MINISTRY OF THE WORD

We begin in a time of silence. The Choir then sings an opening hymn.

Opening Hymn (Choir) “O Son of justice, Jesus Christ” Text: 6th century Latin hymn, translation: Peter J. Scagnelli (1949-2017); music: Plainsong, mode 1

Opening Acclamation
Celebrant: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.
Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;
People: God’s mercy endures forever.

Kyrie

#202 Gather Comprehensive 2
Collect of the Day

_Celebrant:_ The Lord be with you.

_People:_ And also with you.

_Celebrant:_ Let us pray.

_Celebrant:_ Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-12

_Reader:_ A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

_Reader:_ The Word of the Lord.

_People:_ Thanks be to God.
From the Psalms: Psalm 103:8-14

8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
   slow to anger and of great kindness.
9 He will not always accuse us, *
   nor will he keep his anger for ever.
10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
   nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
   so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
12 As far as the east is from the west, *
   so far has he removed our sins from us.
13 As a father cares for his children, *
   so does the LORD care for those who fear him.
14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
   he remembers that we are but dust.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

Reader: A Reading from Paul’s Second Letter to the Church in Corinth.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.
All stand.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”


People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel Lenten Acclamation (see above)
Invitation to a holy Lent

All stand

Celebrant: Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Psalm: 51 (Congregation response in bold)

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
   and cleanse me from my sin.
3 For I know my transgressions, *
   and my sin is ever before me.
4 Against you only have I sinned *
   and done what is evil in your sight.
5 And so you are justified when you speak *
   and upright in your judgment.
6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
   a sinner from my mother’s womb.
7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
   and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
   wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
   that the body you have broken may rejoice.
10 Hide your face from my sins *
   and blot out all my iniquities.
11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
   and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.
Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Litany of Penitence
Celebrant & People, kneeling or sitting
Most holy and merciful Father:
We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed;
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

The Celebrant continues
Celebrant: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.
People: Have mercy on us, Lord.
Celebrant: We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
People: Have mercy on us, Lord.
Celebrant: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,
People: We confess to you, Lord.
Celebrant: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
People: We confess to you, Lord.
Celebrant: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
People: We confess to you, Lord.
Celebrant: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
People: We confess to you, Lord.
Celebrant: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
People: We confess to you, Lord.
Celebrant: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
People: Accept our repentance, Lord.
Celebrant: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
People: Accept our repentance, Lord.
Celebrant: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
People: Accept our repentance, Lord.
Celebrant: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
People: Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.
Celebrant: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
People: That we may show forth your glory in the world.
Celebrant: By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
People: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Blessing and Imposition of Ashes
Celebrant says the following prayer
Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Bless these ashes, that they may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Clergy: Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.

The Celebrant continues
Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel. Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace
Celebrant: The peace of Christ be with you always.
People: And also with you.

All share signs of Christ’s peace with one another, especially seeking to amend any hurts or conflicts.
MINISTRY OF THE TABLE

The offering is taken and the altar is set for the Eucharist as the offertory hymn is sung. Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his name, bring offerings and come into his courts.

Offertory Hymn: “Lord Jesus, think on me”

Eucharistic Prayer: Form A

Celebrant

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Celebrant

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give God thanks and praise.
The Celebrant proceeds with the Preface of the Eucharistic Prayer

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus “Holy, holy, holy Lord”

\[\text{Cantor, then all:}\]
\[\text{Heav’n and earth are full of your glory.}\]
\[\text{Cantor:}\]
\[\text{Ho-san-na in the high-est, in the high-est.}\]
\[\text{All:}\]
\[\text{Ho-san-na in the high-est, in the high-est.}\]

\[\text{Cantor:}\]
\[\text{Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.}\]
\[\text{Cantor, then all:}\]
\[\text{Last time}\]
\[\text{Ho-san-na in the high-est, in the high-est.}\]
The people stand or kneel.
The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son.

The Celebrant sings the Doxology, to which all respond with the “Great Amen.”
The Celebrant then continues
Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

People and Celebrant
Our Father, who art in heaven,
    hallowed be thy Name,
    thy kingdom come,
    thy will be done,
    on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
    as we forgive those
    who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
    but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
    and the power, and the glory,
    for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread
A period of silence is kept.
Celebrant: Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world
People: Have mercy upon us
Celebrant: Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world
People: Have mercy upon us
Celebrant: Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world
People: Grant us your peace

Prayer of Spiritual Communion
Celebrant: As we are not all gathered to receive the sacrament together, we pray this prayer of spiritual communion:
All: Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.
(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)
Post Communion Hymn “Now let us all with one accord”

1 Now let us all with one accord, in company with ages past, keep vigil with our heavenly Lord in his temptation and his fast.
2 The covenant, so long revealed to ample sealed, the Lord of love, in love sublime.
3 Your love, O Lord, our sinful race has not returned, but falsified; author of mercy, turn your face and grant repentance for our pride.
4 Remember, Lord, though frail we be, in your own image were we made; help us, lest in anxiety, we i - e - ty, we cause your Name to be betrayed.
5 Therefore, we pray you, Lord, forgive; so when our wanderings here shall cease, we may with you for ever live, in love and unity and peace.

After communion the Celebrant continues:
Let us pray.

Celebrant & People
Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

The celebrant pronounces a blessing, after which all respond
Amen.
Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
Closing Hymn: “Eternal Lord of Love, behold your Church”  #149 The Hymnal 1982

Unison or harmony

1 Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church
2 So daily dying to the way of self,
3 If dead in you, so in you we arise,

walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,
so daily living to your way of love,
you the first-born of all the faithful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,
and as through stony ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your presence bent:
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:
glorious in spring-time dress of leaf and flower,

far off yet here—the goal of all desire.
so we are dead and live with you in God.
so in the Father’s glory shall we wake.
**Choir:** Richard Blumenscheid, Elaine Bucher, Joyce Cejka, Virginia Meyer, Jane Niebling

**Today’s Service Leaders**

**Clergy:** The Rev. Dr. Jarred A. Mercer  
**Music Director:** Mark Meyer  
**Lay Eucharistic Minister:** Bev Brennan  
**Lector:** Virginia Meyer

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**Prayer List**

*Person to Pray for and Relationship*

Allison Flynn – Niece of Sue Olson & Nancy Jukins  
Eve Steinberg – Friend of Sue Olson & Nancy Jukins  
Judy Abby – Parishioner  
Debby Demopoulos – Sister of Pat Maslen  
Marya Toffey – Niece of Ann Winslow  
Keetah Life – Parishioner  
Stephen Mathis – Friend of Priscilla Bellairs  
Talia Duff—Niece of Lorrie and Jeff Jones  
Stephen Jones—Nephew of Lorrie and Jeff Jones  
Betty Moberger – Sister-in-law of Ingrid Sanborn  
Marilyn Diehl – Friend of Ingrid Sanborn  
Jill Davila – Niece of Carole Bishop
Tony Broer - Brother of Carole Bishop
Joanne Norris – Friend of Sheila & Jack Butler
Karen – Friend of the Budzyna family
Theresa Winslow – Mother of Ed Winslow
Olin Braids – Brother of Priscilla Bellairs
Karen & Richard Greene – Family of Wendy Colby
Betty Trowbridge – Friend of Donna Northam
Marie Buckman – Mother of Linda Davis Siess
Lois Schofield – Parishioner
Mary Snowdon – Parishioner
Ken Leistler – Friend of Susan Flint
David Sanborn – Brother of Wayne Sanborn
Laura Hobbs – Friend of Susan Flint
Jeanne Rainoldi – Friend of Ann Staffeld
Vikas Chandhoke – Friend of Alison & Peter Novello
Richelle Stephens – Friend of Susan Flint
Paul Lucas – Parishioner
John Coliano – Friend of Cathleen Williamson
Ann Davis – Friend of Cathleen Williamson
Donna & Bob Northam – Parishioners
Larry Blondin – Parishioner
Bethany Albritton – Grandniece of Judy Jester
Kristin Corning – Parishioner
Ron Trieff – Husband of Sheila Trieff
Nancy Burkholder – Sister-in-law of Pat Maslen
Jori Guldenstern
Susan Smith – Sister of Anne Tuthill
Donald Peck – Brother of Doug Peck
Rev. Connie Reinhardt – Friend of St. Paul’s Church
Alan White – Friend of Susan Flint
Tim Coco – Friend of Susan Flint
Barbara Barnes – Cousin of Joyce Thayer
Jessica, Owen & Family – Friends of Gail Bishop-Davis
Alexander Schumann – Cousin of John Neale
Corey – Friend of Alison & Peter Novello
Kathy Steele – Friend of Ed Winslow
Richard Ellis - Friend of Pat Maslen
Karen Staffeld – Niece of Ann Staffeld
George Partaledis – Friend of Joyce Thayer
Mike Dichiara Jr. – Friend of Susan Flint
Statement of Call - St. Paul's Church

St. Paul's is a Christian community where people are met and accepted without judgment for who they are and are adopted into a loving and caring family. Our faith provides a framework within which we explore, honor and celebrate the presence of God in daily experiences, especially in the crises, conflicts and transitions of life, and are thereby equipped to live fully in an increasingly complex and changing world.

We believe we are called to center our life in Jesus Christ through a regular discipline of Eucharistic worship, scripture study and prayer.

We believe our faith leads us to fulfill our mission, which is to share ourselves and our resources with each other, our community and the world.

We believe we are called to discover and affirm our spiritual gifts and be responsible and committed ministers of these gifts in the name of Jesus Christ.
St. Paul’s 2020 Vestry
Bronson de Stadler – Senior Warden
Ed Winslow – Junior Warden
Stu Tuthill – Treasurer
Clare Keller – Clerk

Shepherds
Class of 2023
Kerry Lagueux
John Neale
Alison Novello
Class of 2022
Vanessa Ayersman
Jane Niebling
Sam Walker
Class of 2021
Jenn Mansfield
Michelle Rogers

St. Paul’s is a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts
Our Bishops are:
The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates
The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris

St. Paul’s Staff
The Rev. Dr. Jarred A. Mercer, Rector – rector@stpauls-nbpt.org
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Monday – Wednesday 8am – 4pm
Thursday – Friday 8am – 2pm