

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Ash Wednesday – Wednesday, February 17, 2021 • 11:00am

Celebrating: The Rev. Noah H. Evans • Preaching: Paul Barker, Candidate for Ordination to the Diaconate

Know that God loves you, no exceptions.

You are always welcome at God's table at St. Paul's.

St Paul's is a spiritual home and welcoming community to people of all ages, generations, educational backgrounds, financial means, abilities and disabilities, races, ethnicities and nationalities, without regard to sexual orientation, gender, gender identity/expression, with many different family and religious backgrounds. Some of us are lifelong Episcopalians; some were raised in other Protestant denominations or in the Roman Catholic Church; some are new to the Christian faith; some are not quite sure what they believe. There is a place here for you.

WELCOME!

Welcome and Greetings

Opening Hymn 143 The glory of these forty days

Christin Cooper, piano and voice

Celebrant Blessed be the God of our salvation:
People Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

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.*

The First Lesson

Joel 2:1-2,12-17 (read by D'nis Lynch)

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near--
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
nor will be again after them
in ages to come.
Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
gather the people.

Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'

The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 146 Now let us all with one accord
Christin Cooper, voice

The Gospel **Matthew 6:1-6,16-21** *(read by The Rev. Laura DiPanfilo)*

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.

"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."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

Paul Barker

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.

The Celebrant then Blesses the Ashes

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes 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.

You are invited to impose ashes to members of your household, or to yourself. The ashes are imposed with the following words:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Music with the Imposition of Ashes - Selections from *Música Callada* by Federico Mompou (1893-1987) Christin Cooper, piano

Psalm 51

(Read by Dave and Eileen Sharbaugh)

- 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.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
- 15 Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.
- 16 Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Litany of Penitence

(led by the Rev. Luke Zerra and the Rev. Laura DiPanfilo)

The Celebrant and People together,

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

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
We confess to you, Lord.

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,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Bishop, if present, or the Priest, stands and, facing the people, says

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 the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Announcements

If you would like to make an announcement, or have something announced, please contact Noah by the Thursday before the announcement.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Music: Ashes

Paul Golebie, voice and guitar

Tom Conry

The Great Thanksgiving.

The people may stand or kneel.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People 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.

Celebrant

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

Celebrant and People

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with Mary, the Mother of our Lord and St. Paul the Apostle and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

*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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the people of God.

A Prayer for a Person Unable to Take the Eucharist

My 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. (Written St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

Communion Music: What Wondrous Love is This?

arr. by William Walker

Jan Littrell, piano

Post Communion Prayer—said together

Let us pray.

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Dismissal

(read by The Rev. Laura DiPanfilo)

The worship is ended, the service begins. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Procession on “Westminster Abbey”

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Doug Starr, organ

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Music Notes: Today's Ash Wednesday service marks the start of the Lenten season with the familiar hymn 143, *The glory of these forty days*. During the imposition of ashes, I will share selections from Catalan composer Federico Mompou's *Música Callada* (the music of silence). Of this set of pieces, Mompou wrote, "This music is silent because it is heard in one's inner self. The emotion remains hidden, and the sounds only take shape when they find echoes in the barenness of our solitude. It is my desire that this music should bring us closer to the warmth of life, and the expression of the human heart, that is always the same and constantly changing." To me, Mompou's words and music aptly describe the essence of the Lenten season.

Parishioners Paul Golebie and Jan Littrell will share musical selections at the offertory and communion. Tom Conry's *Ashes*, selected by Paul, invites us to consider the promise of rebirth symbolized within the ashes. Jan's performance of William Walker's *What Wondrous Love is This?*, soulfully arranged for piano solo, invites us to reflect on the depths of Christ's love. Following his performance in our first Lenten organ recital of the year, Doug Starr will conclude the service with Henry Purcell's *Procession on “Westminster Abbey”* at the postlude.

Pastoral Care 24/7 Hotline 412-440-8123

*In the event of a pastoral emergency such as serious illness, injury or death, please call.
A clergy person will either answer or call you as soon as possible.*

**Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church!
Ministers, The Entire Congregation**

The Rev. Noah H. Evans, Rector
The Rev Laura Di Panfilo, Assistant Rector
The Rev. Jean Chess, Deacon
Douglas Starr, Director of Music and Arts
Christin Cooper, Music Assistant for Children
Ariel Wicker, Parish Administrator
Monica Miller, Financial Administrator
Andrea Kamouyerou, Director of Engagement
Kristen Morgan, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry
Matt Wachtler, Head Sexton
Eileen Sharbaugh, Nursery School Director
The Rev. Luke Zerra, Youth Minister
The Rev. Ted Babcock, Priest Associate
The Rev. Charles L. Fischer III, Priest Associate
The Rev. Catherine A. Munz, Priest Associate

Vestry

Ginny Barnicoat, *Senior Warden*
Geoff Hurd, *Junior Warden*
Jan Toth, *Treasurer*
Frank Horrigan, *Clerk*
Gina Brownfield, Meghan Clark, Kathleen Davies Hendricks, Mark Lamendola,
John Sheehan, Ell Vines, Karen Melvin, Leigh Coogan