

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
**Stockbridge, Massachusetts**  
**October 17, 2021 – The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost**

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**Ask a Stupid Question...**

“There’s no such thing as a stupid question.” How often have we heard this adage? It is meant to encourage curiosity; to embolden learners to explore. But our reading from Mark’s Gospel would belie this piece of wisdom. Once again, the disciples just don’t seem to get it. And maybe we don’t, either.

Most of us live such extraordinary lives of privilege that we have no idea what it means to be a servant. And when we do get it right—when we put others first, we secretly hope that it will be noticed. How do we follow the way of a God who calls us to always be in service to others, for others (and not ourselves?) Welcome to St. Paul’s, where we wrestle with all the questions.

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**Collect**

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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**Altar flowers** are given in honor of Tom & Michele Sirois’ anniversary

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**You are invited to the Celebration of New Ministry of the Reverend Cristina Rathbone**

St. Paul’s will join with the South Berkshire Episcopal/Lutheran Churches next Sunday, October 24, at 10:00 am at Crissey Farm (426 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington) to celebrate the new ministry of The Rev. Cristina Rathbone as Rector of Grace Church. Bishop Doug Fisher will celebrate as we welcome Tina and bless her work among us; Brother Curtis Almquist of the Society of St. John the Evangelist will preach. (Please note that the 8:00 service will be held as usual at St. Paul’s that morning.)

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. 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 (413-644-0022).

<b>Music</b>	Hymns are in the blue <i>Hymnal 1982</i>		
Sequence Hymn	<b>602</b>	Jesu, Jesu	<i>Chereponi</i>
Communion Hymn	<b>707</b>	Take my life, and let it be	<i>Hollingside</i>

**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](http://stpaulsstockbridge.org). Thank you for helping keep us all safe!

## Readings

### Job 38:1-7, 34-41

The LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

“Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, so that a flood of waters may cover you? Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go and say to you, ‘Here we are’? Who has put wisdom in the inward parts, or given understanding to the mind? Who has the wisdom to number the clouds? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, when the dust runs into a mass and the clods cling together?

“Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, when they crouch in their dens, or lie in wait in their covert? Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?”

### Psalm 22:1-15

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul; \*  
O LORD my God, how excellent is your greatness! you are clothed with majesty and splendor.
- 2 You wrap yourself with light as with a cloak \*  
and spread out the heavens like a curtain.
- 3 You lay the beams of your chambers in the waters above; \*  
you make the clouds your chariot; you ride on the wings of the wind.
- 4 You make the winds your messengers \*  
and flames of fire your servants.
- 5 You have set the earth upon its foundations, \*  
so that it never shall move at any time.
- 6 You covered it with the Deep as with a mantle; \*  
the waters stood higher than the mountains.
- 7 At your rebuke they fled; \*  
at the voice of your thunder they hastened away.
- 8 They went up into the hills and down to the valleys beneath, \*  
to the places you had appointed for them.
- 9 You set the limits that they should not pass; \*  
they shall not again cover the earth.
- 25 O LORD, how manifold are your works! \*  
in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.
- 37b Hallelujah!

## Hebrews 5:1-10

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

## Mark 10:35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

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

### Today, October 17

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

### Next Sunday, October 24

8:00 Celebrant/ Preacher	The Rev. Sam Smith
8:00 Reader	Don Temples
10:00 Celebration of New Ministry at Grace Church, Crissey Farm	

### **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 5-7. Go to [stpaulsstockbridge.org](http://stpaulsstockbridge.org) for link.

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### **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](mailto:stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com). We will put them together to share only with those who respond. Questions? Ask Father Sam.

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### **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 Church, 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 Ministry of the Week: **Cathedral of the Beloved**
- Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: **Good Shepherd Episcopal/Grace Lutheran Church, West Springfield**
- Anglican Cycle of Prayer: **The Church of the Province of the West Indies**
- Birthdays: **Faith Savery** (October 17<sup>th</sup>)
- Anniversaries: **Robin & Tom Race** (October 20<sup>th</sup>)