

ORDER OF SERVICE
Lent 5 - April 3, 2022

INTRODUCTION

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negev. Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul's gathers to mark the Fifth Sunday of Lent. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord. Reading the lessons is Linda Esty. Offering the reflection is The Rev'd Ajit John. Special music is performed by Gabriella Cunha, accompanied by David McCartney on organ. And the litany is led by Jacqueline Abel.

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

Most merciful God, by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you created humanity anew. May the power of his victorious cross transform those who turn in faith to him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

LESSONS

First Reading

Linda Esty
PHILIPPIANS 3:4B-14

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee, as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

THE PSALM

PSALM 126

Reader: From Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."
The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.
Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negev.
Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 12:1-8

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

HOMILY

Carol Shih

ANTHEM

Gabriella Cunha, alto; David McCartney, organ

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Jacqueline Abel

THE LORD'S PRAYER & BLESSING

Diocese to Green Stage - Beginning on 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. The Bishops have given permission to St. Paul's to begin on April 16 - Easter Eve. 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.

A Prayer for Sanaz and Alireza

This past week we were delighted to learn that the refugee couple St. Paul's is co-sponsoring have been scheduled for their interview with the Canadian Immigration Authorities in Turkey this coming Thursday, April 7. Please pray for Sanaz and Alireza.

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

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 met for the first time yesterday. If interested, and 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 - splcyouthministry@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 (Tuesday evenings) and The St. Paul's Steel Pan band (Saturdays, 12.30 noon) have restarted. 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=Q1RldkxCZXJNTFJJek5tYWpOTzI1FUT09>

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 July 4 - 22, 2023. There are two upcoming information meetings at St. Paul's:

*Tuesday April 19th at 7:30 p.m. - to introduce interested people to the Tanzania mission, its schedule and budget

*Thursday September 15th - 7:30 p.m. - to introduce interested people to the Tanzania mission.

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 \$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.

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.