

ORDER OF SERVICE  
Lent 4 - March 27, 2022

INTRODUCTION

“Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul’s gathers to mark the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord. Reading the lessons is Matthew Waterman. Offering the reflection is Carol Shih. Special music is performed by Gabriella Cunha and 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

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world, evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

LESSONS

First Reading

Matthew Waterman  
2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## THE PSALM

## PSALM 32

Reader: From Psalm 32

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!  
Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!  
While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.  
For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.  
Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.  
Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.  
Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

## GOSPEL READING

LUKE 15:1-3, 11b-32

### THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe - the best one - and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you,

and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him! 'Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

HOMILY

Carol Shih

ANTHEM

Gabriella Cunha, alto; Jocelyn Belfer, soprano, David McCartney, piano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Olivia Waterman

THE LORD'S PRAYER & BLESSING

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***Diocese to Green Stage - Requesting Permission for Easter Eve at St. Paul's***

On Wednesday (March 23), the Bishops announced that the Diocese will move to the Green Stage in all the Diocese, effective April 27, but with the permission of the Bishop are permitted to do so on April 16 - Easter Eve. This is what we have requested. There are three considerations.

The first and largest is that, as was the case before Covid, individuals and families are now responsible for their own health, safety and protection. Outside of exceptional times like Covid, this is as it should be. Parishes are asked to do their best to keep things clean and to support those who mask and distance. As of Easter Sunday, we will return to the three English services on Sundays, advising those who wish to distance to attend at 8.00 am and 11.15 am.

Secondly, several things remain in place. The vaccination mandate for clergy, staff and church volunteers remains. For the time being, the practice of serving the sacrament in one kind (the consecrated bread only) will continue.

But thirdly, the simple praise of God in song can be heard on Easter.

We thank God for the oversight and direction of our bishops and the three levels of government. We thank God for the relative safety of this time. We thank God for the blessed memory of all those died these last two years - all of whom we were not able to "bid adieu" as we would have wanted. And we thank God for what, by all signs, is the "beginning of the end" of Covid.

***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/](http://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***

On Saturday, March 12, 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. The planning committee will meet for the first time next Saturday, April 2, on Zoom. For more information, contact Fr. Dean.

***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](mailto: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](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.

***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=Q1RIdkxCZXJNTFJk5tYWpOTzIzFUT09>

***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](http://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](mailto: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](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 \$13. The study has resumed with a study of Luke. Next week: Luke 1.1-38. 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

**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 have been distributed. Contact the office for questions or information - (416) 499-1545; [stpl@stpl.ca](mailto: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](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: [deanmercer@hotmail.com](mailto:deanmercer@hotmail.com); Rectory phone: 416-497-6352.