

ORDER OF SERVICE
Lent 2 - March 13, 2022

INTRODUCTION

“And the Lord brought Abraham outside and said, ‘Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul’s gathers to mark the Second Sunday of Lent. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord. Reading the lessons is Cliff Seenan. Offering the reflection is The Rev’d Dr. Arthur Boers. Special music is performed by Gabriella Cunha, accompanied by David McCartney on piano. And the litany is led by Joshua Jayakumar.

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 was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross, give us faith to perceive his glory, that being strengthened by his grace we may be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

LESSONS

First Reading

Cliff Seenan
GENESIS 15:1-12, 17-18

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

THE PSALM

PSALM 27

Reader: From Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.

Though an army should encamp against me, yet my heart shall not be afraid;

And though war should rise up against me, yet will I put my trust in him.

One thing have I asked of the Lord; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;

To behold the fair beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.

Even now he lifts up my head above my enemies round about me.

Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me. You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." Your face, Lord, will I seek.

Hide not your face from me, nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

You have been my helper; cast me not away; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

Though my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will sustain me.

Show me your way, O Lord; lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.

Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.

What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!

O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; wait patiently for the Lord.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 13:31-35

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

HOMILY

Fr. Arthur Boers

ANTHEM

Gabriella Cunha, alto; David McCartney, piano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joshua Jayakumar

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. For now, the chairs in the church will continue to be separated by one row.
- *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, for Wednesday services, 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>.

Lenten Wednesday Services

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.

Classes for Adult Baptism this Easter

Classes for adult baptism this Easter begin on Saturday, March 19, at 10.00 a.m.. If interested, or if you know someone who might be, please contact Fr. Dean.

Three Services on Sunday Mornings Resume on Easter Sunday

Beginning Easter Sunday, April 17, the three morning services in English will resume at 8.00 a.m., 9.15 a.m., and 11.15 a.m., with Evening Prayer at 6.00 p.m..

Live Stream of 11.15 a.m. service begins April 17

As of Easter Sunday, April 17, the 11.15 a.m. service will be streamed live on Zoom, accessible by both internet and telephone. It will also be recorded for those who wish to view it later. The shorter weekly recording will be ended. All service information available here:

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

War in Ukraine

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

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.

Sunday Services by Phone on Zoom

The weekly Sunday recording can be heard by phone on Zoom at 11.30 a.m..

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.*

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: 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 for \$11. The study has resumed with a study of Ephesians. Next week: Ephesians 5.21-6.9. 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.