

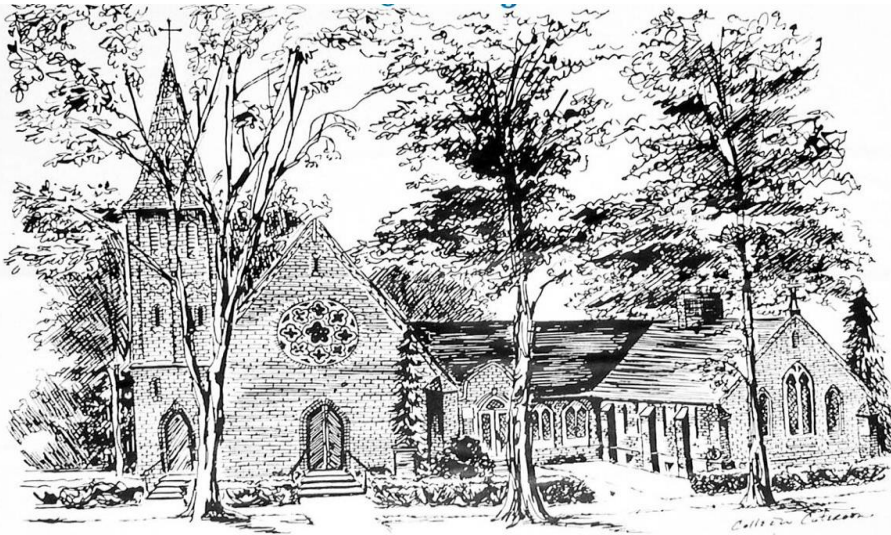
# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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## Service of Morning Prayer

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 21A  
Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020

Sunday Worship: 10:00AM

Office Hours: 8:15am until 1:00pm Monday – Thursday

Serving Montrose and surrounding communities  
With God's Love through Jesus Christ  
Since 1831

# SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## PRELUDE

## OPENING SENTENCE

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

***Almighty God, Source of all that is, Giver of every good gift:***

***You create all people in your image and call us to love one another as you love us. We confess that we have failed to honor you in the great diversity of the human family. We have desired to live in freedom, while building walls between ourselves and others. We have longed to be known and accepted for who we are, while making judgements of others based on the color of skin, or the shape of features, or the varieties of human experience. We have tried to love our neighbors individually while yet benefitting from systems that hold those same neighbors in oppression.***

***Forgive us, Holy God.***

***Give us eyes to see you as you are revealed in all people. Strengthen us for the work of reconciliation rooted in love. Restore us in your image, to be beloved community, united in our diversity, even as you are one with Christ and the Spirit, Holy and undivided Trinity, now and forever. Amen.***

*Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.*

## THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Lord, open our lips.

***And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.***

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

## THE JUBILATE Psalm 100

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands:\***

**serve the Lord with gladness**

**and come before his presence with a song.**

**Know this: The Lord himself is God:\***

**he himself has made us, and we are his;**

**we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving;**

go into his courts with praise;\*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.  
For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting;\*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

#### THE PSALM – Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; \*  
**incline your ears to the words of my mouth.**
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; \*  
**I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**
- 3 That which we have heard and known,  
and what our forefathers have told us, \*  
**we will not hide from their children.**
- 4 We will recount to generations to come  
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, \*  
**and the wonderful works he has done.**
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, \*  
**in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.**
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; \*  
**he made the waters stand up like walls.**
- 14 He led them with a cloud by day, \*  
**and all the night through with a glow of fire.**
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness \*  
**and gave them drink as from the great deep.**
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, \*  
**and the waters gushed out like rivers.**

*Reader:* Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

*People:* **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen!**

#### THE LESSONS

##### THE OLD TESTAMENT READING - Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of

the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

*People:* **Thanks be to God**

### **THE SONG OF SIMEON** Luke 2:29-32

**Lord, you now have set your servant free\*  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,\*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations,\*  
and the glory of your people Israel.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:\*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### **THE EPISTLE READING - Philippians 2:1-13**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death--  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord  
*People:* Thanks be to God

**The Song of the Redeemed** Revelation 15:3-4

***O ruler of the universe, Lord God,  
great deeds are they that you have done,\*  
surpassing human understanding.  
Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth,\*  
O King of all the ages.  
Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,  
and sing the praises of your Name?\****  
***for you only are the Holy One.  
All nations will draw near and fall down before you,\*  
because your just and holy works have been revealed.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:\****  
***as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

## **PIANO MEDITATION**

### **THE GOSPEL - Matthew 21:23-32**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit***

***And born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the everlasting. Amen.***

### **THE PRAYERS**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

***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 COLLECT OF THE DAY**

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Let us offer our prayers for the church and for the world, as we pray to the God whose vineyard we tend and whose kingdom we serve, saying: *Hear us, O Holy One.*

For the Church: especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Kevin, our bishop, that we may more and more put on the mind of Christ and empty ourselves into God's loving care and the service of others. ***Hear us, O Holy One.***

For this parish family, that we may not only speak of God's way of love, but sincerely commit ourselves to living that way as faithful disciples. **Hear us, O Holy One.**

For peace in all places of conflict, that God will touch the hearts and minds of leaders at every level, and guide them to serve others with justice and love. **Hear us, O Holy One.**

For the healing of the earth, that God will inspire us to act boldly in addressing climate change and other abuses of the earth, that generations to come may share in the bounty of God's creation. **Hear us, O Holy One.**

For all who are recovering from hurricanes and wildfires, that God will keep them safe, strengthen their spirits, and fill their hearts with courage for the future. **Hear us, O Holy One.**

For all those who are persecuted for their beliefs, for the victims of war and violence, and also for those commended to our prayers, remembering especially....., that they may find healing love through the ministry of others. **Hear us, O Holy One**

In thanksgiving for the life and example of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, that inspired by her witness, we may always do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. **Hear us, O Holy One.**

For those suffering from addiction and for those who love and support them, that we share God's healing love through our unity in witness and action. **Hear us, O Holy One.**

For all the departed, remembering especially ....., that they may be exalted with Christ in heaven and confess that he is Lord to the glory of God the Father. **Hear us, O Holy One.**

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary, the God-bearer, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord our God.**

*Celebrant* God and master of the vineyard, hear our prayers and be at work in us that we may do your will on earth with joyful and obedient hearts, and share in the consolation of your Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## **THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING**

***Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up ourselves to your service,  
and by walking before you***

*in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

**THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**

**Organist: Joyce Printz**

**Counters: Karen Blye-McAbee & Sandy Seeger**