Educated at Wycliffe College, University of Toronto, Archbishop MacDonald has served in Ontario, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Oregon, and the southeast regional mission of the Diocese of Navajoland. Since 2007 he has served as the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop in Canada. He is a published author on a range of subjects such as youth ministry, care of creation, and native spirituality.

Also attending will be Fr. Andrew Wesley, an experienced leader among indigenous people in Ontario and Toronto, with special concern for the needs of elders and youth.

Due to Covid, seating is by reservation in order to provide enough room and to contact guests in

the event of changes or cancellation. Seat reservations can be made by phone (416-499-1545) or online:

[www.eventbrite.ca/e/general-meeting-with-archbishop-mark-macdonald-tickets-256761248807](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/general-meeting-with-archbishop-mark-macdonald-tickets-256761248807)

Anyone interested is welcome to attend. For more information, contact:

Fr. Andrew Wesley (647-501-5753; [bertwesley3@gmail.com](mailto:bertwesley3@gmail.com)), or,

Fr. Dean Mercer (St. Paul's; 416-499-1545; [deanmercercer@hotmail.com](mailto:deanmercercer@hotmail.com))

### ***Sunday Services by Phone on Zoom***

The weekly Sunday recording can be heard by phone on Zoom.

*By Phone:* 647 374 4685; 647 558 0588;

Meeting ID: 854 0290 8277; Passcode: 970844

*Computer link:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85402908277?pwd=Q1RldkxCZXJNTFJJek5tYWpOTzIzFUT09>

***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.

### ***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 spring or early Fall.

### ***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).

**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 for \$11. The study has resumed with a study of Ephesians. Next week: Ephesians 3.1-13. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/830877703>  
Telephone: 647-374 4685, or 647-558 0588; Meeting ID: 830 877 703

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

**Vestry Report 2022** - The final edition of the 2022 Vestry Report is now available here: <https://stpl.ca/applications-forms--reports.html>

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

**St. Paul's 2021 Income Tax Receipts - by Mail & E-mail!**

Tax receipts for 2021 are being completed and are now being distributed. St. Paul's is now able to distribute them electronically. If you would like your receipt sent to you by email, let us know by replying to [stpl@stpl.ca](mailto:stpl@stpl.ca). Otherwise, your receipt will be sent by regular mail or you can make arrangements with the office (416-499-1545) for it to be set aside and picked up at the church.

**Thank you for your Faithful Gifts and Offerings** - St. Paul's is a strong parish and remains strong due to everyone's faithful support 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](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 quick e-mail note 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 methods of giving.

**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.