

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Ordinary Time
Summer 2020 9:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist, Rite II



Good morning! This bulletin accompanies our service gathering in the church yard and also using the Zoom platform. To attend in person, go to our website to see an outline of our precautions and procedures. To link to the service go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/647333282?pwd=WmtlR3ppamVET1dhNHAxU0JVZUZmQT09> or call 1-646-558-8656 (Meeting ID:647 333 282; passcode 173902). Everything you need to participate is included here. We encourage you to follow, say the responses, and allow yourself to be pulled closer to God.

Prelude

Welcome – Centering

We are delighted you are joining us for worship today!

As we gather, you are invited to center yourself and prepare for worship.

First, enjoy three deep breaths

- *The first one to help you fully arrive in your body,*
- *The second one to clear your mind so you may be present to yourself and others,*
- *The third one to open your heart and welcome the Holy Spirit to engage you*

Second, select one of these three entries into worship

Notice whichever one you feel drawn to... then do what you're invited to do with it

Whom did you bring with you on your heart today?

- *Picture this person whole, healthy, restored, reconciled. God is at work in this person's life.*

Are you counting your blessings today?

- *As you get in touch with gratitude, express it now to God.*

Are you anxious this morning?

- *Hear Christ the burden-bearer: "Come to me, all who are over-burdened, and I will give you rest."*

Third, be still until worship begins

Empty your hands,

Close your eyes,

Breathe deeply and slowly,

Empty your mind.

Let sounds pass by you.

Find interest only in silent waiting upon God.

The Celebrant invites the congregation to stand, and then says

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

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant says the **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.**

All say the **Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant will pray the Collect appointed for this day in the church calendar.

All sit.

First Reading

Insert

At the conclusion of the reading the Reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Insert

Read by all

All stand for the

Holy Gospel

Insert

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to _____.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel reading the Celebrant will say

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please sit for the

Sermon

Musical Interlude

All stand and say 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 II

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Doug, our own Bishop; for Sam, our Rector; for Jane, our Priest Associate; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for good will among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, those struggling under financial strain, immigrants, refugees, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found by God. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed [especially _____]. Pray for those who have died. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who have commended themselves to our prayers, especially _____. *Silence*

I ask your thanksgiving for _____. *Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence, after which the Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Confession and Absolution

Priest Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence, then all pray

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Celebrant offers 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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please be seated for the announcements.

Musical Interlude

The Celebrant prepares the table for Holy Communion.

Please note: *The clergy and church leadership have taken extra precautions to be sure that the administration of Holy Communion is safe for all. To ensure that safety, you are asked to do the following:*

- *Please remain at your seat throughout the Eucharistic Prayer and distribution of communion*
- *We will take only bread (wafers) at this time. The bread will be distributed to you at your seat; you may stand or sit to receive.*
- *Please remain fully masked as the bread is dropped into your hands. (No physical contact - if the priest should accidentally touch a hand while distributing the bread, she/he will immediately stop to sanitize hands before proceeding.)*
- *If you do not wish to receive the bread, please fold your arms across your chest; the priest will offer a blessing without touch.*
- *AFTER the priest has given bread to the next separately seated individual/group after yours, you may take off your mask in order to consume the bread.*
- *Please put your mask back on after consuming the bread.*

Please stand as you are able for the

Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Celebrant and the People say the Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people remain standing or sit as the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant

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

People and Celebrant

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept, after which the Celebrant will say

The gifts of God for the people of God.

The bread will be distributed according to the procedure outlined above.

If the service is only online due to weather, the People and Celebrant will instead pray the following

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Musical Interlude

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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 Celebrant then offers the Blessing

Sending Forth

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Excerpts from “Theological and Liturgical Foundations for Regathering,” published by the Episcopal Dioceses of Massachusetts:

“As Episcopalians, we consider reason and scientific research to be expressions of divine wisdom. As we consider how to return to sharing Holy Communion, scientific and medical data have been in the forefront of our considerations, and rightly so. Grounding our common life is a still deeper and more lasting reality: the Gospel as mediated by our theological and liturgical tradition. [So what have we learned as we] we approach this part of the journey in a way that is both scientifically grounded and consistent with our Anglican/Episcopal tradition?”

“We have learned that while the blessed bread and wine are something we consume, the sacrament of Communion cannot be reduced to a consumable product. We are learning to ask new questions, about how the liturgy (not only of the Eucharist, but of Baptism and other sacraments) works in our lives, and why and how the embodied, physical presence of the community matters. We are realizing that asking ‘How will **we** be nourished’ rather than ‘How will **I** be nourished’ grounds our decisions scripturally, cultivates forbearance for those at higher risk of infection and reveals issues of justice.

“Another question we have learned to ask is what does it mean to us to be physical bodies in communion with one another, while maintaining the physical distancing necessary to keep each other safe? Holy Eucharist, along with other sacraments, is inherently and by definition an embodied, corporate act. For a while, we have had to keep our bodies distant from one another; but that does not mean that we ceased to be the Body of Christ, nor does it mean that we have not been able to experience communion. We have learned to probe the question, how do we experience communion with Christ and with one another even when we are physically separated? How is Holy Communion both like and distinct from other experiences of communion? How is the Spirit at work in the moment when one person offers the sacrament to one other person, saying ‘The Body of Christ’?”

“An ecumenical group working on guidelines for worship and sacraments during the pandemic has reminded us of the centrality of the experience of beauty in worship, and the way beauty instills awe and draws us toward God. This group has also suggested that ‘In a time of physical distancing, we must also learn to find beauty in silence and simplicity.’ Until a vaccine eradicates the pandemic, gathered worship will lack many of the elements whose beauty we have been accustomed to enjoying, such as choral anthems and congregational hymns. We are learning to ask the question, What does beauty look like now? How can we become more attuned to the simple beauty of our prayers without any embellishments? What do we need to learn to do – as lectors, intercessors, preachers and assembly – so that the beauty of the liturgy shines forth in all its unadorned simplicity? When all this is over, we will be glad we learned these lessons, for they will serve us well even when the choir is back and we are singing with gusto.

“The most important question we have learned to ask is, ‘What does love look like in the midst of a pandemic?’ Our liturgy and the celebration of the sacraments are themselves an answer to this question at any time, as the expressions of the love of God in our midst. Our worship is guided by the demands and gifts of love; any time we are wondering how or whether to move forward, we must ask whether what we are about to do looks like love, especially for the most vulnerable in our midst. The ecumenical group mentioned above puts it this way: ‘During this pandemic, love of neighbor requires careful planning. Because we love God, we want to offer worship that brings our very best. Because we love our neighbors, we want to do everything we can to make sure we bring no harm to anyone when we gather.’”

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Stockbridge, Massachusetts

Service Schedule

Sundays, 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

In person in the church yard (weather permitting) and online via Zoom.

Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayers

Online via Zoom

Rector: The Rev. Samuel J. Smith, father.sam.stockbridge@gmail.com

Father Sam's office hours are by appointment. Please call the rectory: 298-7001.

Priest Associate: The Rev. Jane Tillman

Verger: Darryl Lafferty

Guitarist: Doug Schmolze

Children/Youth Ministry Coordinator: Anne Skakel

Office Administrator: Gretchen Fairfield, stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com

In this time of the pandemic Gretchen is not usually working in person in the office. Call the church office or email and she will get back to you promptly.

Vestry

Sr. Warden: Matt Fillio, 822-3759

Jr. Warden: Jorja Marsden, 298-3945

Sebastian Bonner, *Clerk*; John Davies, *Treasurer*; Diane Dillon; Diana French; Christopher Johnson; Duncan Pollock; Tom Skakel; Carl Sprague

St. Paul's Children's Center: Lisa Kane, Director, 298-4639

29 Main Street, P.O. Box 704, Stockbridge, MA
413-298-4913 • stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com
www.stpaulsstockbridge.org