

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Stockbridge, Massachusetts
September 12, 2021 – The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Who Do You Say That I Am?

In this morning's gospel reading Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" When they answer correctly ("You are the Messiah"), he orders them not to tell anyone this profound truth. Why?

Some suggest the answer has everything to do with human nature. Too often today we are dazzled by the famous and the flashy, and we give them power over us—even when it is unwarranted. But as one commentator has noted, "Jesus did not come into the world to amass power; he came to show that God's creation operates not on the basis of power, but love."

Jesus comes to earth with a profound message: resist the glitzy and the loud things that distract one from that which brings true meaning: Love for God and neighbor. Too often we follow other paths, only to find they are dead ends. The path to our true selves lies in God, and in being partners in God's profound love for all of creation.

Welcome to St. Paul's, where we strive to find our true identities by learning more about Christ, and by following God's way of love.

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

Prelude:	Slow March	J. S. Bach
Sequence Hymn:	<i>Insert</i> For the beauty of the earth	
Interlude:	Bouree'	George Frederic Handel
Offertory:	Sarabanda	J. S. Bach
Communion:	<i>Insert</i> Joyful, joyful, we adore thee	
Postlude:	Gigue	Johann Georg Weichenberger

+++ *Altar flowers are given in loving memory of Martha Muir.* +++

Collect

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Worship Teams

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

Today, September 12

Celebrant (8:00) The Rev. Sam Smith
Celebrant (10:00) The Rev. Jane Tillman
Preacher: The Rev. Sam Smith
8:00 Reader: Don Temples
10:00 Usher: Jean Rousseau
10:00 Reader: Carl Sprague

Next Sunday, September 19

Celebrant: The Rev. Sam Smith
Preacher: The Rev. Sam Smith
8:00 Reader: Duncan Pollock
10:00 Usher: Matt Fillio
10:00 Reader: Martha Bodine

Readings

Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice. At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: “How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?”

Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you; I will make my words known to you. Because I have called and you refused, have stretched out my hand and no one heeded, and because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when panic strikes you, when panic strikes you like a storm, and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently, but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof, therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way and be sated with their own devices.

For waywardness kills the simple, and the complacency of fools destroys them; but those who listen to me will be secure and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.”

Psalms 14

- 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.

James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue-- a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

New COVID Precautions

This week the Tri-Town Joint Boards of Health (including Lee, Lenox, and Stockbridge) issued a new Public Health Directive aimed at protecting our communities to slow the spread of the virus. St. Paul's is already in compliance with these guidelines, but we will redouble our efforts to insure that we protect our neighbors. Please do your part by being masked when in services in the church, and being masked or maintain a six foot distance from others when in services in the church yard. Thank you for helping keep us all safe!

Welcome Our New Parish Administrator, Jean Chapin

In a unique cooperative arrangement, the South County Episcopal and Lutheran Churches are now sharing a Parish Administrator. Jean Chapin, who was already the parish administrator at Christ Trinity Church in Sheffield, is now employed full-time by our three parishes.

Growing up in the middle of her parents' Christmas tree farm along the Housatonic River deeply rooted Jean to Sheffield, where her family settled in 1727. After graduating from Mt. Everett, her adventurous nature lured her away, however, to do her student teaching in England, learn to SCUBA dive in the Red Sea, take up sky diving, spend decades teaching in elementary classrooms from as far away as the Hejaz Mountains of Saudi Arabia, the Mississippi Delta in Arkansas, and the Appalachian foothills of southeastern Ohio.

After raising two wonderful daughters, Jean returned home and now lives in the center of Sheffield. She spends as much time as she can with her amazing five-year-old grandson, Arthur.

During the past nineteen months she has been deeply committed to a Christ Trinity Church initiative that provides meals to vulnerable elders. Originally called Feeding Sheffield, the service project has expanded in several directions and has joined with other local organizations to create a program called Feeding Friends South Berkshire.

Jean is very excited to be called to this shared parish administrator position and looks forward to meeting you and to serving all three churches.

As we all learn how to balance the work of these three congregations, Jean is traveling between our offices on a regular basis. If you need her assistance, simply call the church office at (413)298-4913, or email stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com. We anticipate we will set up regular office hours soon.

The Haiti Fund – Episcopal Relief & Development

On Saturday, August 14, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck the southwest portion of Haiti. This devastating earthquake was followed by Tropical Storm Grace on Monday night and much of Tuesday. More than 1 million people, including more than half a million children, have been impacted by the back-to-back disasters, and the death toll is close to 2000. Episcopal Relief & Development and its partners are responding immediately with direct assistance to vulnerable households in the region, as partners plan long-term recovery. Your generous gift can provide assistance to help people in the wake of these disasters. To assist in these efforts, visit episcopalrelief.org/haiti-relief.

Parish Prayer List

- People we pray for on Sundays: **Cecilia, Cynthia, Charles, Nathan, Kyle, Lilly, Joan, Betty, Sean, the people of Afghanistan and Haiti, those affected by Hurricane Ida Cecilia, Cynthia, Charles, Nathan, Kyle, Lilly, Joan, Betty, Sean, the people of Afghanistan and Haiti, those affected by Hurricane Ida**
- 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 Ministry of the Week: **St. Paul's Children's Center**
- Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: **St. Peter's Church, Springfield**
- Anglican Cycle of Prayer: **The Anglican Church of Tanzania**

For the beauty of the earth

Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1864

7. 7. 7. 7. 7. 7.
(SECOND TUNE)

DIX
Abridged from a chorale by
Conrad Kocher, 1838

Joyously



1. For the beau - ty of the earth; For the glo - ry of the skies;
2. For the won - der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
3. For the joy of ear and eye; For the heart and mind's de - light;
4. For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,



For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies:
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, Sun and moon, and stars of light:
For the mys - tic har - mo - ny Link - ing sense to sound and sight:
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove; For all gen - tle thoughts and mild:



Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.
Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.
Lord of all, to Thee we raise. This our hymn of grate - ful praise.
Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise. A - MEN.



Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee

Rev. Henry van Dyke, 1907
With exultation

8. 7. 8. 7. D.

HYMN TO JOY
Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824



1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Broth - er, All who live in love are Thine;
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joi - ce in Thee.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the Joy di - vine.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us Sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - MEN.

