

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 24, 2021

PASTOR DAN WILFRID

79 CROSS STREET, GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS ~ 01440

Welcome to St. Paul's. We're glad that you have joined us for worship, either in person or livestreamed on our YouTube channel. For as long as COVID infection rates remain elevated in our area, we ask everyone attending in person to wear a mask in worship and to sit safely distanced from people not from your household. At the distribution of Holy Communion (bread only), please come forward one at a time, and return to your seat through the door to your right and from the rear of the nave down the center aisle. Worship leaders are all vaccinated and will only unmask while speaking. Words in **boldface type** are the congregation's responses.

Prelude: *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* ~ Arr. Melody Bober

The Word of God

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A Song of Praise *Benedictus es, Domine* 1982 Hymnal S236

**Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers;
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.**

**Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name;
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

**Glory to you in the splendor of your temple;
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.**

**Glory to you, seated between the cherubim,
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.**

**Glory to you, beholding the depths,
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.**

**Glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
we will praise you and highly exalt you forever.**

The Collect

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal light, shine in our hearts. Eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal compassion, have mercy on us. Turn us to seek your face, and enable us to reflect your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Stewardship Reflection

"We Offer with Joy and Thanksgiving....Our Time"

- Susan Hubbard

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say,

"Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126 *In convertendo*

- ¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
 then were we like those who dream.
- ² Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
 and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- ³ Then they said among the nations, *
 "The Lord has done great things for them."
- ⁴ The Lord has done great things for us, *
 and we are glad indeed.
- ⁵ Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
 like the watercourses of the Negev.
- ⁶ Those who sowed with tears *
 will reap with songs of joy.
- ⁷ Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
 will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Second Reading: Hebrews 7:23-28

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but Jesus holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: *“St. Michael’s Setting”*

All Sing: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:46-52

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus and his disciples came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gradual Hymn: *“St. Michael’s Setting”*

All Sing: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Sermon ~ Pastor Dan Wilfrid

The Hymn: *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven, #410*

**1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!**

**2. Praise him for his grace and favor to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness!**

**3. Father-like he tends and spares us; well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia! Widely yet his mercy flows!**

**4. Angels, help us to adore him; you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!**

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People ~ Form VI ~ The Book of Common Prayer p. 392

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Douglas our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the needs and concerns of this congregation and its people; especially for:

Jared Snyder

Jon Bowdoin

Lisa Boulanger

Brian Cormier

Cindy Richard

Maureen Owens

Brandon Grenier

Eveline Beauregard

Millie Williams

Jay Hipkins

Jacob Decarolis

Dawn Deluca

Cyndi Flanagan

Andy LePage

Christopher

Sharon Hamel

Kim Shea

Bob and Lorene McLaughlin

Kathy Lewis

Fred and Ginny Monette

Evelyn Wolenty

Tom and Felicity Littlepage

Joni Pulnik

Suzanna Cleveland

Robin Hatch and family

For those in military service.

For the people of Afghanistan and for the people of Haiti and for all refugees.

For people in our nation who have suffered loss in recent storms and wildfires.

For our parishioners unable to be with us.

For the repose of the soul of Frank Wells and Jill Pollard.

In thanksgiving for the birthdays of Richard Cunningham, Janice Jolly and Virginia Monette.

In thanksgiving for the Altar Flowers, given by Evelyn Wolenty, in loving memory of Peter Wolenty.

In thanksgiving for the Sanctuary Candle given by Les Whitney, in memory of Lester and Bernice Whitney.

In thanksgiving for the Communion Wine, given by Sylvia Wells in memory of Frank Wells.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Your generous goodness comes to us new every day.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died,

that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

The Collect

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Invitation

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory Music: *New Britain ~ Setting by Charles Callahan*

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your generosity and love.

Receive them for the sake of the one who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer C ~ from the Book of Common Prayer p. 369

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus 1982 Hymnal, #S125

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

And so, gracious God, we who have been redeemed by Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving.

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our forebears: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah and Rebekah, Rachel and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, holy God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Lamb of God *sung by all*

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; grant us peace.

The Distribution

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come to supper. Feed on Christ in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Music: *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* ~ Setting by Charles Callahan

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and for ever. **Amen**

Sending Hymn: *O Bless the Lord, My Soul!, #411*

- 1. O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to thee proclaim!
And all that is within me join to bless his holy Name!**
- 2. O bless the Lord, my soul! His mercies bear in mind!
Forget not all his benefits! The Lord to thee is kind.**
- 3. He will not always chide; he will with patience wait;
his wrath is ever slow to rise and ready to abate.**
- 4. He pardons all thy sins, prolongs thy feeble breath;
he healeth thine infirmities and ransoms thee from death.**
- 5. He clothes thee with his love, upholds thee with his truth;
and like the eagle he renews the vigor of thy youth.**
- 6. Then bless his Holy Name, whose grace hath made thee whole,
whose loving-kindness crowns thy days: O bless the Lord, my soul!**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* ~ Arr. Melody Bober

Worship Leaders and Helpers Today

Presider/Preacher ... Pastor Dan Wilfrid
 Reader ... Stephanie O'Brien LEM ... Brian Chipman
 Organist ... Judy Greenlees
 Altar Guild ... Eva Eaton-Price Camera ... Susan Hubbard
 Stewardship Reflection - Susan Hubbard

This Week at St. Paul's:

Tuesday, 7:30 pm - Bible Study on Zoom.

A Recent History of Giving at St. Paul's

Year	Pledges	Total Commitment
2017	40	\$59,372
2018	38	\$56,176
2019	37	\$58,032
2020	35	\$59,394
2021 (est.)	21	\$65,350

	\$1-\$10 per week	\$11-\$20 per week	\$21-\$40 per week	\$41-\$100 per week	\$101 - \$200 per week	Over \$200 per week
2017	9	11	13	5	2	0
2018	9	8	14	5	2	0
2019	7	10	13	5	2	0
2020	7	8	11	5	2	0
2021 (est.)	3	4	8	4	1	1