



"Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me..."
from a prayer of St. Patrick



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
McHenry, IL



Weekly ePistle ~ March 17, 2021

St. Paul's At Home Worship for Sunday, March 21st

Join us at **8:30 am** for Morning Prayer led by the Rev. Deacon Deborah Lang. Even if you don't have a computer, you can join by phone!

To join by computer, click on this link: <https://zoom.us/j/95751784278>

To participate by phone, dial **312-626-6799** and be prepared to enter the ID below.

Our meeting ID is **957 5178 4278**

All participants will be muted upon entry to the service. You do not necessarily have to have the video enabled if you do not wish to be seen.

We are gearing up for In-Person Worship!

Starting **March 28, Palm Sunday**, we will return to in-person worship. All in-person services will continue to follow recommended Covid guidelines. Masks are required, as well as proper distancing. Hand sanitizer is available in every pew, and communion is distributed with wafer only. If you are not feeling well, or not comfortable attending in person, please join us for our weekly Sunday Morning Prayer on Zoom. Additionally, our service will be recorded and made available on our website and Facebook.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday

March 28, 8:30 am
In-Person Worship

Maundy Thursday

April 1
St. Paul's In-Person Service
7:00 pm

Good Friday - Noon

April 2
Stations of the Cross via Zoom

Good Friday - Evening

First United Methodist In-Person Service
7:00 pm

Easter

In-Person Worship
8:30 am

As part of our shared ministry here at First United Methodist, St. Paul's will be conducting the Maundy Thursday service in-person and have Stations of the Cross via Zoom on Friday. FUMC will be conducting the Good Friday evening service. All are welcome to every service!

From Deacon Deb

"The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah...I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts and I will be their God and they shall be my people." Jeremiah 31-34

This excerpt from the Book of Jeremiah is a favorite. There is something compelling about God's will written on our hearts. God fills us with God's self and consummates our relationship as a matter of deepest love. There is an eternal fidelity in declaring he is ours and we are his. Whether we are aware of it or not, we are in a love that is stronger than death.

Rainer Maria Rilke says it best....

Believe in a Love that is being stored up for you like an inheritance
and have faith that in this love there is a strength and a blessing so large
that you can travel as far as you wish
without having to step outside it.

In Christ,
Deacon Deborah



Living Well Through Lent 2021
A Personal Devotional and Lenten Program
Listening With All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind

Silence and Listening
by Robbin Brent

I found I had less and less to say, until finally, I became silent, and began to listen. I discovered in the silence the voice of God.

—Soren Kierkegaard

St. John of the Cross was first credited with the saying “Silence is the first language of God.” Thomas Keating went on to add, “Everything else is a poor translation. In order to understand this language, we must learn to be silent and to rest in God.” We can’t fully appreciate the importance of listening without valuing the importance of silence. It is in the silence where we discover how God is present and active in our lives, and where we grow our trust in the ways God speaks to us.

Today we will explore the practice of Intercessory Prayer as one way to listen more deeply to God. This contemplative prayer practice can help us to more clearly sense how we are all connected through God’s longings and desires: for us, for others, for the world.

I pray the following intercessory prayer questions, calling God “Beloved of my heart,” but feel free to use whatever name for God resonates in your heart.

Beloved of my heart,

- what is your prayer, your deepest desire, for me/this person/this situation?
- what do you want my prayer to be for myself/this person/situation?
- what, if anything is getting in my way of joining more fully and freely in your prayer for me/this person/this situation?
- are there any boundaries I have created in my heart that I now need to relinquish?
- is there anything you would have me say or do on your behalf?

Robbin Brent is the Director of Publications and Resource Development for Living Compass, founder of Wisdom Way of Knowing, Inc., and the former Director of the Center for Spiritual Resources in North Carolina. Robbin is an experienced leader of spiritual retreats and programs, facilitates gatherings of contemplative leaders around the world, and is a graduate of Shalem’s Transforming Community program. She loves spending time with her two sons and grandson, hiking, and early morning coffee and communion with the wildlife that graces her backyard.

For daily reflections to follow up on this article [***click here***](#)

Submitted by Beth Lukas, Senior Warden

Servants for Sunday, March 21

Reader – Jim Lukas
Intercessor – Barb Moriarty
Cantor - Judy Robel

St. Paul's Prayer List

Week of March 21 - March 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, Amy, Tim, Eleanor, and Erin

Current prayers: Jenn, Bobbi, Rory, Bonnie, Brandy, Danielle, Shirley-Patricia, Terry, Samantha, Debbie, Shawn, David, Lucy, Arthur, and Andy

For those celebrating birthdays: Abigail Lukas (Mar. 25) and Connor Vonderohe (Mar. 26)



Questions or concerns?

Please contact our Senior Warden - Beth Lukas: Gramlukas2@gmail.com

In need of pastoral care?

Please contact Deborah Lang, our Deacon: DeaconDeb@stpaulmchenry.com

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
8:30 am - 1:30 pm

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Contact us

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

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