

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Stockbridge, Massachusetts
August 15, 2021 – The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to our Instructed Eucharist

Episcopalians love ritual! Our weekly services are filled with symbolic actions and prescribed prayers that we cherish. But their meaning may be obscure, especially to those who were not brought up in the church (which statistics show is most of us!).

Today, as we continue our exploration of the sixth chapter of John's gospel, we will have an instructed Eucharist. This teaching service will include pauses throughout the service to shed light on the various elements of our ritual. We will explore not only our customs here at St. Paul's, but also those cherished by other Anglican churches throughout our Communion. The goal is to teach, but also to provoke thought. It is our hope that you will come away with a greater appreciation for our tradition, and a hunger to learn more.

Welcome to St. Paul's where we gather at God's table each week to explore the mystery!

Music (*Hymns are in the printed insert, unless otherwise marked.*)

Doug Schmolze, guitar

Prelude:		Prelude	- Francois Campion, c.1731
Sequence Hymn:	Insert	Come, thou fount of every blessing	
After Sermon:		Allemande	- Francois Campion, c.1731
Offertory:		Sarabande	- Francois Campion, c.1731
Communion:	Insert	Let us break bread together on our knees	
Postlude:		Gavotte	- Francois Campion, c.1731

Collect

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Readings

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this

great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life."

Psalms 111

- 1 Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
- 2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! *
they are studied by all who delight in them.
- 3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, *
and his righteousness endures for ever.
- 4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.
- 5 He gives food to those who fear him; *
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
- 6 He has shown his people the power of his works *
in giving them the lands of the nations.
- 7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *
all his commandments are sure.
- 8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *
because they are done in truth and equity.
- 9 He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever; *
holy and awesome is his Name.
- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever.

Ephesians 5:15-20

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 6: 51-58

Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

✿ *Altar flowers are given in memory of Bob Rousseau.* ✿

Masks Now Required for Indoor Worship

COVID transmission is on the rise again—and we want to protect ourselves and our neighbors. Therefore, beginning this Sunday we will require masks for anyone attending worship services in the church. Our friend Father Erik Karas of Christ Trinity Church in Sheffield again offers a good explanation of the change:

- The CDC has moved Berkshire County from "Moderate" to "Substantial" when it comes to COVID transmission. **At this new level, the CDC recommends universal indoor masking for everyone, regardless of vaccination status. We will follow those recommendations for indoor worship.**
- The Good News is that the vaccine is VERY effective and about 99.999% of vaccinated Americans have NOT had a deadly breakthrough infection. Therefore, even though you may test positive for COVID after vaccination it is tremendously unlikely that you will have severe symptoms or need to be hospitalized.
- Then why are we masking if we've been vaccinated? Because unlike previous strains of the virus, vaccinated persons can transmit this new strain to an unvaccinated person and this strain is much more likely to cause severe symptoms or death. So, as vaccinated people, we mask not so much for ourselves, but for our neighbors.
- Being vaccinated and masking indoors are the two best ways we can love our neighbors these days. Let us all love our neighbors.

Wanted: An Office Administrator for St. Paul's!

Our delightful and talented part-time Office Administrator Gretchen Fairfield is leaving St. Paul's to take a full-time position – and we will miss her! Now we need to hire a new administrator. Because Gretchen worked part-time for Grace Church as well, we are working with the Great Barrington Church to find one person to fill both jobs. The job description is below; please pass it along to anyone you know who would fill the job well! (Unfortunately members of St. Paul's are ineligible to apply.)

Church Office Administrator – Southern Berkshires

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Stockbridge and Grace Church, an Episcopal Community in the Southern Berkshires, are looking for a person with strong interpersonal and technical skills to become a key player. The Administrator will work with the clergy to facilitate the operations for the two organizations and manage all communications and finances. Duties include communication (print, electronic and in-person), financial tracking and bill paying, website management, scheduling, and donor database management, including entering gifts and generating statements.

The successful candidate will bring initiative and an entrepreneurial spirit along with skills in the Microsoft Office Suite, electronic financial systems (like QuickBooks), database systems and website management tools. Strong writing and editing skills are helpful. Experience in a church/faith setting is also helpful. We offer the chance to work with friendly people in a meaningful environment with a flexible schedule – 28 hours a week, \$20.00 per hour, and paid vacation.

To be considered, please submit a resume and cover letter to stpaulsgracesearch@gmail.com. (No phone calls, please.)

Altar Flowers – Open Dates

If you would like to honor or remember a loved one by providing altar flowers, the following Sundays are available: **Sep. 19, Dec. 5, & Dec. 20**. To sign up, please email office@stpaulsstockbridge.org and tell us the date you’d like to reserve, the wording of the announcement, and whether or not you’d like the office to order the flowers for you (cost is \$60).

Worship Teams

(If you exchange shifts with someone, please notify the Church Office by Thursday morning at office@stpaulsstockbridge.org.)

Today, August 15

Celebrant & Preacher:	The Rev. Sam Smith
8:00 Reader	TBA
10:00 Usher:	Duncan Pollock
10:00 Reader:	Jean Rousseau

Next Sunday, August 22

Celebrant:	The Rev. Jane Tillman
Preacher:	The Rev. Sam Smith
8:00 Reader	TBA
10:00 Usher:	Diane Dillon
10:00 Reader:	Mary Taylor

Parish Prayer List

- People we pray for on Sundays: **Cecilia, Cynthia, Charles, Patrick, Danielle, Nathan, Kyle, Lilly**
- Long-term prayer list: **Piers, Katrina, Rich, Karen, Michael, Ronnie, Tom, Khali, George, Doug, George, David, Barbara, Christy, John, ZsuZsa**
- Our partners at Grace Church, Great Barrington and their priest Tina Rathbone; 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: **Cathedral of the Beloved**
- Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: **All Saints’, South Hadley**
- Anglican Cycle of Prayer: **The Anglican Church of Southern Africa**
- Birthdays: **Elizabeth Skakel (17th), Jim Wade (18th), Quinn Dillon (19th), Christy Cosby French (21st)**