

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Stockbridge, Massachusetts  
October 4, 2020 – The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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**As Summer turns to Fall, the St. Paul's community continues to worship and learn.**

- Our outdoor worship continues in the month of October. Only rain or high winds will deter us; if the weather is calm and dry, but cold, we will still be in the church yard at 9:00 am on Sundays. Bundle up and worship with us!
- Should weather not allow us to gather in the church yard, we will move worship online. See our regular emails or our website for ways to connect to the service on the Zoom platform.
- Looking forward to the late fall and winter, we are exploring how we will continue to worship and keep each other safe and healthy. A survey asking for your input is currently underway (see below). Please complete it!
- Our Bible Study exploring the Sermon on the Mount has just started, and it's not too late for you to join in! See below for more details.
- We will observe the Feast of St. Francis with the Blessing of the Animals today. We will offer blessings, as well as prayers of thanksgiving for their companionship.

Welcome to St. Paul's, where we persevere and celebrate, even in these difficult times.

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<b>Music</b>	Amanda Watroba, flute	
Prelude:	Autumn Leaves	by Joseph Kosma
After Sermon:	For The Beauty of the Earth	arr. by Bill Holcombe
Offertory:	Come Thou Font of Every Blessing	arr. by Brett Clausen
After Communion:	In The Garden	arr. Kenneth Baird
Postlude:	A Sunday Kind of Love	by Louis Prima & Anita Nye Leonard

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**Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Readings**

**Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20**

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin."

## **Psalm 19**

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God, \*  
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- 2 One day tells its tale to another, \*  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
- 3 Although they have no words or language, \*  
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Their sound has gone out into all lands, \*  
and their message to the ends of the world.
- 5 In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; \*  
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- 6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens  
and runs about to the end of it again; \*  
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; \*  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- 8 The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; \*  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; \*  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, \*  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

- 11 By them also is your servant enlightened, \*  
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often he offends? \*  
cleanse me from my secret faults.
- 13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;  
let them not get dominion over me; \*  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, \*  
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

### **Matthew 21:33-46**

Jesus said, “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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### **Congregational Survey**

*Help us plan our worship opportunities for fall and winter.*

Looking forward to the late fall and winter, we are exploring how we will continue to worship and keep each other safe and healthy. A survey asking for your input is currently underway. You should have received an email invitation this week to complete the survey. If you have not received it or if you would prefer a printed copy please contact Gretchen by leaving a voicemail at the office, 413-298-4913, or emailing her, [stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com).

## **Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven**

*Continuing this Tuesday, 7:00-8:30 pm, on Zoom*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82609960553?pwd=U05FZ1FIZHhTeWNWbitkWINOOFk3Zz09>

or call in: 646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 826 0996 0553      Passcode: 446609

Dr. Amy Jill Levine, Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University, has built her career on helping Christians understand the Jewish context of Jesus' life and ministry. Her newest book, *Sermon on the Mount*, is a readable and thought-provoking look at these fundamental teachings from Matthew's gospel. Father Sam will use this book (available in paperback or for the Kindle) as the guide to our six-week study, in partnership with the folks of Grace Church of Great Barrington and Christ Trinity Church of Sheffield. Continuing this Tuesday, October 6, we will gather on the Zoom platform on Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm. **Please read chapter 1 in preparation for this session.** Questions? Ask Father Sam.

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**Worship Teams** (If you exchange shifts with someone, please notify the Church Office by Thursday morning at [stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com).)

### **Today, October 4**

Celebrant  
& Preacher:    The Rev. Sam Smith  
Ushers:         Matt Fillio  
Reader:         Diane Dillon

### **Next Sunday, October 11**

Celebrant  
& Preacher:    The Rev. Sam Smith  
Ushers:         Jorja Marsden  
Reader:         Jean Rousseau

### **Parish Prayer List**

- People we pray for on Sundays: **Cecilia, Thelma, Sue, David**
- Long-term prayer list: **Piers, Katrina, Khali, George, Jeff, David, Doug, Barbara, ZsuZsa, Charles, Tom, Rich, Ronnie, John, George, Christy, Michael, Karen**
- Prayers for the Dead: **Kennedy Bentley**
- Our partners at Grace Church, Great Barrington and their priest Libby; Christ Trinity Episcopal-Lutheran, Sheffield and their priest Erik; the Austen Riggs community and the Riverbrook Residence; victims of violence, abuse, persecution and disaster at home and abroad; those impacted by the pandemic
- Outreach Ministries of the Week: **Lee Food Pantry and Berkshire Community Diaper Project**
- Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: **Trinity Church, Ware**
- Anglican Cycle of Prayer: **Anglican Church of Tanzania**
- Birthdays: **Penelope Spangler (6<sup>th</sup>), Duncan Pollock (10<sup>th</sup>)**