

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Stockbridge, Massachusetts
October 10, 2021 – The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

The Living Word

The Letter to the Hebrews, which provides this morning's second lesson, is from an anonymous author. Scholars tell us it was most likely written some time in the last half of the first century BCE. Although classified as part of the epistles, it is really an extended sermon, but we cannot identify its original audience. The earliest scribes gave it this name because of the book's contents; all we know about the first recipients of this book is that they were part of the second generation of the church, and perhaps had begun to fall away.

Therefore the 13-chapter book provides forceful arguments for keeping the faith. This morning's passage provides strong arguments for the power of the scriptures and of prayer to connect us to God. In another time of falling away, perhaps there is a message for us too.

As we reconnect with each other and our communal faith, we are called to lean on the word of God as imparted in the scriptures, and to pray fervently for the things we need. Welcome to St Paul's, where we claim the power of faith!

Collect

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Altar flowers are given in loving memory of Anna Pilling

SAVE THE DATE!

We will join with the South Berkshire Episcopal/Lutheran Churches on Sunday, October 24, at 10:00 am to celebrate the new ministry of The Rev. Cristina Rathbone as Rector of Grace Church. Bishop Doug Fisher will celebrate and Brother Curtis Almquist will preach, as we welcome Tina and bless her work among us. For more information, see the announcement on the back page.

Music

Hymns are in the blue *Hymnal 1982*

Sequence Hymn **550** Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult

Restoration

Communion Hymn **632** O Christ, the Word Incarnate

Munich

COVID Precautions

We strongly encourage everyone over the age of 12 who attends in-person services at St. Paul's to be fully vaccinated, and be masked when attending worship in the church. These simple actions not only protect our communities by slowing the spread of the virus. Those who are not vaccinated are invited to worship with us online. (For links, visit our website, stpaulsstockbridge.org. Thank you for helping keep us all safe!

Readings

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Job said: "Today also my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy despite my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his dwelling! I would lay my case before him, and fill my mouth with arguments. I would learn what he would answer me, and understand what he would say to me. Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power? No; but he would give heed to me. There an upright person could reason with him, and I should be acquitted forever by my judge.

"If I go forward, he is not there; or backward, I cannot perceive him; on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him; I turn to the right, but I cannot see him. God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me; If only I could vanish in darkness, and thick darkness would cover my face!"

Psalm 22:1-15

- 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *
and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?
- 2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *
by night as well, but I find no rest.
- 3 Yet you are the Holy One, *
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
- 4 Our forefathers put their trust in you; *
they trusted, and you delivered them.
- 5 They cried out to you and were delivered; *
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
- 6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man, *
scorned by all and despised by the people.
- 7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; *
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
- 8 "He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him; *
let him rescue him, if he delights in him."
- 9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, *
and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.
- 10 I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.
- 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *
and there is none to help.
- 12 Many young bulls encircle me; *
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.
- 13 They open wide their jaws at me, *
like a ravening and a roaring lion.
- 14 I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; *
my heart within my breast is melting wax.
- 15 My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; *
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.

Hebrews 4:12-16

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Mark 10:17-31

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

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

Today, October 10

8:00 Celebrant/ Preacher	The Rev. Sam Smith
8:00 Reader	TBA
10:00 Celebrant	The Rev. Jane Tillman
10:00 Preacher	The Rev. Sam Smith
10:00 Usher	Carl Sprague
10:00 Reader	Martha Bodine

Next Sunday, October 17

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

Adult Ed Study of *Tattoos on the Heart* continues on Tuesday

One of the good things to come out of this past year was our three South Berkshire Episcopal/Lutheran congregations coming together for a time of study and support each week—something well worth continuing, pandemic or not! Join Pastor Erik Karas on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. via Zoom as we look at Gregory Boyle S.J.'s best selling book, *Tattoos on the Heart*. This Tuesday we will discuss chapters 2-4. Go to stpaulsstockbridge.org for link.

You are invited to the Celebration of New Ministry of the Reverend Cristina Rathbone, at 10:00 on Oct. 24 at Grace Church at Crissey Farm on State Road in Great Barrington. This is in place of our 10:00 service. The celebration will be followed by a luncheon. Please RSVP before Oct. 10 by calling the Grace Church office at 413-644-0022. Crissey Farm strongly encourages everyone over the age of 12 to be fully vaccinated or to provide the proof of a negative COVID test result dated within 72 hours of the event. As we are guests of Crissey Farm, we are obligated to abide by these regulations. If this is in any way difficult for you, please don't hesitate to reach out to Jean Chapin or Tina Rathbone at the Grace Church office.

Getting to Know You (Again)

The last year and a half has been difficult for St. Paul's and for all churches. One of our biggest losses has been the lack of contact with one another. Sunday coffee hours were a time for connecting, for finding out how our lives were going and for chatting about almost anything at all! You could hear people laughing or having serious talks about their gardens or marauding bears. We all need to know what's been happening since we were last together (without masks) so that we can still feel connected.

With this in mind, please send us news about what you've been up to since we last met. This isn't a mandatory request and it doesn't have to be beautifully written or detailed. Just tell us what's been going on or if there is anything new in your life...write a paragraph or one sentence. We all want to hear! Here are some questions to get you started: What is the biggest positive change in your life since March 2019? What keeps you occupied these days? What are you looking forward to in the future (near or far)? We hope all of you will respond with an email sent to stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com. We will put them together to share only with those who respond. Questions? Ask Father Sam.

Parish Prayer List

- People we pray for on Sundays: **Cecilia, Patrick**
- 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 Karas; 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: **St. Paul's Children's Center**
- Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: **Church of the Reconciliation, Webster**
- Anglican Cycle of Prayer: **The Church of the Province of West Africa**
- Birthdays: **Duncan Pollock** (October 10th), **Jean Rousseau** (October 11th), **Anne Skakel** (October 11th), **Tom Race** (October 13th)
- Anniversaries: **Matt & Danielle Fillio** (October 10th)