

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
March 13, 2022 The Second Sunday in Lent
The Rev. Libby Wade, guest preacher

Stockbridge, Massachusetts

It is with great pleasure that the Wardens and Vestry of St. Paul's announce the appointment of our Interim Priest, the Reverend Elizabeth (Libby) Wade, beginning on July 1, 2022.

St. Paul's is very lucky to engage with Libby as we go through the transition of finding a new rector for St. Paul's. She has extensive experience in Interim/Transitional Ministry. Shortly after moving from Kentucky, where she had served as priest in several congregations, Libby served as St. Paul's Priest-in-Charge from January to July 2015. Since 2015, she has served as Interim in several other congregations of this diocese: St. John's in Williamstown, Southwick Community Episcopal Church, and Grace Church in Great Barrington. She also brings a wealth of knowledge and experience gained prior to ordination as a college instructor, social work case manager, mental health crisis line coordinator, preschool director, children's minister, and church musician.

As we go through this period of transition, we welcome Libby to walk this journey with us as we prepare for the next stage of our life together as St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Collect

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

10:00 Service Music	Hymns are in the blue <i>Hymnal 1982</i>		
Prelude		<i>Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist</i>	Dietrich Buxtehude
Opening Hymn	598	Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to earth	<i>Mit Freuden zart</i>
Sequence Hymn	456	O Love of God, how strong and true	<i>Dunedin</i>
Offertory Hymn	152	Kind Maker of the world, O hear	<i>A la venue de Noël</i>
Communion Voluntary		<i>Elevation</i>	Alexandre Guilmant
Closing Hymn	675	Take up your cross, the Savior said	<i>Bourbon</i>
Postlude		<i>Ellacombe</i>	Robert J. Powell

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

Sunday, March 13

Celebrant The Rev. Jane Tillman
Preacher The Rev. Libby Wade
8:00 Reader Fred Clark
10:00 Usher/Greeter Carl Sprague
10:00 Reader Diana French

Sunday, March 20

Celebrant/
Preacher The Rev. Jane Tillman
8:00 Reader Rob Maloney
10:00 Usher/Greeter Jean Rousseau
10:00 Reader Jean Rousseau

Readings

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Psalm 27

- 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? *
the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
- 2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, *
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.
- 3 Though an army should encamp against me, *
yet my heart shall not be afraid;
- 4 And though war should rise up against me, *
yet will I put my trust in him.
- 5 One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek; *
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
- 6 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD *
and to seek him in his temple.
- 7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; *
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.
- 8 Even now he lifts up my head *
above my enemies round about me.
- 9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; *
I will sing and make music to the LORD.
- 10 Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; *
have mercy on me and answer me.
- 11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
Your face, LORD, will I seek.
- 12 Hide not your face from me, *
nor turn away your servant in displeasure.
- 13 You have been my helper; cast me not away; *
do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

- 14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, *
the Lord will sustain me.
- 15 Show me your way, O LORD; *
lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
- 16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, *
for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.
- 17 What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the LORD *
in the land of the living!
- 18 O tarry and await the LORD's pleasure; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; *
wait patiently for the LORD.

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Luke 13:31-35

Some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

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: **Patty, Cindy, Sarah, Erik, Tina**
 - Long-term prayer list: **Piers, Katrina, Rich, Karen, Michael, Tom, Khali, George, Doug, George, David, Barbara, Christy, John, Peter & Darryl, Jim, Florence**
 - Pray for the repose of the soul of **Robert Stucker**, father of Virgil Stucker
 - 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: **St. Paul's Children's Center**
 - Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: **Grace Church, Great Barrington**
 - Anglican Cycle of Prayer: **The Anglican Church of Melanesia**
 - Birthdays: **Emma Skakel** (March 13th)
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March 9 – April 6

COMMUNITY IN FAITH

via Zoom

7:00pm

There will be a Wednesday evening Lenten series offered in collaboration with Hevreh, St. Paul's Church, Christ Trinity Church, and Grace Church.

The Rev. Erik Karas and Rabbi Neil Hirsch will lead the book exploration from March 9th through April 6th.

**The Bible With and Without Jesus:
How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently**
by Amy-Jill Levine

We will examine why Jews and Christians read many of the same Biblical texts – including passages from the Pentateuch, the Prophets, and the Psalms – differently. Exploring and explaining these diverse perspectives, they reveal more clearly Scripture's beauty and power. It is not necessary to purchase the book. The link will be on our website.

SAVE THE DATE:

April 24, 2021

St. Paul's will be celebrating Father Sam and Don on this day. There will be one service at 10:00 a.m. followed by a party in their honor. The details for the party will be announced shortly.