

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Third Sunday in Lent March 7, 2021 – Virtual Service

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker
I. Rector

Welcome to our Church

Welcome

to

St. Paul's Virtual Episcopal Church

We are delighted you are seeking God in this special place. We want you to know that wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome to ask your questions here.

Services are available: Recent services are available on our website:

<https://stpaulwilkesboro.org>

Newsletters: Sign-up today to receive our electronic newsletter. Email the church office at office@stpaulwilkesboro.org to have your name added.

We extend a special thanks today to all that have been so generous with their time and talents in making this service possible.

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The Gathering

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

All stand, as able.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be the God of our salvation:

People Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

Celebrant Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:14,16

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of silent reflection.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

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

***Bless the Lord, my soul,
And bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul,
Who leads me into life. (Repeat one time)***

Please remain standing, as able.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray,

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Response

Psalm 19

*spoken by half verse

The heavens declare the glory of God, *

and the firmament shows his handiwork.

One day tells its tale to another, *

and one night imparts knowledge to another.

Although they have no words or language, *

and their voices are not heard,

Their sound has gone out into all lands, *

and their message to the ends of the world.

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *

it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; *

nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; *

the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; *

the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever; *

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *

sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened, *

and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can tell how often he offends? *

cleans me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; *

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, *

O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

The Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

♦*Please stand or sit as you are most comfortable for the Gospel.*

The Gospel

John 2:13-22

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

♦*All are seated.*

The Sermon

Mother Stephanie E. Parker

A period of silence follows the sermon.

1. I be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that
 2. I be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci -
 3. I be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with-

be, Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of the sky and
 fied; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied— True Life there had tru - ly
 in One church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees from

sea. I be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus, now for
 died. I be - lieve that on the third day Christ was
 sin; in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion, for the

us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it and of
 raised up from the grave, then as - cend - ed to God
 break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's ev - er -

Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life.
 right hand. He will come to judge and save.
 last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

Prayers of the People

Form IV, BCP, pages 388-389, adapted

Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world.
 Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right Spirit
 within us. Remind us of the joy of your salvation and sustain us with
 your love and grace.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,
Thank you for your mercy.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage
and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation, especially...

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,
Thank you for your mercy.

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 all people, friend and enemy, and serve
the common good. We pray especially for the health of the global economy and for
all people who are suffering the pain of poverty, war and violence.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,
Thank you for your mercy.

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
kingdom, especially...

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,
Thank you for your mercy.

Open our eyes to see the destruction we cause by our careless consumption; open
our ears to hear the groaning of all creation and the cries of your creatures without
voice; open our hearts to feel remorse for our unfaithful care of your creation;
inspire us to a greater love and wonder for the care of your natural world.

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,
Thank you for your mercy.

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

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,
Thank you for your mercy.

We thank you for all the blessings of this life, especially...

God of Forgiveness and Compassion,
Thank you for your mercy.

Celebrant O God, mercifully hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; grant that we may both see and know the things we need to do and that we may also have the grace and courage to do them faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

In non-COVID times, “The Peace” is a Christian tradition deriving its roots from Jesus himself who greeted people saying, “Peace be with you.” “The Peace” may feel awkward if you are new or an introvert or trying not to be noticed. We take this portion of our worship seriously as we live in a deeply divided world full of violence. Offering a greeting with love and sharing the peace that Christ brings is central to being part of a Christian community. Normally we would ask you to please take a moment to step out of your space, greet people and say, “Peace be with you” but for now, we ask that you stay in place and bow to those around you. These actions in God’s house model what we are called to do in the world.

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you**

Offertory Largo con Expressione—Handel
Please stand, as able.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.
Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus: 129 *(sung by all)*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebekah, and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is 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 kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem: S164 (*sung by all*)

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

*Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:
give us your peace, give us your peace.*

The Invitation to Communion

Celebrant All Holy Jesus, we gather to represent the people of God at St. Paul's. As we receive the sacrament of the body and blood, through the mystery of your holy Spirit, be with those at home who desire to receive you.

Grant us all the Spiritual Communion of unity, grace and Abundant life that is your gift to us at all times and in all places. We love you above all things, and we give you thanks that you are with us wherever we are and that we are, in your love, gathered together in your presence as a full and faithful community of God. Amen.

Stand or kneel, as able.

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 366

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and ever living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant Open your hearts and minds before God.

Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God, that by your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God!**

Serving Today:

Reader: Nancy Scroggs
Altar Guild: Tom Carnes

Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers: All who are ill or unemployed and those who are on our prayer list.

Illness

Jim Andrews, Pam Baugh, Robert Baugh, Bella, Nancy Blair, John Brame, Ken Canter, Thomas Dellinger, Mike Duncan, Tina Duncan, John Farris, Laura Gentry, Karen Hennig, Paula Jameson, Doug Johnson, Margo Hurd, Ken Love, Misty Millsaps, Tyler Olender, Denver Owens, Iris Parker, Kris Riley, Tara Riley, Jordan Samuel, Rebecca Shaw, Karen Shupe, Linda Sloop, Delores Weaver, Bob Webber, Donna Webber

Armed Forces

Let us pray for the safety of **all our troops**, especially Dr. Matthew Cage, Edward Colville Griffith, Zach Necessary, Walker Pardue, Philip Southwell, Mark Stone, Lt. Col. Patrick Szvtitz, Jason Westmeyer, and all others who serve in Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the world.

Please send to the church office the addresses of troops with connections to office@stpaulwilkesboro.org, especially those abroad

ADULT FORMATION

Episcopal U:

We Pray What We Believe

Join Mother Stephanie on Wednesdays at 12:30 for a journey through the rich tradition of our Eucharistic liturgies.

In the Episcopal tradition we state that we do not have doctrine or dogma, but we make the claim that *we pray what we believe*, meaning that *our Book of Common Prayer* and its supplemental resources contain the corpus of our belief system. But DO we believe the claims that are made about God and about humanity, creation, and Jesus in the prayers we hear week by week?

The answer might surprise you!

Please sign up with Mother Stephanie by March 2nd to receive the Zoom link to this adventure in exploration and learning.

Bring your questions, your curiosity, your doubts, and your theological baggage as we embark on this 6 week romp through Liturgical Theology.



Mar 7 Bonnie Merritt
Mar 7 Rev. Stephanie E Parker
Mar 12 Misty Hartzog
Mar 12 Kathleen Rouse
Mar 12 Wynn Southwell
Mar 12 Bob Arthur



St. Paul's Vestry

Doug Merritt
Ramona Curtis

Doug Morris
Mark Williams, *Sr. Warden*

Richard Barber
Beverly Cook
Richard Searcy

Carol Canter
Joe Fesperman, *Jr. Warden*
Gwen Temple

Bill Harris, *Secretary*
John Harwell, *Treasurer*

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The Rev. Carl Elledge, *Pastoral Assistant*
Ramona Curtis, *Organist*
Roosevelt Carlton, *Sexton*