# The Episcopal Parish of Saint Paul Newton Highlands, Massachusetts

# The Fourth Sunday of Easter

## Holy Eucharist

May 11, 2025 at 10:00am



From wherever you have come, with whatever you bring, you are welcome here.

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR C) Holy Eucharist with Joyful Noise

Prelude *Musicians* 

From wherever you have come, with whatever you bring, you are welcome here.

## Gathering Rites / Book of Common Prayer p. 355

## Gathering Hymn

Please rise as you are comfortable.

The Hymnal 1982, #192 - This Joyful Eastertide





Section: Easter Title: This joyful Eastertide Meter: 67. 67 with Refrain Words: George R. Woodward (1848-1934), alt. Music: *Vruechten*, melody from *Psalmen*, 1685; harm. Charles Wood (1866-1926) Copyright: Words: By permission of A.R. Mowbray and Co Ltd. From The Cowley Carol Book by G.R. Woodward and C. Wood.

## Opening Acclamation

Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen!

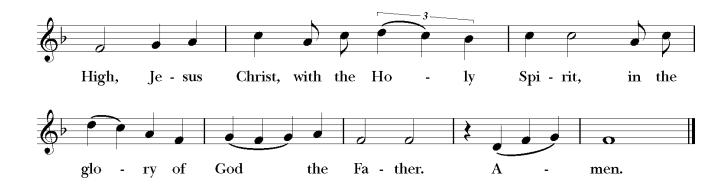
People Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

## The Collect for Purity

Presider

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Savior. Amen.





## Collect of the Day

O God, whose Child Jesus is the good shepherd of your people; Grant that when we hear Christ's voice we may know the Holy One who calls us each by name, and follow where Christ leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Together let us pray.

#### THE WORD OF GOD

Please be seated

The First Reading

The Acts of the Apostles 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the

body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Savior. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm Psalm 23

Said responsively by whole verse

You, O Holy One, are my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

You make me lie down in green pastures and lead me beside still waters.

You revive my soul and guide me along right pathways for the sake of your Name.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of God for ever.

The Psalm is from the St. Helena Psalter, used by permission.

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to the elder, "You are the one that knows." Then the elder said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship God day and night within God's holy temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

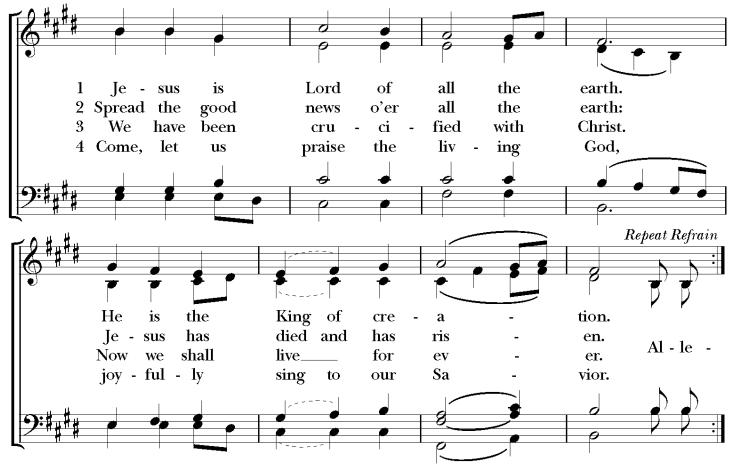
Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.People Thanks be to God.

## Sequence Hymn

Please rise as you are comfortable.

Hymnal 1982, #178 - Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord





The descant may be sung after stanzas 3 and 4.

Section: Easter Title: Jesus is Lord of all the earth Meter: 887. 85 Words: Donald Fishel (b. 1950) Music: Alleluia No. 1, Donald Fishel (b. 1950); arr. Betty Pulkingham (b. 1928), Charles Mallory (b. 1950) and George Mims (b. 1938) Copyright: Words: © 1973, The Word of God. All Rights Reserved. P.O. Box 8617, Ann Arbor, MI 48107. Music: Melody © 1973, The Word of God. All Rights Reserved. P.O. Box 8617, Ann Arbor, MI 48107.

## The Gospel

John 10:22-30

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.
People Glory to you, O Christ.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in our God's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I

know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my God has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of God's hand. The Holy One, our God, and I are one."

Priest The Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to you, O Christ.

#### Sermon

Priest-in-Charge

A few moments of silence will be kept

## Statement of Faith

Intercessor: Please rise as you are comfortable as we proclaim our Statement of Faith.

## We believe in God,

whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all, and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom.

Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, we put our trust in God; and in the name of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves, in the service of others, to seek justice, and to live in peace; to care for the earth, and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness; to live in the freedom of forgiveness, and the power of the Spirit of love.

And in the company of the faithful we will be the church,

## a community of flawed and forgiving disciples, for the glory of God alone. Amen.

Statement of Faith adapted from the Iona Abbey Worship Book, © 2001, The Iona Community.

## Prayers of the People

Almighty One, you have filled your Church with new life and empowered us through the conquering love of Jesus: Raise us with your Spirit that we may live in the power of Christ's resurrection to bring life and light to all the world. Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The right hand of the Most High has triumphed over evil and death, bringing new hope to all the world: Speak your living truth unto everyone who leads and holds authority among the nations, that they may be agents of life and justice. We pray especially for all those working in our world to bring a quick end to violence and suffering. Either silently or aloud, for whom do we pray this day? (The people may add their own petitions.) Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Apostle Peter has taught us, O God, that you show no partiality but accept all who live reverently and do right: Let your peace extend to every person, that the power of evil and injustice may be banished, and all people may live as beloved children of the divine. Either silently or aloud, for whom do we pray this day? (The people may add their own petitions.) Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Be with us in this community of the Parish of St. Paul. And be with our diocesan bishop, Julia, our presiding bishop, Sean, and all ordained and lay ministers. Be with those in our diocesan family for whom we pray

today: Church of the Good Shepherd, Acton, St. Andrew's Church, Ayer, Trinity Church, Concord, St. Andrew's Church, Framingham, and the Margaret Coffin Prayer Book Society. May we all be glad witnesses of your goodness, O Holy One. Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Let Christ's resurrection power bring healing and hope to those for whom we pray, especially Amal and her family, Jim Nolan, Paul Friedman and Bernice Cramer and their family, Gary and Barry Koger, Robert Koger and Joyce Connolly, Charles and Mary Lou Montgomery, Kristin, Deb, David Murphy, David Tabors, the family of Mangok Bol and Thon, Magot, Ajoe, and Majuei Mach, John McDargh, and Jacob and Leslie Cathers; and the Global Village Children's Project, the Centre Street Food Pantry, AA, and NewCity Church. Either silently or aloud, for whom else do we pray this day? (The people may add their own petitions.) Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Hear our prayers of grateful gladness this Easter Season as we give thanks for the blessings in our lives. Either silently or aloud, for whom and what do we give thanks this day? (The people may add their own thanksgivings.) Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Remember in the light of the resurrection those who have died. Either silently or aloud, whom do we remember by name this day? (The people may add their own names.) Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Prayer for the Social Order (BCP p. 823)

Intercessor Together let us pray.

All

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence

Presider offers a collect.

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

All And also with you.

The congregation is invited to exchange signs of peace.

#### THE HOLY COMMUNION

## Offertory Sentence

The Presider offers instructions for receiving communion, and bids the offertory sentence.

## Offertory Anthem

Choir

The Doxology - Old Hundredth

Please rise as you are comfortable.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow Praise God all creatures here below Praise God above all life and death Creator, Christ, and Holy Breath. Amen. You are invited to rise, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable.

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer B

Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up to God.

Presider Let us give thanks to God.

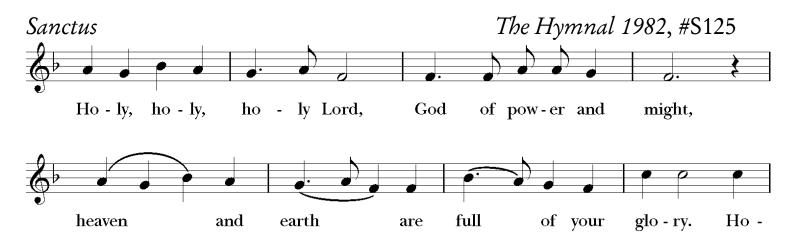
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

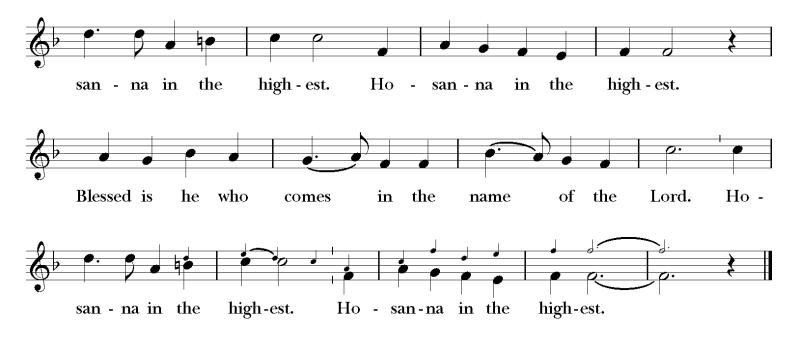
#### Presider

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

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Child Jesus Christ our Savior; who is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. Christ has destroyed death through death, and through rising to life again, Christ has won everlasting life.

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:





The Presider continues – you are invited to rise, sit, or kneel as you are comfortable. We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all, in Jesus, your Word and Wisdom made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Jesus, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Jesus, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before Jesus died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O God of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and the Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in Christ's sacrifice, through whom may we all be acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [\_\_\_\_\_and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters, children all; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

All AMEN.

## The Lord's Prayer

You are invited to say whatever version of the Lord's Prayer is meaningful for you today

Presider

As our savior Christ has taught us, we now pray

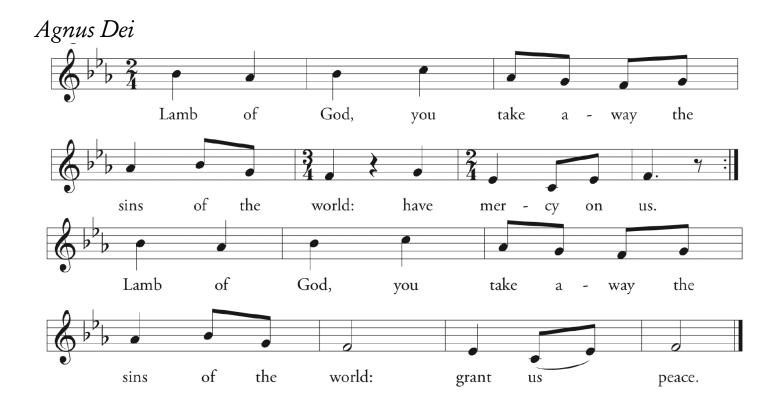
Our God in heaven, hallowed be your Name,

your kindom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kindom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

## The Breaking of the Bread

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia



#### Presider

These are the Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived and loved, died, and rose for you, and feed on Christ in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## Communion

#### Jesus says, "Come and see."

You are welcome at this Table, exactly as you are, because of who you are. If you feel called to the Table, please come forward to receive Communion.

At this time, the Parish of St. Paul offers a common cup as well as individual cups for receiving the consecrated wine. Please either take an individual cup (found on a front pew on the right as you approach the altar for communion) or indicate to the Lay Eucharistic Minister that you would like to receive from the common cup. If you do not wish to receive the consecrated wine, please know that receiving the consecrated bread alone constitutes a full Communion.

If you do not desire Communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing – please cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you desire a blessing.

## Prayer of Spiritual Communion

(The following prayer of Spiritual Communion is said privately and is intended for individuals participating remotely, and for individuals who may not wish to receive Communion or a blessing.)

In union, O God, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. And since I cannot receive you today in the sacrament of bread and wine, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

## Postcommunion Hymn

You are invited to stand, sit, or kneel as you are comfortable.

Hymnal 1982, #645 - The King of Love My Shepherd Is



Section: The Christian Life Title: The King of love my shepherd is Meter: 87. 87 Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877); para. Psalm 23 Music: St. Columba, Irish melody, harm. Hymnal 1982

## Postcommunion Prayer

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable.

## People and Presider

God of abundance,

you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of compassion.

You have united us with Christ,

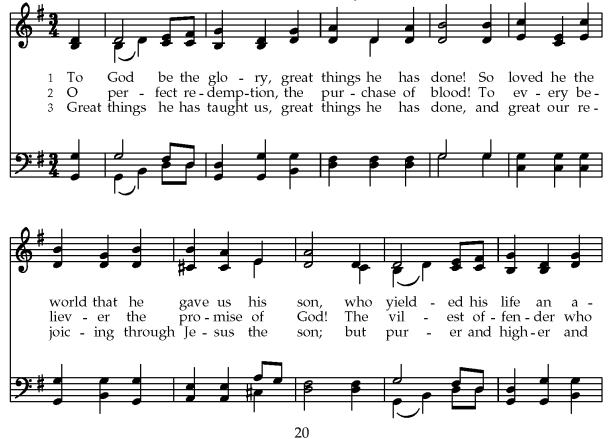
and you have made us one with all peoples and creatures in heaven and on earth.

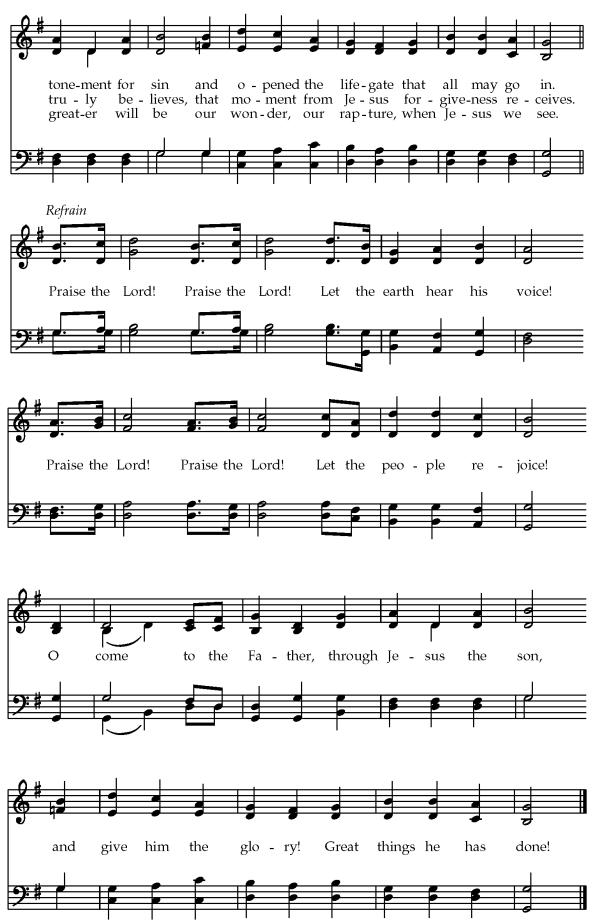
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that our lives may give birth to your love in the world, and that we may continue to make our home in your life. Amen.

## Blessing

## Processional Hymn

*Voices Found*, #108 – To God Be the Glory





#### Announcements

## Dismissal

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable.

Presider Our worship has ended, let our service begin. Go in peace to

love and serve God and God's people. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia!



#### **TODAY'S LITURGY**

#### **Participants**

The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney - Priest-in-Charge

Brenda Carter - Keyboardist

Kathryn Anderson - Lector of First Reading and Leader of Psalm

Margaret Hummel - Lector of Second Reading

Mary Lou Pierron - Intercessor and Lay Eucharistic Minister

Margaret Hummel and Amy Trueblood - Altar Guild

Kim Koger - Usher/Attendance

Kathryn Anderson and David Montgomery - Counters

Will Holz - Tech

#### Front Cover Art

Gill, Eric, 1882-1940. Agnus Dei, The Lamb of God, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58989 [retrieved April 23, 2025]. Original source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/netnicholls/21373791783/.

#### **PRAYERS**

## In Our Diocesan Cycle Of Prayer:

For the Episcopal Church; for Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop, and Julia Whitworth, our Diocesan Bishop; and for the following churches of the Concord River Deanery: Church of the Good Shepherd, Acton, St. Andrew's Church, Ayer, Trinity Church, Concord, St. Andrew's Church, Framingham, and for the Margaret Coffin Prayer Book Society.

## Parish Prayer List - Prayers are Requested for:

Amal and her family, Jim Nolan, Paul Friedman and Bernice Cramer and their family, Gary and Barry Koger, Robert Koger and Joyce Connolly, Charles and Mary Lou Montgomery, Kristin, Deb, David Murphy, David Tabors, the family of Mangok Bol and Thon, Magot, Ajoe, and Majuei Mach, John McDargh, and Jacob and Leslie Cathers; and for the Global Village Children's Project, the Centre Street Food Pantry, AA, and NewCity Church.

(To add a name to the prayer list, please contact Lise at <a href="mailto:office@parishofstpaul.org">office@parishofstpaul.org</a> or Rev. Meghan, or use the QR code here.)

#### **SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Happy Birthday Lee Hatfield (May 12)!

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Walkathon for the Global Village Children's Project on May 17
Save the date! GVCP's first ever Walkathon Fundraiser to raise school tuition costs for the Global Village Children's Project will be held on Saturday, May 17th. More information soon! Watch for details in your email inbox. Questions and to be added to the GVCP email list? Please connect with Chris Gruener.

Save the Date! Newton Highlands Village Day on Sunday, June 8 A festive day for POSP! It is Pentecost -- please wear red! First, join with our Village friends at the Newton Highlands Congregational Church on Sunday, June 8, at 10am for shared worship. Rev. Meghan will preach. Second, POSP will have some kind of presence (lemonade? cookies? prayer ribbons?) on our lawn after the shared worship service.

Let us join together to share the good news of our congregations and our parish!

# Queerly Beloved - Saturday, June 14 at 10:30am, gathering near Copley Square

ALL are welcome to participate!!! DioMass will be marching *en masse* in this year's Boston's "Pride for the People" parade. If you would like to participate, please sign up by June 1! There will be t-shirts! And bubbles. And maybe hats! And a POSP banner! Sign up here by June 1 or let Rev. Meghan know.



### Centre Street Food Pantry - Thank You!

We collected \$940 through our Lenten collection for the Centre Street Food Pantry. Thank you for your generosity and support of the pantry.

#### Vestry Mutual Ministry Review

On March 8, your vestry and priest-in-charge gathered on Zoom to undertake a mutual ministry review, facilitated by the Rev. Canon Greg Perez, with the purpose of checking in about the past few months since Rev. Meghan arrived, and, very significantly, to articulate short and long-term goals for the parish. At its Vestry meeting on March 19, the vestry began to discuss the MMR conversation and began to think about short and long term goals. To access the notes from the MMR, please use the following QR code (hard copies of the notes are also available on the table by the baptismal font). The vestry will continue discussing the MMR at its monthly meetings (approved minutes of which are found on the bulletin board in parish hall). If you have thoughts, ideas, etc., please be in contact with Rev. Meghan or a vestry member.

#### **Pastoral Care**

If you desire pastoral care for a particular need, please be in contact with Rev. Meghan. It could be as simple as a private prayer request emailed to her, or an inperson conversation about something of concern.

#### Receive the Parish Newsletter!

The newsletter is sent about once per week (occasionally more often if there is a pressing notice, for example, of snow cancellation, etc.). The newsletter contains reflections from parishioners, and *lots* of information and announcements about our diocese, the greater church, and other goings-on in and around town and in the world, that are not printed in this bulletin.

Scan to access this week's newsletter



Scan to sign up to receive the newsletter



#### Can Redemption Volunteers

Volunteers sought to assist with can redemption for the Plenty ministry. Please connect with Christopher Gruener or speak with Rev. Meghan if you can assist.



#### Staff and Office Hours

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney – meghan@parishofstpaul.org. Office Hours: In-Person, usually on Wednesday, 9am -1pm and by appointment (please email Rev. Meghan directly if you would like to make an appointment).

Parish Administrator: Lise Brody – <u>office@parishofstpaul.org</u>. Office Hours (may vary): Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-1pm (Office will be closed May 6

#### Vestry

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to be in touch with your vestry. The next Vestry Meeting happens on Wednesday, May 21.

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney
Co-Warden: Kim Koger, mkskoger5@gmail.com
Co-Warden: David Montgomery, dmontgomery@montlegal.com
Treasurer: Richard Pearce, Richard@northinfo.com
Clerk: Bernice Cramer, bernicecramer@gmail.com
Kathryn Anderson, kmanderson.english@gmail.com
Chris Gruener, crossroadscounseling101@gmail.com
Lee Hatfield, leebateshatfield@verizon.net
Dustin Ledgard, ledgarddustin@gmail.com

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