

Sunday, May 2, 2021: 5th Sunday of Easter

*I am the vine, you are the branches, says the Lord.
Those who abide in me, and I in them, bear much fruit. (John 15:5)*



ST. PAUL’S COVID-19 RESPONSE

**Welcome!!** During this unique time in history, services will look a bit different than normal and will likely be different for quite a while. We want to care for the whole parish during this time and one way to care for one another is keeping each other safe. As such, we ask you to follow these guidelines while worshiping with us:

* **Experiencing Cough, Fever, or Other Symptom/s?** Go home immediately andplease stay home for fourteen days following the end of your symptoms.
* **Wear a Mask.** All parishioners must wear a mask to all services (as per City of Edmonton bylaw 19408). Exceptions to this include children under the age of two and those with a medical condition where wearing a mask is not possible. Masks may be removed when taking communion but must be replaced immediately following. If you do not have a mask, we have cloth masks available in the foyer.
* **Maintain Physical Distance.** At all times, please remain a minimum of six feet (three seat spaces) from all other individuals not part of your family unit. You will find tape on the floor six feet apart in multiple locations to help you maintain this distance. Please also maintain physical distance outside.
* **Listen to the Ushers.** There will be ushers inside and outside to help direct these new procedures. Please heed their direction as they are trying to keep everyone safe and healthy.
* **Sign-In Upon Arrival.** Please sign-in with the designated usher when you arrive onsite. This will help us track who is in attendance just in case we do have to notify the parish if someone tests Covid positive following a service.
* **Sanitize Hands Frequently.** Please sanitize your hands upon entry and before taking communion. You may also sanitize as often as you would like during the service. Please also try to refrain from touching surfaces and your face.
* **Refrain from Singing.** At this time, congregational singing is not allowed by the government of Alberta. Please listen to the lyrics being sung by the leader/s and meditate upon them. You may also hum along to the music as long as your mouth remains closed.
* **Recycle Bulletins.** Please do not leave bulletins in the pews. A recycle bin is available at the exit door. You may also take the bulletin home.
* **Use of Washroom.** The only washroom available at this time is located at the back of the Sanctuary (just North of the Main Entry doors). Please wipe down all surfaces (including toilet and handle, counter, and faucet) following use.
* **Parts of Building Closed.** At this time, the only accessible parts of the building are the Sanctuary, Sanctuary washroom, and alley foyer. All other rooms are closed for use including the main washrooms, hall, basement, and chapel. Please do not access any closed section of the building without permission.

**Opening Song: *Great are You, Lord***

You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore
Every heart that is broken
Great are You, Lord

(*Chorus*) It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
To You only

(*return to verse 1, then chorus x2*)

All the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry
These bones will sing
Great are You, Lord (*x3*)

(*To Chorus x2*)

**The Gathering of the Community**

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Celebrant: May his grace and peace be with you.

**People: May he fill our hearts with joy.**

Celebrant:Almighty God,

**All:to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**People:** **Amen**.

**The Reading of Scripture**

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

*Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

Canticle: Psalm 22:24-30

*My praise is of him in the great assembly; \**

*I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.*

*The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: \**

*“May your heart live for ever!”*

*All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, \**

*and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.*

*For kingship belongs to the Lord; \**

*he rules over the nations.*

*To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; \**

*all who go down to the dust fall before him.*

*My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; \**

*they shall be known as the Lord’s for ever.*

*They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn \**

*the saving deeds that he has done.*

*Prayer: Father, your tortured Son felt abandoned, and cried out in anguish from the cross, yet you delivered him. He overcame the bonds of death and rose in triumph from the grave. Do not hide your face from those who cry out to you: feed the hungry, strengthen the weak, and break the chains of the oppressed, that your people may rejoice in your saving deeds. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.*

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

**Processional Chorus – *Father, You are All We Need***

Give us hope, give us faith
Help us trust in Your guidance
From the depths of Your grace
You have richly provided
Thank You, thank You
Father, You are all we need
Father, You are all we need

**The Gospel Reading**

Reader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

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

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.*

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

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

**Worship Through Song**

***O, The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus***

O the deep, deep love of Jesus

Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free

Rolling as a mighty ocean

In its fullness over me

Underneath me, all around me

Is the current of thy love

Leading onward, leading homeward

To thy glorious rest above

O the deep, deep love of Jesus

Spread his praise from shore to shore

How he loveth, ever loveth

Changeth never, nevermore

How he watches o'er his loved ones

Died to call them all his own

How for them he intercedeth

Watcheth o'er them from the throne

O the deep, deep love of Jesus

Love of every love the best

'Tis an ocean vast of blessing

'Tis a haven sweet of rest

O the deep, deep love of Jesus

'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me

And it lifts me up to glory

For it lifts me up to thee

***Father, You are All We Need***

Our Father, who in Heaven reigns
How great and mighty is Your name
Your kingdom come, Your will be done
Now here on earth as is above
Oh, give to us our daily bread
And keep our hungry spirits fed
May all our satisfaction be
In You whose grace has set us free

(*Chorus*) Give us hope, give us faith
Help us trust in Your guidance
From the depths of Your grace
You have richly provided
Thank You, thank You
Father, You are all we need
Father, You are all we need

Forgive us all our trespasses
As we forgive when sinned against
Though evil seeks to hide Your face
We fix our eyes on You by faith

(*To Chorus x2*)

Father, You are all we need
Thank You
Father, You are all we need

We lift You high above all names
Your kingdom will forever reign
To You, the glory and the power

Forevermore
We lift You high above all names
Your kingdom will forever reign
To You the glory and the power

Forevermore

**Listening Time**

**Sermon by the Rev. Dr. Myron B. Penner – Sermon Notes:**

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**Affirmation of Faith – The Nicene Creed**

Celebrant: Let us confess our faith, as we say,

**All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

Leader: In joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life, saying, “Hear us, Lord of glory!” That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Leader: Remembering today those in our St. Paul’s Cycle of Prayer: David Heritage and Rosalie Freund and Susan and Anne; Wendell and Nora James; Betty Kavuma; and Yohana Rihana; as well as all of those in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer. That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Leader: That he may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Leader: That he may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Leader: That by his power wars and famine may cease through all the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Leader: That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and strengthened, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Hear us, Lord of glory!**

Leader: That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

**All: Hear us, Lord of glory! Amen.**

**Confession of Sin**

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God’s forgiveness.

*Silent Confession*

Celebrant:We confess to God,

**All: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned in what we have thought, said, and done, through our own fault, and we pray God to have mercy on us. God, you rule over all, have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins and save us from all evil; make us strong to do good and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People:Amen.**

**The Peace**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**Preparation of the Table**

**Prayer Over the Gifts**

Celebrant: Gracious God,

**All: you show us your way and give us your divine life. May everything we do be directed by the knowledge of your truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. Amen.**

**Eucharistic Prayer**

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true paschal lamb who has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us eternal life. Therefore, joining our voices with the whole company of heaven, we sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All:** **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.**

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.” Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**All: we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant: and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

Celebrant: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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.**

Celebrant: Lord, we died with you on the cross.

**All: Now we are raised to life.**

Celebrant: We were buried in your tomb.

**All: Now we share in your resurrection.**

Celebrant: Live in us, that we may live in you.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**The Communion**

*Please listen carefully to the verbal instructions given. You are welcome to receive communion or come forward for a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are also available. Please sanitize your hands as you approach the front of the church. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please fold your arms over your chest. If you would like to make an offering, please do so after you take the bread.*

**Lamb of God**

*(Said by congregation)* Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy on us.

**Communion Music (Instrumental)**

***Abide***

For my waking breath

For my daily bread
I depend on You, I depend on You
For the sun to rise, for my sleep at night
I depend on You, I depend on You

You’re the way the truth and the life
You’re the well that never runs dry
I’m the branch and You are the vine
Draw me close and teach me to abide

Where the Spirit leads as I’m following
I depend on You, I depend on You
For the victories still in front of me
I dеpend on You, I depend on You

You’rе the way the truth and the life
You’re the well that never runs dry
I’m the branch and You are the vine
Draw me close and teach me to abide
Be my strength, my song in the night
Be my all, my treasure, my prize
I am Yours forever, You’re mine
Draw me close and teach me to abide

When I pass through death

As I enter rest
I depend on You, I depend on You
For eternal life, to be raised with Christ
I depend on You, I depend on You

**Prayer After Communion**

Celebrant: God of love,

**All: in this eucharist we have heard your truth and shared in your life. May we always walk in your way, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: Glory to God,

**All:whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Blessing**

**Congregational Announcements *(Rev. Myron)***

**Closing Song: *Jesus, Messiah***

He became sin, who knew no sin
That we might become

His righteousness
He humbled himself

And carried the cross
Love so amazing, love so amazing

(*Chorus*) Jesus, Messiah

Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel
The rescue for sinners

The ransom from Heaven
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all
His body the bread, his blood the wine
Broken and poured out, all for love
The whole earth trembled

And the veil was torn
Love so amazing

Love so amazing

(*To Chorus*)

All our hope is in You

All our hope is in You
All the glory to You, God

The light of the world (*To Chorus*)

**The Dismissal**Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

**Community Corner for May 2**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Church Retreat! It was a wonderful opportunity to try something new and we received fantastic feedback.

Please join us for our **Pandemic Support Group** starting Thursday, May 6, 2021 from 7-8:30PM. It is a peer support group, and, as such, does not promote itself as a therapeutic or counselling group. We gather in person to listen to one another and offer encouragement. Weekly pre-registration is required and is open now (link found in the weekly email). Group participation guidelines will be sent out upon registration.

Looking for new paths to walk in our city? Visit <https://www.edmonton.ca/transportation/cycling_walking/community-walking-maps.aspx> to check out the walks in your area.

**St. Paul’s Special Congregational Meeting – Tuesday, May 4 at 7:00PM**

St. Paul’s will be holding a Special Congregational Meeting on May 4 at 7:00PM to present the proposal for the kitchen renovation. This meeting will be held on Zoom:

Zoom Meeting ID: 863 3006 5001 Passcode: 471943

The meeting will open at 6:45PM so that all are able to join for a 7:00PM meeting start.

Same as the AGM, we will ask all to remain muted through the meeting and type questions into the chat. We look forward to seeing you there!!

**In-Person Sunday Services – Pre-Registration Required**

**WEEKLY PRE-REGISTRATION WILL BE REQUIRED** for those attending in-person services. The pre-registration link for the Sunday service will be made available on Tuesday (by email and the website) of each week and will close at noon on Friday. For individuals who are immunocompromised or otherwise unable to attend services, you may contact the office to set up an individual time to take the eucharist.

**Notice of Electoral Synod**

Notice is hereby given that the 67th meeting of Synod, to elect the 11th Bishop of Edmonton, will be held on Saturday, June 26 at 10:00AM. More details to come.

**Wholeness Through Christ Prayer Ministry Course**

WTC is offering their first ever fully virtual prayer ministry course May 25-30, 2021. Spaces are limited so if you are interested, you should register soon. Cost for this course is $250.00. Application to register can be found at the bottom of this page: <http://www.wholenessthroughchrist.com/index.php/about/our-events>. Or, you can email Administrator@wholenessthroughchrist.com for more information.

**St. Paul’s Accepting Gently Used or New Board Games and Puzzles**

To be prepared for the eventual ease in gathering restrictions, St. Paul’s is starting to collect board games and puzzles to have on hand for future games/activity nights. If you have board games or puzzles you would like to donate to this collection, please drop them by St. Paul’s anytime we are open over the next couple of months.

We are only accepting items that are gently used (or new) and have all of their pieces and instructions. Any items donated that do not achieve this standard will be discarded. Puzzles left over (with all of their pieces) from the puzzle exchange will be moved to this new collection as well (and puzzles missing pieces will be recycled).



**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:**

Diocese of Kootenay: the Rt. Rev. Lynne McNaughton, Bishop. St. Mary and St. George, Jasper: Andreas Sigrist (s. Melanie), Rector; David Prowse, Honorary Assistant. Buyé Diocese, Gatukuza Parish: Pascal Kagenza, Rector. Whitefish Lake First Nation.

**Next Week’s Ministry Teams:**

Music: Adele and Team

Service Team: Green and Tilburn Teams

Reader/Prayers: Carol R.

**This Week’s Ministry Teams:**

Music: Asher and Team

Service Team: B and Jackson Teams

Reader/Prayers: Renée J.

**St. Paul’s Cycle of Prayer:**

David Heritage and Rosalie Freund
and Susan and Anne;

Wendell and Nora James;

Betty Kavuma;

Yohana Rihana

 **St. Paul’s Anglican Church**

 10127 145 Street, Edmonton T5N 2X6

 Phone: (780) 455-0771; Email: office@stpauls-anglican.ca

Website: www.stpauls-anglican.ca

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Thursday: 9:00AM-12:00PM

Closed: Fri/Sat/Sun and Stat Holidays

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**For Care/Concern Team
or other prayer requests,** **email**:

office@stpauls-anglican.ca

**For urgent prayer requests call**

 the church office: (780) 455-0771

**For pastoral emergencies call:**

(587) 334-2130

**St. Paul’s Vestry:**

 Paul Dowie, *Rector’s Warden*

Margot Byer, *People’s Warden*

David Heritage, *Treasurer*

Barb Dixon, *Vestry Member*

John Green, *Vestry Member*

David Parker, *Vestry Member*

Connie Pistawka, *Vestry Member*

**St. Paul’s Staff:**

 *Rector:* The Rev. Myron B. Penner

*Community Outreach:* Michelle Schurek
*Youth Leader:* Abigail Harding

*Office Administrator:* RJ Chambers