Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church

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**Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost**

October 17, 2021

Bishop Mark Beckwith

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:**  *There is a Balm in Gilead ~* Setting by Thomas Keesecker

**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.

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; 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….Ourselves”* -Pam Harris

Song: “*Let All the Little Children Come to me” -* Pam Harris

Randy Austill, Guitar

**First Reading**: Isaiah 53:4-12

Surely he has borne our infirmities  
 and carried our diseases;

yet we accounted him stricken,  
 struck down by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
 crushed for our iniquities;

upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
 and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;  
 we have all turned to our own way,

and the Lord has laid on him  
 the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
 yet he did not open his mouth;

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
 and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
 so he did not open his mouth.

By a perversion of justice he was taken away.  
 Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living,  
 stricken for the transgression of my people.

They made his grave with the wicked  
 and his tomb with the rich,

although he had done no violence,  
 and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain.

When you make his life an offering for sin,  
 he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;

through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.  
 Out of his anguish he shall see light;

he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.  
 The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,  
 and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,  
 and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

because he poured out himself to death,  
 and was numbered with the transgressors;

yet he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 91:9-16**

*Qui habitat*

9Because you have made the Lord your refuge, \*  
 and the Most High your habitation,

10 There shall no evil happen to you, \*  
 neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.

11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, \*  
 to keep you in all your ways.

12 They shall bear you in their hands, \*  
 lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; \*  
 you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.

14 Because he is bound to me in love,  
 therefore will I deliver him; \*  
 I will protect him, because he knows my Name.

15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; \*  
 I am with him in trouble;  
 I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

16 With long life will I satisfy him, \*  
 and show him my salvation.

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 5:1-10

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

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 10:35-45

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

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** ~ Bishop Mark Beckwith

**The Hymn:** *All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King divine, #477*

1. **All praise be yours, for you, O King divine,  
Didst yield the glory that of right was thine,**

**That in our darkened hearts thy grace might shine. Alleluia!**

2**. Thou cam’st to us in lowliness of thought;  
By thee the outcast and the poor were sought,  
And by thy death was God's salvation wrought. Alleluia!**

3**. Let this mind be in us which was in thee  
who wast a servant that we might be free,**

**Humbling thyself to death on Calvary. Alleluia!**

4**. Wherefore, by God's eternal purpose,**

**thou art high exalted o'er all creatures now  
And given the name to which all knees shall bow. Alleluia!**

5**. Let every tongue confess with one accord  
In heaven and earth that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
And God the Father be by all adored. Alleluia!**

**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.

In thanksgiving for the birthdays of Cyndi Flanagan and Debra Bettez.

In thanksgiving for the Altar Flowers, given by Lyn Carroll, in loving memory of Rick Cluthe and Gary Carroll.

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:** *The Servant Song*

**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:** *Repton ~ 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 Master, let me walk with thee, #660*

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| 1. | **O Master, let me walk with Thee, in lowly paths of service free; Tell me Thy secret, help me bear, the strain of toil, the fret of care.** |
| 2. | **Help me the slow of heart to move, by some clear, winning word of love; Teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.** |
| 3. | **Teach me Thy patience; still with Thee, in closer, dearer company, In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.** |
| 4. | **In hope that sends a shining ray, far down the future’s broadening way, In peace that only Thou canst give, with Thee, O Master, let me live.** |

**Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *Engelberg* ~ Setting by Charles Callahan

Reader … Denise Whitney LEM …Ron Lewis

Stewardship Reflection … Pam Harris

Organist … Judy Greenlees

Guitar … Randy Austill

Altar Guild … Denise Whitney Camera …Susan Hubbard

**This Week at St. Paul’s:**

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

Next Sunday, Oct. 24th

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist

11:15 am – Vestry Meeting