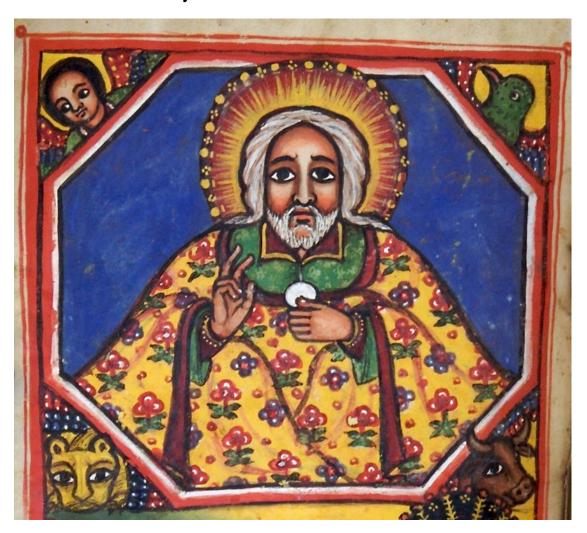
The Episcopal Parish of Saint Paul Newton Highlands, Massachusetts

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist

May 18, 2025 at 10:00am



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

THE FIFTH 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.

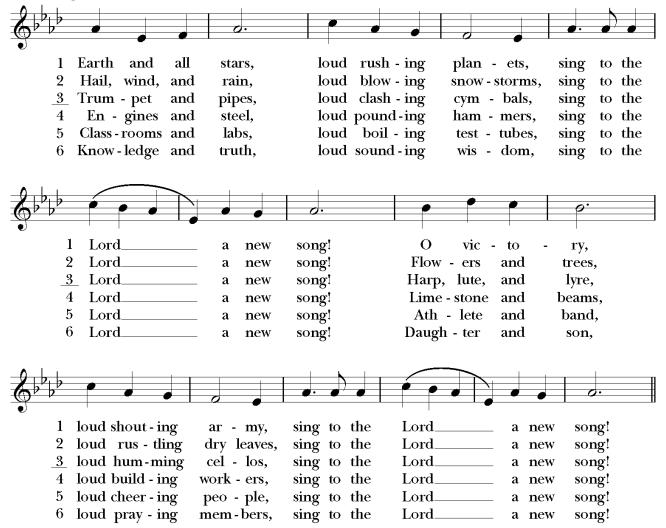
Gathering Rites / Book of Common Prayer p. 355

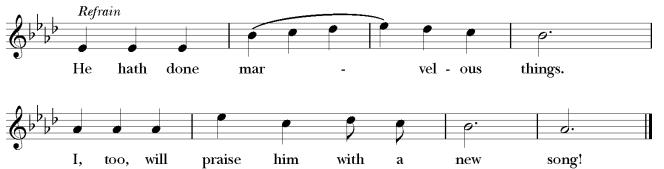
Gathering Hymn

Please rise as you are comfortable.

The Hymnal 1982, #412 - Earth and All Stars

We will sing verses 1-3 and 6





Section: Praise to God Title: Earth and all stars Meter: 45. 7. D with Refrain Words: Herbert F. Brokering (b. 1926) Music: Earth and All Stars, David N. Johnson (1922-1987) Copyright: Words: Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Music: Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.

Opening Acclamation

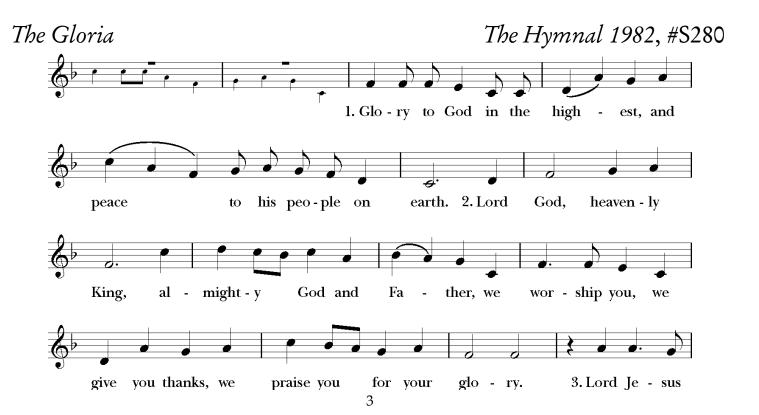
Presider Alleluia. Christ is risen!

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

Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Together let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Beloved One, Jesus Christ, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow Christ's steps

in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the Beloved One, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

Please be seated
The First Reading

The Acts of the Apostles 11:1-18

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, my God, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Savior, who had said, 'John baptized with water, but

you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that God gave us when we believed in the Savior Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

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

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm Psalm 148

Said responsively by whole verse

Alleluia! Praise God from the heavens; sing praise in the heights.

Sing praise, all you angels; sing praise, all the heavenly host.

Sing praise, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

Sing praise, heaven of heavens and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the Name of God, by whose command they were created.

God made them stand fast for ever and ever, and gave them a law which shall not pass away.

Sing praise from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

Fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

Wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and winged birds;

Rulers of the earth and all peoples, judges and all leaders of the world;

Young men and maidens, old and young together.

Let them praise your Name, O God, for your Name only is exalted; your splendor is over earth and heaven.

You have raised up strength for your people and praise for all your loyal servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near you. Alleluia!

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

The Second Reading

Revelation 7:9-17

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as one spouse adorned for the other. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals.
God will dwell with them as their God;
they will be God's peoples,
and very truly God will be with them;
God will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." And also said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then God said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

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

Sequence Hymn

Please rise as you are comfortable.

LEVAS, #41 - Christ Has Arisen

We will sing twice before and once after the Gospel





Section: Easter Title: Christ Has Arisen Words: Swahili Text; tr. Howard Olson Music: Haya Tune; *Tumshagilie Mungu*, Makumira, Tanzania; harm. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *Songs of Praise* Copyright: © 1992. Words and Music Reprinted from Lead Us Lord by Howard S. Olson, Copyright © 1974 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permissin of Augsburg Fortress.

The Gospel John 13:31-35

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

At the last supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Child of Humanity has been glorified, and God has been glorified in this One. If God has been glorified in this One, God will also glorify the Holy One at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

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: St. John's Chapel, Groton School, Groton, St. Michael's Church, Holliston, St. Paul's Church, Hopkinton, St. Luke's Church, Hudson; and the Congregational Chapters of the Episcopal Church Women. 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; Barry, John, and Kim Koger, Robert Koger and Joyce Connolly, and the family of Gary Koger; 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, especially Gary Koger. 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.

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.

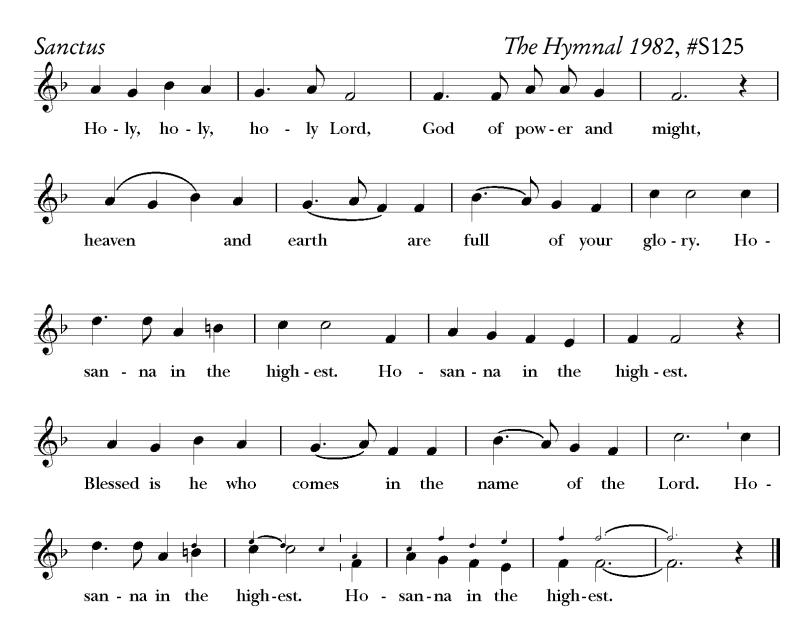
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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

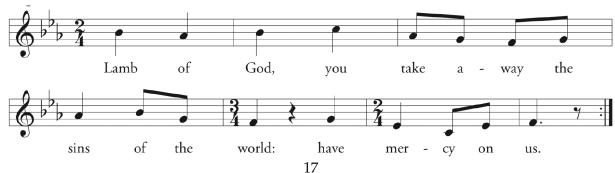
Our God in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kindom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kindom, the power,
and the glory are yours,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

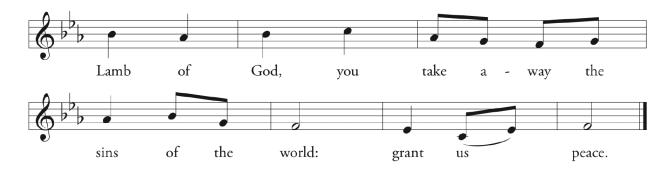
The Breaking of the Bread

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.



By Gordon Light. Copyright 1994, Common Cup Company. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission.

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,

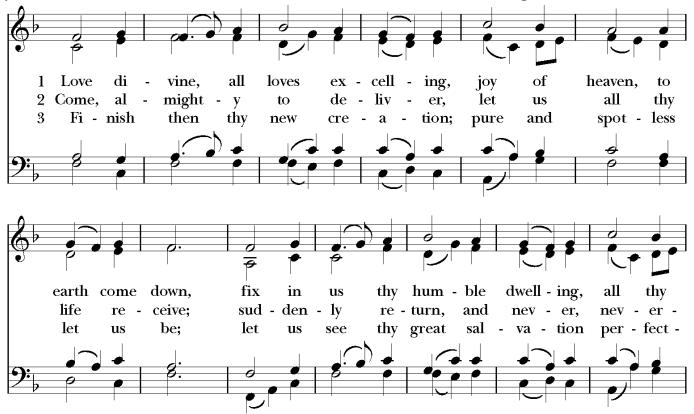
and you have made us one with all peoples and creatures in heaven and on earth.

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

Hymnal 1982, #657 - Love Divine, All Loves Excelling





Section: The Christian Life Title: Love divine, all loves excelling Meter: 87. 87. D Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: Hyfrydol, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887)

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!

Postlude *Musicians*



TODAY'S LITURGY

Participants

The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney – Priest-in-Charge
Dustin Ledgard – Keyboardist
Phil Whitbeck – Lector of First Reading and Leader of Psalm
Eliza Blay – Lector of Second Reading
Tricia Tyler – Intercessor and Lay Eucharistic Minister
Ellie Pandorf and Jack Blay – Altar Guild
Phil Whitbeck – Usher/Attendance
Chris Gruener and Kathryn Anderson – Counters
Will Holz – Tech

Front Cover Art

Anonymous. Ethiopian Manuscript Painting, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57852 [retrieved May 13, 2025]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ethiopian_Manuscript_Painting_(2384744485).jpg.

PRAYERS

In Our Diocesan Cycle Of Prayer:

For the Episcopal Church; for Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop, and Julia Whitworth, our Diocesan Bishop; for the following churches of the Concord River Deanery: St. John's Chapel, Groton School, Groton, St. Michael's Church, Holliston, St. Paul's Church, Hopkinton, St. Luke's Church, Hudson; and for the Congregational Chapters of the Episcopal Church Women.

Parish Prayer List - Prayers are Requested for:

Amal and her family; Jim Nolan, Paul Friedman and Bernice Cramer and their family; Barry, John, and Kim Koger, Robert Koger and Joyce Connolly, and the family of Gary Koger; 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 office@parishofstpaul.org or Rev. Meghan, or use the QR code here.)

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday Brenda Carter (May 21)!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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?) at the Village Day celebration.

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

1135 Walnut Street, Newton Highlands, MA 02461 617-527-6642 <u>office@parishofstpaul.org</u> <u>www.parishofstpaul.org</u>

