

ORDER OF SERVICE
October 31, 2021 - Pentecost 23

INTRODUCTION

“And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" [And the] dead man came out.”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul's gathers to mark the Feast of All Saints, transferred from November 1st. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord.

Reading the lessons is Joshua Jayakumar. Offering the reflection is The Rev'd Ajit John. The anthem is performed by David McCartney. And the litany is led by Cliff Seenan.

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 people are knit together in one holy Church, the mystical Body of your Son, grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

LESSONS

First Reading

Joshua Jayakumar
REVELATION 21:1-6A

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

THE PSALM

PSALM 24

Reader: A reading from Psalm 24

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and all who dwell therein.

For it is he who founded it upon the seas and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

"Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? and who can stand in his holy place?"

"Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, who have not pledged themselves to falsehood, nor sworn by what is a fraud.

They shall receive a blessing from the Lord and a just reward from the God of their salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek him, of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob. Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

"Who is this King of glory?" "The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle."

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

"Who is he, this King of glory?" "The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory."

GOSPEL READING

JOHN 11:32-44

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

HOMILY

Fr. Ajit John

ANTHEM

David McCartney, piano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Cliff Seenan

THE LORD'S PRAYER & BLESSING

Help us through the 4th Quarter - St. Paul's is a strong parish and remains strong due to everyone's faithful support. *Through three quarters of the year, support has been outstanding* at a time when never has it been more important. The 4th quarter is always our largest challenge each year. Your faithful and regular gifts are 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 e-mail 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 the online and electronic methods.

Good News - Safety Guidelines Update - October 15

Over the past week, two changes have been made to the safety guidelines:

*Soloists and choirs may sing again, though masked and distanced.

*Readers, preachers and intercessors may remove their masks while speaking.

As a result, in addition to its effect in church services, the church will now re-open for Morning Prayer (Tuesday to Friday, 7.30 a.m.), Evening Prayer (Sunday, 6.00 a.m.), and the Friday Bible study (Friday, 7.00 p.m.). All three will also continue to be available on Zoom.

New Attendance Limit - 100 at St. Paul's

On July 16, Ontario entered Stage Three of its re-opening plan. As a result, the Bishops now permit as many people in the church who can maintain "physical distancing of 2 metres". Attendance at church services at St. Paul's has now increased to 100. We give thanks for the hopeful signs, looking forward to the day when the colour changes from Amber to Green.

The 180th Anniversary "Hope Is in the Air" Steel Concert on Saturday, November 20, 7 pm

Join us for The 180th Anniversary "Hope Is in the Air" Steel Concert on Saturday, November 20, at 7.00 p.m., or enjoy a Youtube memento of other church musicians to be released at the same time. Tickets are \$20 (or more at your discretion), and only 80 are available - first come, first serve. Proceeds go to our Outreach program, serving those in need across the city, the country and around the world.

For those not able to attend, a recorded Youtube memento will be made available of other church musicians including our re-opened and rejuvenated youth string ensemble. The recording will be released at the same time as the concert. Viewers too are encouraged to donate to Outreach. All donations are welcome and will be gratefully received.

Safety guidelines are in effect at the live concert: masks and distancing will be required.

Help us restart our Outreach Program. Join us in this musical celebration of our 180th parish anniversary.

The Sacrament by Christmas - A note from Fr. Dean

With the signs pointing in the right direction, Christmas this year should be a lot more like what we expect than what we experienced last year. For that reason, by Christmas this year I would urge everyone to make plans to receive the sacrament - *at least once* - whether it be by attendance at one of the in-person services or by a request for home communion. Even with the remaining guidelines, that should be more than possible.

The ordinary and grateful obligation of a Christian is to gather on Sundays, to unite in prayer and praise, and to be nourished by both Word and Sacrament. The season of Covid was an exception, not a new normal, and we will work diligently to re-establish the ordinary habits of our Christian life - which is precisely what we are doing now as opportunity permits.

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

Church Calendars 2022

Church calendars are now on sale for \$5. Contact the office to place an order (416-499-1545; stpl@stpl.ca). Deadline: Sunday, November 7.

St. Paul's Church Bursary Program

The recipients for this year's Bursary award are:

Stefan Regault - Computer System Technician Networking at Centennial College

Lauryn Meek - Graphic Communication Management Program at Ryerson University.

They have been awarded bursaries of \$600.00 each.

The awards come from two funds, The Berthebell Moo Bursary fund and St. Paul's Memorial fund. The Berthebell Moo Bursary has been made possible by a gift from the estate of the late Berthebell Moo. The St. Paul's Memorial Bursary is an ongoing bursary with gifts given and received in memory of loved ones. I thank the Bursary committee comprised of Fr. Dean Mercer, Doug Brawley and Kathy Barnes for their recommendations. I also take this opportunity to thank the wardens, Bernie Bellis and Fr. Dean who make every effort to find the necessary funds to help the youths who are pursuing post-secondary education. This program which has been in

operation from 2005-2021 has offered 48 bursaries. Thank you. George Coomarasamy

St. Paul's Youth Music Program Now On - Pans and Strings

Our parish and community youth music program has re-opened with pan practice on Saturdays at 12.30 pm, and string practice at 4.30. A great group. Our largest string group ever. Registration at practice.

Introduction to Christianity & Simple ESL Class for Adults - Saturdays, 4.30 pm, in the church.

Morning Prayer on Zoom - Password Added

Morning Prayer is said Monday to Saturday at 7.30 a.m.. Tuesday to Friday mornings, it is live-streamed from the church. For that reason there is now a password for those attending Morning Prayer on Zoom. Join us for prayer, Monday to Saturday morning at 7.30 a.m.:

Computer Access 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. (It can also be viewed on Zoom, but the quality is diminished.)

Zoom Invitation: *By Phone:* 647 374 4685; 647 558 0588;

Meeting ID: 854 0290 8277; Passcode: 970844

Computer link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85402908277?pwd=Q1RldkxCZXJNTFJFJk5tYWpOTzlfUT09>

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.*

IMARA Generation Project Taibu Community Health Centre is conducting a consultation for parents and other concerned adults regarding Black youth and their mental health. For more information or to participate, please contact coladehinde@taibuchc.ca.

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.

Mission Trip to Tanzania 2022

Our incoming honorary assistant Rev. Canon Kim Beard will be leading a work mission trip to Tanzania in 2022. A second information session will be on November 30th, at 2:00 pm. Mark your calendars.

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.

Check the online church calendar for link information: www.stpl.ca/calendar.html.

Friday Night Bible Study - join us *at the church or online* for a study of the Letters of Peter and Jude following the Bible study guide by Bishop Tom Wright. Study guides are available online (www.amazon.ca or www.parasource.com or www.christianbook.com) or may be ordered through Fr. Dean. The study on Friday, November 5 will be Lesson 4: 1 Peter 4.

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

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

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.