

ORDER OF SERVICE
Lent 1 - March 6, 2022

INTRODUCTION

“Then the devil led Jesus up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority . . . If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'”

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 Lent. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord. Reading the lessons is Veriann Chalmers. Offering the reflection is Fr. Ajit John. Special music is performed by Gabriella Cunha, accompanied by David McCartney on piano. And the litany is led by Jenifer and Joel Milton.

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, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin, give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; 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

Veriann Chalmers
ROMANS 10:8b-13

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

THE PSALM

PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16

Reader: From Psalm 91

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, abides under the shadow of the Almighty.
He shall say to the Lord, "You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust."

Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your habitation.

There shall no evil happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

You shall tread upon the lion and adder; you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under

your feet.

Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will I deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I am with him in trouble; I will rescue him and bring him to honour.

With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 4:1-13

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

HOMILY

Fr. Dean Mercer

ANTHEM

Gabriella Cunha, alto; David McCartney, piano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jenifer and Joel Milton

THE LORD'S PRAYER & BLESSING

Safety Guidelines Updated - Reservation and Contact Tracing ended - March 3, 2022

On Thursday, March 3, the Bishops of Toronto announced that the guidelines have been updated. In brief:

- *Seat reservations and the checking in each Sunday (contact tracing) has now ended.
- *Masking remains for now, and distancing is now optional. No changes will be made until at least next week (March 13) and the seats will continue to be marked off this week.
- *We can return to a full complement of servers.
- *All attendees are asked to self-screen and kindly to stay at home if feeling ill.

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+

The war continues, now with nearly 1.5 million refugees in flight and a monstrous attack on Europe's largest nuclear facility this past week.

Three words.

First, we pray for and support (see below) the people of Ukraine under attack and facing overwhelming and deadly odds.

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

And as mentioned last week (Ray Pennings): "Their history and, more importantly, their sense of history and identity, operates longer and deeper than ours, making it easy for us to misunderstand." 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). His response this week can be found here:

<https://learn.cardus.ca/shared/webmail/682833/469908858/09e97562819984d26ec7817bb642ebb9525cc7fcb312f42fa6ffc973edf08f09>

And for those wishing to contribute to refugee relief, *The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund* is now accepting donations to support those displaced by the war in Ukraine, here:

www.toronto.anglican.ca/news/pwrdf-accepts-donations-for-ukrainian-refugees/

In Search of Egg Cartons

Egg cartons are being collected for use at the nearby Salvation Army food bank. If you have cartons you could share, please contact Kathy Barnes.

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 Has Resumed - the long wait is over and we are up and running again! It was a great and enthusiastic re-opening this past Tuesday. For more information, contact Sarah Mair - 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

St. Paul's Youth Music Program Resumes with the Strings

Our parish and community youth music program has re-started, with string practice at 4.30 pm. A great group. Our largest string group ever. Registration at practice.

Steel Pans Have Returned

Gemini Groove and The St. Paul's Steel Pan band restarted this past week. 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 - or here: 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

Anyone interested is welcome to attend. For more information, contact:
Fr. Andrew Wesley (647-501-5753; bertwesley3@gmail.com), or,
Fr. Dean Mercer (St. Paul's; 416-499-1545; deanmercerc@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.*

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

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

Contact Sarah for more information: 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 or www.parasource.com or www.christianbook.com) or may be ordered through Fr. Dean for \$11. The study has resumed with a study of Ephesians. Next week: Ephesians 5.3-20. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/830877703>

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

Looking Ahead

Maytime Melodies - the Roger Lillie Springtime Recital - Saturday, May 14

The Spring-Summer Steel Concert - Saturday, June 25

Grad Sunday - June 26

Annual Walk-a-thon - Saturday, September 24

Baptism Preparation for Adults - Easter 2022

Baptism preparation classes for adults begin are on Saturdays at 10.00 from March 19 through April 9. If interested, please contact Fr. Dean.

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. Contact the office for questions or information - (416) 499-1545; stpl@stpl.ca.

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). 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 quick e-mail note 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 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; Church phone: 416-499-1545; Email: stpl@stpl.ca; Fr. Dean Mercer: deanmercercer@hotmail.com; Rectory phone: 416-497-6352.