

ORDER OF SERVICE  
September 26, 2021 - Pentecost 18

INTRODUCTION

“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Good morning everyone. This is Fr. Dean Mercer and I welcome you as the parish of St. Paul’s gathers to mark the 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost and “Back to Church Sunday”. Separated physically, we join in spirit, sharing in the joy of the resurrection of our Lord.

Reading the lessons is Cliff Seenan. The anthem is performed by Matthew Waterman and David McCartney. And the litany is led by Joshua Jayakumar.

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

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered by your Holy Spirit into one, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN.

LESSONS

First Reading

Cliff Seenan  
JAMES 5:13-20

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF JAMES

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

THE PSALM

PSALM 124

Reader: A reading from Psalm 124

If the Lord had not been on our side, let Israel now say;

If the Lord had not been on our side, when enemies rose up against us;

Then would they have swallowed us up alive in their fierce anger toward us;

Then would the waters have overwhelmed us and the torrent gone over us; Then would the raging waters have gone right over us.

Blessed be the Lord! he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.  
We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; the snare is broken, and we have  
escaped.  
Our help is in the name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

GOSPEL READING

MARK 9:38-50

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon  
afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever  
gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the  
reward. If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it  
would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown  
into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed  
than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to  
stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown  
into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the  
kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm  
never dies, and the fire is never quenched. For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but  
if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with  
one another."

HOMILY

Fr. Dean Mercer

ANTHEM

Matthew Waterman, saxophone; David McCartney, piano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joshua Jayakumar

THE LORD'S PRAYER & BLESSING

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### ***Safety Guidelines Update - September 14***

On September 14, the safety guidelines were updated. (You can read the entire letter on the Diocesan website - [www.toronto.anglican.ca](http://www.toronto.anglican.ca).) Briefly, there are three things to note:

#### ***Worship services***

Everyone who is able is strongly encouraged to be vaccinated, as well to knowingly avoid putting anyone at risk. However, proof of vaccination will not be required to attend services of worship. Existing safety guidelines will remain in place (i.e., masks and distancing).

#### ***Mandatory Vaccination Policy for clergy, staff and volunteers***

The Diocese is introducing a policy that, as of September 30, requires clergy, diocesan employees and volunteers, and parish employees and volunteers to show proof of being vaccinated with two doses of a vaccine or combination of vaccines approved by Health Canada, with the second dose having been administered at least two weeks prior to the in-person attendance. The full policy is now available on the diocesan website.

#### ***Singing***

Thirdly, singing remains prohibited until there is a clearer sense of the effect of the Delta variant and of students returning to school. The Bishop indicated that more will be said about singing after Thanksgiving.

#### ***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". That is, in fact, harder to plan for because the space needed for individuals is greater than that needed for families. So to begin with, attendance at church services at St. Paul's will be limited to 100. That will be increased as we are able to do so safely. All other safety guidelines - the Amber Guidelines - remain in place: masks, distancing, no singing, etc..

We give thanks for the hopeful signs, looking forward to the day when the colour changes from Amber to Green.

#### ***Thanksgiving Food Drive for ACSA.***

We are asking our generous members to help us help ACSA provide food for those in need. To donate, call (416-321-6912) or visit the website - [www.agincourtcommunityservices.com](http://www.agincourtcommunityservices.com).

#### ***Outreach - Fall Schedule***

These are certainly interesting times. And so in keeping with *interesting*, the Outreach Committee invites you to join us for this year's WALK-A-THON and our special St. Paul's 180th Anniversary Weekend Concert.

***The Walk-a-thon*** - together or on your own - began yesterday, Saturday, September 25, and Covid-style will run through Thanksgiving Sunday. The Pledge sheet is available online or at the

office. We hope that you will reach out to your friends and family for sponsorships. Individual walkers are asked to walk a 6 kilometre route on your own. All forms should be returned to St. Paul's by Thanksgiving Sunday, October 10.

Secondly, mark your calendar now for a special 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.

### ***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](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. (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=Q1RIdkxCZXJNTFJk5tYWpOTzlfUT09>

***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.*

### ***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 30<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.stpl.ca/calendar.html)

***S.P.Y. - St. Paul's Youth*** - Friday nights at 7 pm - *See you in September.*

Contact Sarah for more information: [splyouthministry@gmail.com](mailto:splyouthministry@gmail.com).

Check the online church calendar for link information: [www.stpl.ca/calendar.html](http://www.stpl.ca/calendar.html).

**Friday Night Bible Study** - resumes this coming Friday, September 10, for Bible study and prayer, right now in a 12-week study of the letters to the Colossians and Philemon, following the Bible study guide by Bishop Tom Wright. 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. This Friday (September 17) will be Lesson 6: Colossians 3.18-4.1.

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. *Through the first half of the year, support has been outstanding* 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 e-mail 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 the online and electronic methods.

**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: [deanmercercer@hotmail.com](mailto:deanmercercer@hotmail.com); Rectory phone: 416-497-6352.