

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Stockbridge, Massachusetts
January 16, 2022 – The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Grappling with Miracles

Today's reading from the gospel of John tells the story of the wedding at Cana, the sight of Jesus' first miracle. Miracles are, by their very nature, mysterious. The dictionary defines a miracle as, "a surprising and welcome event that is not explicable by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency." In John's gospel, miracles are used as literary signposts—they point to God in crucial moments in the story.

This miracle marks the beginning of Jesus' three-year public ministry. It comes in the middle of a joyful gathering, where Jesus turns water into wine. At the end of his time on earth, we will find Jesus at another gathering, where he will turn wine into his blood. Interestingly, John does not include that institution of the Eucharist in his telling of Jesus' story; perhaps this miracle is his moment of institution. (Note that the passage begins, "On the third day...")

Or maybe not. One of the challenges inherent in theology—the study of God—is that we can never be sure. but we can rest easy in the fact that God is both of this world and beyond it; God is with us, and yet is also before and after us, and capable of anything. Welcome to St. Paul's, where we grapple with God—and praise the Almighty for all of the miracles of life.

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

10:00 Service Music Hymns are in the blue *Hymnal 1982*, except for the Closing hymn, which is found in the red and black *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* hymnal.

Prelude		<i>Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern</i>	Paul Manz
Opening Hymn	497	How bright appears the Morning Star	<i>Wie schön leuchtet</i>
Sequence Hymn	126	The people who in darkness walked	<i>Dundee</i>
Offertory Hymn	538	God of mercy, God of grace	<i>Lucerna Laudoniae</i>
Communion Voluntary		<i>Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern</i>	Johann Christoph Bach
Closing Hymn	L1	Lift ev'ry voice and sing	<i>Lift Every Voice</i>
Postlude		<i>Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies</i>	Charles Callahan

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

Today, January 16

Celebrant The Rev. Jane Tillman
 Preacher The Rev. Sam Smith
 8:00 Reader Rob Maloney
 10:00 Usher/
 Greeter Ryleigh Fillio
 10:00 Reader Don Temples

Next Sunday, January 23

Celebrant The Rev. Sam Smith
 Preacher The Rev. Jane Tillman
 8:00 Reader Darryl Lafferty
 10:00 Usher/
 Greeter Peter Dillon
 10:00 Reader Vaunie Grauly

Readings

Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Psalm 36:5-10

- 5 Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, *
and your faithfulness to the clouds.
- 6 Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
your justice like the great deep; *
you save both man and beast, O LORD.
- 7 How priceless is your love, O God! *
your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.
- 8 They feast upon the abundance of your house; *
you give them drink from the river of your delights.
- 9 For with you is the well of life, *
and in your light we see light.
- 10 Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, *
and your favor to those who are true of heart.

I Corinthians 12:1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

COVID Precautions

We strongly encourage everyone over the age of 5 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!

Parish Prayer List

- People we pray for on Sundays: **Cecilia, Lori, Nick, Ronnie**
 - Prayer for the repose of the souls of **Danielle Mashtare; Archbishop Desmond Tutu**
 - Long-term prayer list: **Piers, Katrina, Rich, Karen, Michael, Tom, Khali, George, Doug, George, David, Barbara, Christy, John**
 - 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: **St. John's, Ashfield**
 - Anglican Cycle of Prayer: **The Church of England**
 - Birthdays: **John Davies** (Jan. 19th)
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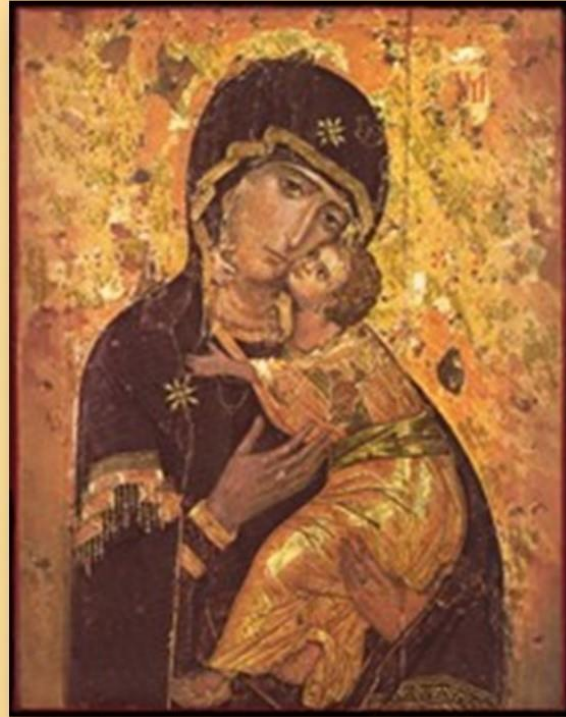
Altar Flowers

If you would like to honor or remember a loved one by providing altar flowers, the following Sundays are available: **Feb. 6; June 5; Aug. 7; Sept 25; Dec.4.**

To sign up, please email stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com 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). Jean will be contacting those who have taken other dates in past years to see if they would like to continue the same floral tribute in 2022.

Community in Faith

(Adult Education among our 3 churches) **reconvenes this week!**



Praying with Icons— A Winter Exploration

Though beautiful, icons are not simply works of art. We are invited not to look at them, so much as to look *through* them to the truth they seek to reveal. Icons, in other words, are created to be prayed with. Join us this Winter to learn about – and enter into – this ancient, contemplative practice.

The former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams' simple – and revelatory – book: *Ponder These Things* will form the back-bone of our class, though other texts and images will also be featured. It is not necessary to have a copy of the book at home (and it is out of print, so very expensive, except over kindle).

The course will be led by The Rev. Tina Rathbone and is open to everyone and anyone who would like to join us. We will gather on zoom over four Tuesday evenings starting January the 18th at 7PM. Find the zoom link to join us below.

Come!

The Zoom link can be found in this week's E-pistle and on our website.