

ORDER OF SERVICE
October 31, 2021 - Pentecost 23

INTRODUCTION

“The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked. The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul’s gathers to mark the 23rd Sunday after Pentecost. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord.

Reading the lessons are Jenifer and Joel Milton. The reflection is offered by The Rev’d Dr. Arthur Boers. The anthem is performed by David McCartney. And the litany is led by Veriann Chalmers.

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 chosen servant Abraham obeyed your call, rejoicing in your promise that in him the family of the earth is blessed, give us faith like his, that in us your promises may be fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.. AMEN.

LESSONS

Jenifer and Joel Milton

First Reading

HEBREWS 9:11-14

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, with the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer, sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

THE PSALM

PSALM 146

Reader: A reading from Psalm 146.

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, for there is no help in them.

When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! whose hope is in the Lord their God;

Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever;

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

GOSPEL READING

MARK 12:28-34

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbour as oneself,' - this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

HOMILY

Fr. Dean Mercer

ANTHEM

David McCartney, piano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Veriann Chalmers

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 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

Outreach - Fall Schedule

Join us for our special St. Paul's 180th Anniversary Weekend Concert - online and in-person - on Saturday, November 20, at 7.00 p.m.. All donations received go to Outreach.

Roundabout Renovations

Due to renovations, access to the roundabout and the wheelchair-designated parking in front of the church is limited right now. Please plan your arrival accordingly.

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=Q1RlckxCZXJNTFJk5tYWpOTzlfUT09>

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.