The Episcopal Parish of Saint Paul Newton Highlands, Massachusetts

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Eucharist

September 7, 2025 at 10:00am



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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (PROPER 18, YEAR C) Holy Eucharist with Joyful Noise

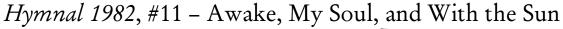
Prelude *Musicians*

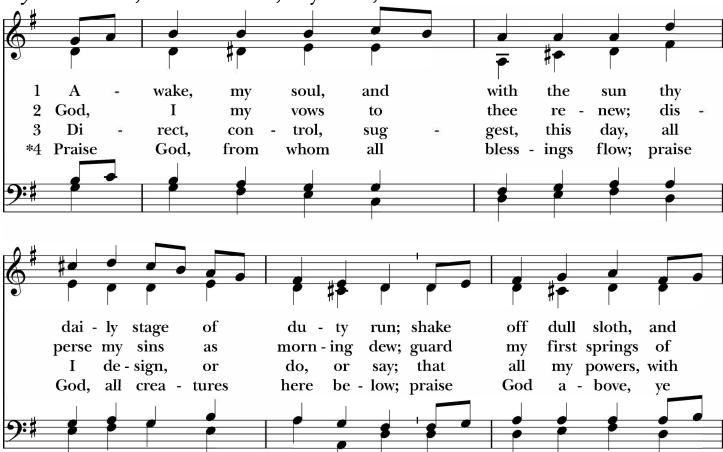
From wherever you have come, with whatever you bring, you are welcome here.

Gathering Rites / Book of Common Prayer p. 355

Gathering Hymn

Please rise as you are comfortable.







Section: Morning Title: Awake, my soul, and with the sun Meter: LM Words: Thomas Ken (1637-1711), alt. Music: Morning Hymn, melody François Hippolyte Barthélémon (1741-1808); harm. The Church Hymnal for the Church Year, 1917

Opening Acclamation

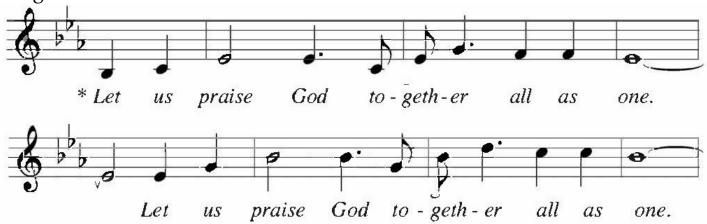
Presider Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.

People And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

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 Grant us, O God, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Please be seated

The First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses said to all Israel the words which God commanded him, "See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Holy One that I am commanding you today, by loving the Holy One your God, walking in God's ways, and observing God's commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Holy One your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to

witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Holy One your God, obeying, and holding fast to God; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Holy One swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham and Sarah, to Isaac and Rebekah, and to Jacob and Leah."

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

The Psalm Psalm 1

We will pray the psalm responsively by whole verse

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law of the Holy One, and they meditate on that law day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous;

For the Holy One knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is doomed.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God, who made us and who loves us, and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward Rabbi Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my siblings in Christ.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved sibling-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in Christ.

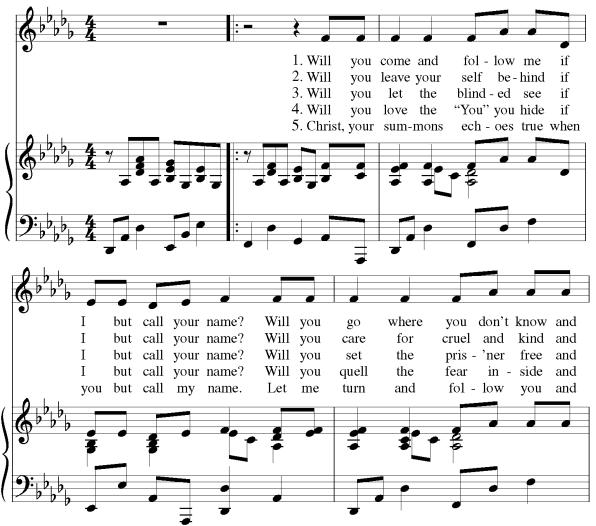
So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, my siblings, let me have this benefit from you in the Savior! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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

Sequence Hymn

Please rise as you are comfortable.

WLP, #757 - Will You Come and Follow Me





Section: Christian Pilgrimage Title: Will you come and follow me Meter: 13. 13. 7. 7. 13 Words: from the Iona Community Music: Mary Alexandra, John L. Hooker (b. 1944)

Gospel Acclamation

We will sing the acclamation once before and once after the proclamation of the Gospel



The Gospel Luke 14:25-33

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, O Christ.

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, spouse and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether they have enough to complete it? Otherwise, when they have laid a foundation and are not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule them, saying, 'This person began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what sovereign, going out to wage war against another sovereign, will not sit down first and consider whether they are able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against them with twenty thousand? If they cannot, then, while the other is still far away, they send a delegation and ask for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

Priest The Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Guest Preacher

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

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Loving God, that all who praise your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the

world. We pray for all ministers – lay and ordained – and we pray for our own Parish of St. Paul; Christ Church, Hyde Park (Boston); Iglesia de San Juan, Hyde Park (Boston); Church of the Holy Spirit, Mattapan (Boston); Church of the Advent, Medfield; and for the Daughters of the King and Brotherhood of St. Andrew. Either in silence or aloud, for whom else in the church do we pray today? (You are invited to add your own prayers.)

Silence

God, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Either in silence or aloud, for which peoples and leaders of the world do we pray today? (You are invited to add your own prayers.)

Silence

God, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Either in silence or aloud, for what in the created order do we pray today? (You are invited to add your own prayers.)

Silence

God, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as Christ loves us. Either in

silence or aloud, for whom and what do we give thanks in our lives today? (You are invited to add your own thanksgivings.)

Silence

God, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, and all those who may need encouragement and uplift; give them courage and hope, and bring them the joy of your peace and salvation. We pray especially for Kirsten; Nancy Williamson; Paul Friedman; Terry; Jim Nolan; David Murphy; David Tabors; Kristin; Deb; Tom; Sean and Jack; and for the peoples and ministries of the Global Village Children's Project, the Centre Street Food Pantry, AA, and NewCity Church. Either in silence or aloud, for whom else do we pray today? (You are invited to add your own prayers.)

Silence

God, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kindom. We remember in particular LaVelle Ward Carter, in whose memory today's altar flowers are given. Either in silence or aloud, whom do we remember today by name? (You are invited to offer names.)

Silence

God, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Prayer for the Social Order (BCP p. 824)

Intercessor Together let us pray.

All

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Silence

Presider offers a collect.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Presider Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbors, ourselves, and all of God's creation.

Presider and People

O God, we bring you our failure, our hunger, our disappointment, our despair, our greed, our arrogance, and our fear. We have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not truly loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are sorry, we are humbled, and we pray that you will strengthen us with your grace. We turn to you, O God. We renounce evil, we claim love, we choose to be made whole. Forgive us and renew us now.

Silence

Presider Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive your every sin through our Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Mt. 11:28-30).

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 Hymn

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.

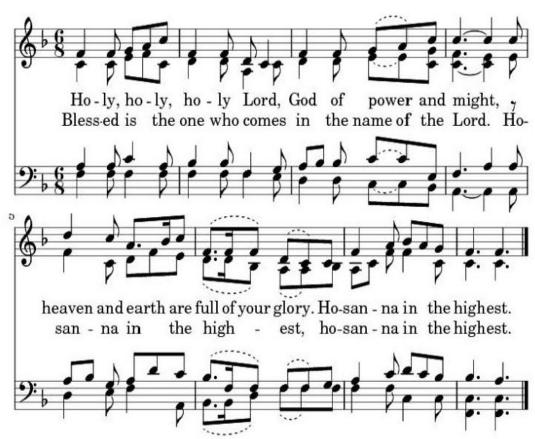
Presider

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

Presider offers a Preface.

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



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.



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.



The Lord's Prayer

You are invited to say whichever version of the Lord's Prayer you choose.

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. We who are many are one body;
People For we all share in the one bread. 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 go to the chalice bearer holding 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.

Praise the one who breaks the darkness Tune: Nettleton (same as #686 in *The Hymnal* 1982)

- 1. Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light.
 Praise the One who frees the prisoners, turning blindness into sight.
 Praise the One who preached the Gospel, healing every dread disease, calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.
- 2. Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word.

 Praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing two-edged sword.

 Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand.

 From this well comes living water, quenching thirst in every land.
- 3. Praise the One true love incarnate: Christ who suffered in our place. Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by God's grace. Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done. Praise the one redeeming glory, praise the One who makes us one.

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,

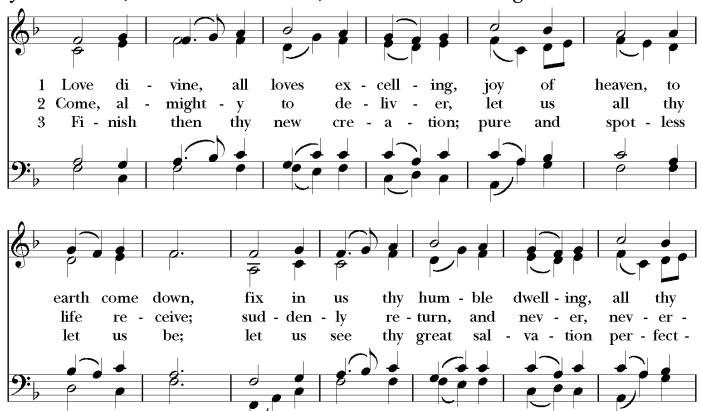
and you have made us one with all peoples and creatures in heaven and on earth.

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, #11 - 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, God's people, God's world.

People Thanks be to God.



TODAY'S LITURGY

Participants

The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney – Priest-in-Charge
Jason Von Ehrenkrook – Preacher
Eliza Blay – Lector of First Reading and Leader of Psalm
Kathryn Anderson – Lector of Second Reading
Carter Lustig – Acolyte and Chalice Bearer
David Montgomery – Intercessor and Lay Eucharistic Minister
Brenda Carter – Pianist
Ellie Pandorf and Amy Trueblood – Altar Guild
Chris Gruener – Usher/Attendance
Kim Koger and Lee Hatfield – Counters
Will Holz – Tech

Front Cover Art

Interior view of Yuriria Convent, founded in 1550, Yuriria, Guanajuato, Mexico, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55661 [retrieved September 3, 2025]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Interior_convento_3.jpg.

PRAYERS

In Our Diocesan Cycle Of Prayer:

For the Episcopal Church; for Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop, and Julia Whitworth, our Diocesan Bishop; all ministers – lay and ordained – and we pray for our own Parish of St Paul; Christ Church, Hyde Park (Boston); Iglesia de San Juan, Hyde Park (Boston); Church of the Holy Spirit, Mattapan (Boston); Church of the Advent, Medfield; and for the Daughters of the King and Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

Parish Prayer List - Prayers are Requested for:

Kirsten; Nancy Williamson; Paul Friedman; Terry; Jim Nolan; David Murphy; David Tabors; Kristin; Deb; Tom; Sean and Jack; and for the Global Village Children's Project, the Centre Street Food Pantry, AA, and NewCity Church.

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday, Mary Lou Pierron (September 8)!

Today's flowers are donated by Brenda LaVelle Carter for the glory of God and in loving memory of LaVelle Ward Carter (9/9/1921 – 4/10/1986) on the occasion of her birthday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bishop is Coming! The Bishop is Coming!

Please save the date! On Sunday, September 28, our new bishop diocesan, the Rt. Rev. Julia Whitworth, will be doing a visitation at POSP. We look forward to welcoming her to our parish. More details forthcoming.

Welcome to Dr. Jason von Ehrenkrook

Our guest preacher this morning is Dr. Jason von Ehrenkrook, who is a candidate for holy orders in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and who was a seminarian at Grace Episcopal Church, Newton Corner, for 2024-25. As part of his formation for ordination to grow in his ability to offer pastoral care, Jason must complete the required unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). Jason has been accepted by Lutheran Partners for an on-line CPE program for 2025-26 and will be serving at Grace and POSP as his CPE clinical sites for 2025-26. The hope is that Jason will be with POSP on some Sundays during the year, attend the monthly meeting of the pastoral care committee, offer any workshops or groups that might be of interest to POSP and Grace parishioners, and offer direct pastoral care. Jason is also department chair and associate professor in the Classics and Religious Studies Department at UMass Boston. We welcome Jason this morning and look forward to his participation in the life of POSP this year.

What's Happening at the Parish of St. Paul - Save the Dates!

- Sunday, September 7: Dr. Jason von Ehrenkrook, Guest Preacher
- Sunday, September 14: Ms. Anne Muyanga and Global Village Children's Project Presentation after church
- Sunday, September 21: Presentation of Diocesan Priorities (in preparation for Bishop Whitworth's visit on 9/28) after church
- Sunday, September 28: The Rt. Rev. Julia E. Whitworth visits the Parish of St. Paul
- Sunday, October 5: Blessing of the Animals (time tbd)

Prayer List

If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please email Lise in the parish office or use this QR code.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to contribute altar flowers for a thanksgiving or memorial, please be in contact with Lise in the parish office.

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 – office@parishofstpaul.org. Office Hours (may vary): Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-1pm

Vestry

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to be in touch with your vestry. The next Vestry Meeting is on September 17.

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

Elected Parish Leaders

Delegates to the Charles River Deanery: David Montgomery and Mary Lou Pierron Delegate to the Diocesan Convention: Jack Blay

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