

ORDER OF SERVICE
Lent 3 - March 20, 2022

INTRODUCTION

“Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul’s gathers to mark the Third Sunday of Lent. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord. Reading the lessons is The Rev’d Chris Miller. Special music is performed by Gabriella Cunha, 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

Father of mercy, alone we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves. When we are discouraged by our weakness, strengthen us to follow Christ, our pattern and our hope; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

LESSONS

The Rev’d Chris Miller
ISAIAH 55:1-9

First Reading

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

THE PSALM

PSALM 63:1-8

Reader: From Psalm 63

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

When I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.

For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

GOSPEL READING

LUKE 13:1-9

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam - fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

HOMILY

Fr. Arthur Boers

ANTHEM

Gabriella Cunha, alto; David McCartney, piano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Avril Regault

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 - has resumed.

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/. This past week, our Outreach Committee donated \$2000 to refugee relief program.

Indigenous Spiritual Centre at St. Paul's

Last Saturday afternoon, a public meeting was held to consider the development of a spiritual centre at St. Paul's for the indigenous community in Scarborough, serving as a bridge to youth and senior programs. The original impetus was a report to the SPLC Board (Senior Persons Living Connected) identifying a significant community of indigenous seniors in Scarborough. Nineteen attended to hear a presentation from Archbishop Mark MacDonald, bishop for all indigenous Anglicans in Canada. Also attending were Fr. Andrew Wesley, an indigenous leader in Ontario and Toronto, as well as our Member of Parliament, Jean Yip, Aris Babikian, our Member of Provincial Parliament, and Diane Duncan, Executive Director of St. Paul's Centre, Terrace and SPLC senior services. A fine presentation was followed by a lively discussion and volunteers stepped forward quickly to assist on an ongoing planning committee.

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 - spleyouthministry@gmail.com.

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.