



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle ~ June 17, 2020

Words from Wardens

I hope everyone is enjoying their beginning days of summer, especially now that some restrictions are lifting and many of us are getting outside, easing back into “life” again. While we must continue to exercise caution, we are starting to see glimmers of hope as we move forward. One of those glimmers of hope is the news that Illinois seems to be on track to move to Phase 4 at the end of June. While we will continue to follow the Chicago Diocese guidelines, we may be able to reopen next month with 50 people or less. In order to be ready for that glorious day, we have started planning for what this next phase will look like for St. Paul’s. We have hired a service to do a deep cleaning of the building and will make arrangements for ongoing cleaning. We will prepare guidelines for worship and will communicate these guidelines to everyone!

In the meantime, enjoy these warm sunny days, and hold on to the hope that we WILL all be together soon!

Sincerely,

Beth Lukas (Senior Warden)

Upper Room Devotionals

The July/August issues of the Upper Room have arrived. If you wish to have one mailed to you, please let Lisa know - lisa@stpaulmchenry.com or call the church office to leave a message - 815-385-0390.

Holy Mowers June Schedule

Week 1 - Jeff Zabor
Week 2 - Ashley Pecoraro
Week 3 - Jeff Lynaugh
Week 4 - Bill Lang



Habits of Grace

June 16, 2020

During this month of June, we find ourselves in the midst of great titanic struggles, hardships, and difficulties. When important things are at stake, when the lives of God's children, and the life of the world in many respects is at stake. Even as I speak, protestors march through our streets, protesting the way we have been. Protesting for the way we could be. Black Lives Matter, protesting in our city streets that we might learn to live the ways of justice, and mercy that reflects the heart of God's love. And even as I speak, this month of June is Pride Month when our LGBTQ siblings remember and recall, and continue their struggle for equality and mutual respect, and human dignity in our society, in our church and throughout the world.

And even as I speak, the COVID-19 pandemic continues in strange and unanticipated ways, but it continues. This is the month of June. These are some hard times. Hard times for all, but really hard times for so many. Sometimes it's helpful to go back and look how others navigated hard times. I went and picked up a small book. There's a book of sermons by Harry Emerson Fosdick. It was published in the mid 1940s, in 1944 I believe. It was a collection of sermons that he preached as the pastor of Riverside Church in New York City, during the Second World War when the entire world was in an apocalyptic struggle between good and evil. One of the sermons he titled, "In such a time as this, no dry-as-dust religion will do."

He pleaded with people of God to draw closer to God for strength and energy. To live lives of love, of faith, of hope. In that same period of time, he composed the hymn that's found in many of our hymnals, and I would offer it for us this week in this month of June.

*God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thy ancient churches' story,
bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour . . .*

*Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore.*

(Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930)

God love you. God bless you. May God hold us all in those Almighty hands of love.

Reference: "No Dry as Dust Religion Will Do," ***A Great Time to Be Alive: Sermons on Christianity in War Time***, Harpers & Brothers, 1944



Cleaning Supplies Needed!

In anticipation of re-opening St. Paul's, we are in need of cleaning supplies! If you're out shopping and see some of these items, please consider picking up one or two so we'll be well-supplied when we get ready to open our doors! We already have a good amount of masks and gloves, so cleaning supplies (Fantastik, 409, Clorox, wipes, paper towels, etc.) and large hand sanitizer refills are what's needed. Please steer clear of off-brand products, as they tend to be less effective. Thank you!



Prayer Vigil June 8

In union with parishes everywhere, St. Paul's held an outdoor prayer vigil Monday night, June 8th at 7:00 pm. We gathered in our parking lot to pray for the family of George Floyd and all victims of persistent injustice and oppression. Our sanctuary candle was placed outside as a visual reminder that the light of Christ shines despite our apparent darkness. It reminds us that as followers of Christ we are charged with bringing the truth of Christ's love into the world.

St. Paul's Prayer List Week of June 21 - 27

Please keep those on our prayer list in your thoughts during this time. If you wish to add to the list, please contact the church office.

Ongoing prayers: Yasmin, Kay, Edna, Ann, Amy, Tim, Bren, Brady, Jim, Marty, Barb, Marianne, Jim, Lucy, Vic, and Cindy

Current prayers: Michelle, Jenn, Bonnie, Stacy, Jeff, Keith, Shane, Jenny, Debbie, Shawn, Michael, Bobbi, Rory, Bonnie, Brandy, Danielle, Kathy, Doc, and Farmer John

For those celebrating birthdays: Eleanor Crump (June 22)

For those celebrating anniversaries: Robert and Anne Vonderohe (June 21)

**Readings for Third Sunday of Pentecost
Year A**

Collect: O Lord, make us have perpetual love and reverence for your holy Name, for you never fail to help and govern those whom you have set upon the sure foundation of your loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Lesson: Genesis 21:8-21 or Jeremiah 20:7-13

The Gradual: Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17 or Psalm 69:8-20

The Epistle: Romans 6:1b-11

The Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

In union, dear Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered to the Father, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I entreat you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, 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.

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**Prayer for St. Paul's**

Merciful and loving God, we hold before you this parish, our beloved St. Paul's, and ask you to bless us with the courage to preach and live the Good News of your love, your healing, and your forgiveness. Guide us to be seeking you in all that we do; to be serving others in your name; and to be growing in your image. Give us, we pray, open hearts, open minds, and open doors to receive and welcome all who come here, that we may be as Christ to them as we are Christ to one another. All this we ask in the holy name of Jesus.

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Even though we can't be together on Sunday mornings, there are a number of ways to **worship online**:

The **National Cathedral** Holy Eucharist is on Sunday at 10:15 am. You may view it **[here](#)**.

**St. Mary's Crystal Lake
Morning Prayer & Virtual Coffee Hour**

9:00 a.m. [ZOOM Link](#)

To participate by phone only:

312-626-6799; phone meeting **ID: 826 0737 1151**

If you are participating by phone, you can access the same service document that Zoom participants can see.

St. Ann's Woodstock

Tune into Facebook Live on St. Ann's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StAnnsEpiscopal.Woodstock (or click **here**) at 10 a.m. Sunday, to view a live stream of worship; *you do not need a Facebook account to view this* (simply click "**not now**" if you are prompted to open a Facebook account).

Helpful Websites

Below are links from Bishop Curry, Bishop Lee, and others that you may find helpful:

Episcopal News Service. Bishop Curry's news is posted here along with Episcopal news from around the country. Subscribe: <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/>

Chicago Diocese website. Bishop Lee posts his videos and letters here along with other diocese news. Very good general resource. <https://episcopalchicago.org/>

Leadership News from Chicago Diocese: From the diocese home page there is a link to subscribe to the newsletter. Updates come regularly and are informative.

Episcopal Relief and Development. Link to supportive resources: <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-we-do/us-disaster-program/remoteministry/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/>

Questions or concerns?

Please contact our Wardens - Beth Lukas (Senior Warden)
or Jeffrey Zabor (Junior Warden).

In need of pastoral care?

Please contact Deborah Lang, our Deacon.



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St. Paul's Email - stpaulmchenry@sbcglobal.net

Quick Links

*Diocese of Chicago
Episcopal News Service
Episcopal Cafe
Lectionary Calendar
Forward Day by Day*

Vestry Minutes

*March 2020
April 2020*

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