

ORDER OF SERVICE
May 2, 2021, - 5th Sunday of Easter

INTRODUCTION

“ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul's gathers on the Fifth Sunday of Easter. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord..

Reading the lessons is Jacqueline Abel. The reflection is offered by The Rev'd Dr. Annette Brownlee. The anthem is performed by David McCartney. And the litany is led by Linda Esty.

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, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

LESSONS

First Reading

1 JOHN 4:7-21

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF JOHN

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Psalm

PSALM 22:24-30

My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: "May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord; he rules over the nations.

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him.

My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

Second Reading

JOHN 15:1-8

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

HOMILY

Fr. Ajit John

ANTHEM

Hymn Medley, David McCartney

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER & BLESSING

Revised Provincial Stay at Home Order

On April 16, the Province announced a heightened stay-at-home order to combat the rising number of infections, effective Monday, April 19. The new order reduces attendance to 10 persons at church services. We support the stay-at-home order and as has been the case since last March, the ordinary Christian obligation of Sunday attendance remains in abeyance. Sunday services will now be reduced to 10 persons with full safety guidelines and practices in place. Prayers are ongoing for the health of the community and an end to the pandemic.

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. (It can also be seen, but the quality is diminished.)

Zoom Invitation:

By Phone: 647 374 4685; 647 558 0588;

Meeting ID: 854 0290 8277; Passcode: 970844

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.*

The York-Scarborough Area Council 2021 Student Bursary is now open for youths attending St. Paul's Church L'Amoreaux. The applications close on May 21 2021 and the application form must be endorsed by the Incumbent and submitted electronically.

The application forms are now available with Ms. Sarah Mair, at the Church office and online: <https://stpl.ca/applications-forms--reports.html>

Food Bank Donations - St. Paul's responded generously to the Easter Food Drive and the Outreach Committee will be sending a cheque for \$2500 to the Agincourt Community Services Food Bank.

New Honorary Priest at St. Paul's

Effective December, 2021, The Rev'd Canon Kim Beard has been appointed by Bishop Robertson as honorary priest at St. Paul's, L'Amoreaux. Canon Beard is the recently retired priest of St. Paul on the Hill, Pickering.

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: splyouthministry@gmail.com. Check the online church calendar for link information: www.stpl.ca/calendar.html.

Friday Night Bible Study - on Zoom - Fridays, 7.00 p.m.

Join us Friday evenings for Bible study and prayer, right now in a 12-week study of the letters to Timothy and Titus. Study guides are available online (www.amazon.ca or www.parasource.com or www.christianbook.com) or may be ordered through Fr. Dean.

This Friday's study (May 7): 2 Timothy 1.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/830877703>

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

Thank you for your Faithful Gifts and Offerings - St. Paul's is a strong parish and remains strong due to everyone's faithful support. Never has that support been more important. Gifts can be sent by mail. Kindly ensure that your name and envelope number is included. Members may wish to sign up for the Pre-Authorized Giving Program (contact the office). Gifts can also be made online at our website through CanadaHelps here: www.stpl.ca/give.html. Members who use online banking may now also make E-transfers (contact the office).

Contact - The clergy of St. Paul's are all in the vicinity and visiting in homes again, abiding by diocesan safety guidelines. If any one of us can be of service, 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.