Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church

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**Last Sunday after Pentecost**

November 21, 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:**  *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name ~ Setting by 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.

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **First Reading:** Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

As I watched,

thrones were set in place,  
and an Ancient One took his throne,

his clothing was white as snow,  
and the hair of his head like pure wool;

his throne was fiery flames,  
and its wheels were burning fire.

A stream of fire issued  
and flowed out from his presence.

A thousand thousands served him,  
and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him.

The court sat in judgment,  
and the books were opened.

As I watched in the night visions,

I saw one like a human being  
coming with the clouds of heaven.

And he came to the Ancient One  
and was presented before him.

To him was given dominion  
and glory and kingship,

that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion  
that shall not pass away,

and his kingship is one  
that shall never be destroyed.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 93** *Dominus regnavit*

1 The Lord is King;  
he has put on splendid apparel; \*  
the Lord has put on his apparel  
and girded himself with strength.

2 He has made the whole world so sure \*  
that it cannot be moved;

3 Ever since the world began, your throne has been established; \*  
you are from everlasting.

4 The waters have lifted up, O Lord,  
the waters have lifted up their voice; \*  
the waters have lifted up their pounding waves.

5 Mightier than the sound of many waters,  
mightier than the breakers of the sea, \*  
mightier is the Lord who dwells on high.

6 Your testimonies are very sure, \*  
and holiness adorns your house, O Lord,  
for ever and for evermore.

### **Second Reading:** Revelation 1:4b-8

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;  
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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:** John 18:33-37

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

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:** *Crown Him With Many Crowns,* #494, All Verses

1 **Crown him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon his throne;  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns  
all music but its own;  
awake, my soul, and sing of him  
who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.**

2 **Crown him the Son of God  
before the worlds began,  
and ye, who tread where he hath trod,  
crown him the Son of man;  
who every grief hath known  
that wrings the human breast,  
and takes and bears them for his own,  
that all in him may rest.**

3 **Crown him the Lord of life,  
who triumphed o’er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife  
for those he came to save;  
his glories now we sing,  
who died, and rose on high,  
who died, eternal life to bring,  
and lives that death may die.**

4 **Crown him of lords the Lord,  
who over all doth reign,  
who once on earth, the incarnate Word,  
for ransomed sinners slain,  
now lives in realms of light,  
where saints with angels sing  
their songs before him day and night,  
their God, Redeemer, King.**

5 **Crown him the Lord of heaven,  
enthroned in worlds above;  
crown him the King, to whom is given,  
the wondrous name of Love.  
Crown him with many crowns,  
as thrones before him fall,  
crown him, ye kings, with many crowns,  
for he is King of all.**

**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 Dwight Davis

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 Little

Suzanna Cleveland

Michael Crowley

Robin Hatch and family

For those in military service.

For all refugees.

For people who have suffered injury and loss from storms, fires and floods.

For our parishioners unable to be with us.

For the repose of the soul of Frank Wells.

In thanksgiving for the Sanctuary Candle given by Bob & Maureen Owens, in thanksgiving for Family.

In thanksgiving for the Communion Wine, given by Sylvia Wells in memory of Frank Wells and Bob & Maureen Owens in memory of Adam Gallant.

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:** *We Plow the Fields and Scatter ~* Setting by Thomas Keesecker

**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 Hymn:** *#458 My Song is Love Unknown,* 458, Verses 1, 2, and 7

1 **My song is love unknown;  
My Savior’s love to me;  
Love to the loveless shown,  
That they may lovely be.  
O who am I,  
That for my sake,  
 My Lord should take  
Frail flesh and die?**2 **He came from His blest throne,  
Salvation to bestow:  
But men made strange, and none  
The longed-for Christ would know.  
But O my friend!  
My Friend indeed,  
 Who at my need  
His life did spend.**7 **Here might I stay and sing,  
No story so divine;  
Never was love, dear King,  
Never was grief like Thine.  
This is my Friend,  
In whose sweet praise  
 I all my days  
Could gladly spend.**

**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:** *Come, Ye thankful People Come*, #290, All Verses

1. **Come, ye thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest home;  
all is safely gathered in,  
ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our Maker, doth provide  
for our wants to be supplied;  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest home.**

2. **All the world is God's own field,  
fruit unto his praise to yield;  
wheat and tares together sown,  
unto joy or sorrow grown;  
first the blade, and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear;  
grant, O harvest Lord, that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.**

3. **For the Lord our God shall come,  
and shall take his harvest home;  
from his field shall in that day  
all offenses purge away;  
give his angels charge at last  
in the fire the tares to cast,  
but the fruitful ears to store  
in the garner evermore.**

4. **Even so, Lord, quickly come,  
to thy final harvest home;  
gather thou thy people in,  
free from sorrow, free from sin;  
there, forever purified,  
in thy presence to abide;  
come, with all thine angels come,  
raise the glorious harvest home.**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude*:*** *Come, Ye Thankful People Come with Now Thank We All Our God* ~ Setting by Thomas Keesecker

**Worship Leaders and Helpers Today**

Presider/Preacher … Pastor Dan Wilfrid

Reader …Stephanie O’Brien LEM …Brian Chipman

Organist … Judy Greenlees

Altar Guild … Denise Whitney Camera …Susan Hubbard

**This Week at St. Paul’s:**

Today – Vestry Meeting

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

Wednesday, 6:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal (**NO** rehearsal on Thanksgiving Day)

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| NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS |  | NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Justin Chipman | Nov. 1 | Christina & David Baldini | Nov. 15 |
| Gabriel Baldini | Nov. 4 |  |  |
| Alfred Sirois | Nov. 5 |  |  |
| Nicholas Theriault | Nov. 5 |  |  |
| Margie Bissonette | Nov. 7 |  |  |
| Brian Chipman | Nov. 8 |  |  |
| Catherine Mogavero | Nov. 10 |  |  |
| Edith Kosakowski | Nov. 16 |  |  |
| Robert Mogavero | Nov. 16 |  |  |
| Felicity Littlepage | Nov. 20 |  |  |
| Cherrie Gauthier | Nov. 28 |  |  |
| Denise Whitney | Nov. 29 |  |  |