

SUNDAY MESSENGER

*...for it is God who is at work in you,
enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. - Philippians 2:13*

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 8, 2017



WELCOME TO ST PAUL'S CHURCH

We hope you find a place to call "home"! We are glad you are here, and we invite you to enter fully into worship today, and to receive Communion or a blessing. Feel free to take any information about the parish located at the entrances. Don't be afraid to tell us more about yourself by filling out one of the cards located in each pew or on information tables.

Join us as we strive to make eastern Bergen County a place where God's grace is freely known and shared by all!

ABOUT THE LITURGY AND SCRIPTURE OF THE DAY

In today's liturgy we have a parable warning us as the church to be faithful to God lest God turn away from us. This parable may have been a simple story about the need to seize the opportunity God holds out. Matthew has taken images, especially from today's Old Testament reading, and allegorized the original story to make a point which the church in his day needed to hear and which we need to hear today.

The first reading is Isaiah's Song of the Vineyard. Here the prophet starts with a simple song about agriculture, but turns it around into a warning to the leaders and the people of Israel in his day. These poetic lines express a moving sense of God's disappointment with God's chosen people. The striking metaphor of Israel as God's unfruitful vineyard is a profound message of judgment against them.

Today's psalm gives another reference to Israel as God's vine. The psalmist laments that God has allowed it to languish and pleads that God restore it to favor once more.

Paul calls on the church in Philippi to hold fast to their faith and practice. He contrasts them to those whose concern is not with God's heavenly call but with this world only. We are citizens of heaven, Paul tells us, and we are destined for glory.

God's people need the warnings of the prophets and of Jesus to balance our knowledge that we have been redeemed. While God's action of redeeming us is set and established, we must nevertheless live the lives of redeemed people. Our weekly

gatherings in the Eucharist are not meant to lull us into complacency but to strengthen us and equip us to follow the way of Christ.

There are many times when we experience miracles, small and large, in our lives. Do we take the time to give thanks for them or do we just go on about our daily work?

Do we even recognize God's grace and glory in our daily lives, let alone give thanks for them? Do we see God's abundance in our lives or simply think most of what we have is the result of our own hard work?

When we choose to live generously, we choose first and foremost to be grateful. Grateful to God for what we have; grateful to our families and friends for their love and support; grateful to our faith communities for their acceptance and challenge. Gratitude opens our soul to a fuller life because it opens our mind to seeing all that we have been given.

When we accept that we have received so much, we can then live generously. That generosity is more than how we share what we have, how we welcome the stranger or foreigner, and how we forgive those who have offended us. Living generously can transform our lives and transform our communities. It is a way of praising God for all we have

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH IN ENGLEWOOD

Journey to Generosity

Honoring God's Abundance

October 8, 2017

Where does a perspective of scarcity emerge most
in your life?

What has been an unexpected gift that you cherish?
What do you do with that gift?

What has been an unexpected gift through, by, or
from, our St Paul's Parish Family?

How will, or have, these experiences
impacted your giving and commitment to God
through St Paul's Church?

Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession...Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.....

Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a man must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: 'Ye were bought at a price', and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God.

~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*

In truth, all human beings are called to be saints, but that means called to be fully human, to be perfect - that is, whole, mature, fulfilled. The saints are simply those men and women who relish the event of life as a gift and who realize that the only way to honor such a gift is to give it away.

~William Stringfellow

Christian stewardship is the *practice* of the Christian religion. It is neither a department of life nor a sphere of activity. It is the Christian conception of life as a whole, manifested in attitudes and actions.

~W.H. Greever

HOLY DOODLING, OR YOUR NOTES FROM TODAY'S SERMON AND WORSHIP

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 5:1-7, Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46, Psalm 80:7-14.



PRAYERS

For those in need of immediate prayers: *James Mosley.*

For those in need of continuing prayer support: *Sally Ricottone, Nazera Wright, Yvonne Baldwin, David Eversley, Lilliam Gonzalez, Ina Martinez, Jeffrey McAllister, Cynthia McDonald, Trey Nelson, Fredelia Smith, Carol Yaner, Phillipa McLeod, Sharon Wells, Patti Banks, Rebecca Johnson, Ruth Hewlett.*

For those serving in the military or in harm's way: *Austin Herbert, Nicholas C. Basile, Justin Sheldon and Nagelia Harrison Sheldon, Ken Lambert, Nadi Kassem, Justin Coca, Antonio Ramirez, Marc McDonald, Gregory Halstead.*

For those celebrating birthdays this week: *Giulia Utz, Rev. Robert Shearer, Maggie Allport, Dorothy Campoli, Enginna Iwuagwu, Tina Perkins, Sofia Figueroa.*

Cycle of Prayer, Anglican Communion: *England*; in the Diocese of Newark: *All Saints, Bergenfield; Christ Church, Bloomfield/Glen Ridge; St. John's, Boonton; Search for the next Bishop of Newark.*

Our partners in faith: *St. Michael Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahado Church, Church of the Good Shepherd, Fort Lee; Congregation Kol HaNeshama.*

For those who have died, especially *John Herbert, Flora De Weerd-Hendrickx, George Matthison*, and those who mourn them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFEE HOUR: Please join us after the 10:30 service in the Parish Hall for fellowship and refreshments.

Thanks to our host today: *Bill Payne*.

NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 25:1-9, Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14, Psalm 23.

CHOIR SCHOOL: Welcome to the St Paul's Choir School at today's 10:30 service.—the choir began its sixth year this fall. Our Adult Choir and Choir School will travel to Christ Church, New Brunswick next Sunday, October 15 to sing Evensong at 4 pm. Everyone is welcome.

FOOD SUNDAY : We have designated the first Sunday of the month for the collection of food for the Center for Food Action. In October, we are collecting canned meats and fish. Please pick up an jar or two at the store and bring them with you today or this week, The Collection will be blessed with our prayers before delivery after Sunday. Volunteers are welcome to help deliver the food.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAS BEGUN: As we celebrate Family Sunday, Sunday School takes a monthly recess. We resume next Sunday, October 15, as we start at 10:30 am and the children join their families in church in time for Communion. Sunday School includes elementary aged children through grade 4.

KIDS' MASS: *Invite a kid and family you know* to our weekly 30-minute Mass for Children, called *Awake My Soul*, 9:45am Sundays in the Historic Sanctuary—it's only 30 minutes a week and is the perfect for early elementary children and younger to engage in our vibrant liturgy and worship on their own level with wiggles included. *Come and join us!*

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS: Our Wednesday evening Holy Eucharist with Healing Prayers and bible Study observe a recess this week. We resume on October 18 with the 6:30 pm service and 7 pm Bible Study as we begin Paul's letters to the Thessalonians.

ST PAUL'S CHOIR: The Parish Choir rehearses every Thursday evening, 7:30-9:30 pm in the Parish House. Everyone is welcome to join the choir—come for singing and fellowship in a wonderfully supportive community! For more information contact Mark Trautman in the Parish Office. *Invite someone to share their gifts and passions!*

MESSIAH: George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* (Christmas portion) will be presented by the combined choirs and orchestra on Sunday, December 3 in the Historic Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to join us—even if you don't sing in the choir regularly! We rehearse every Thursday evening at 7:30pm. For more information contact Mark Trautman. *Invite someone to share their gifts and passions!*

SHAWL MINISTRY: The shawl ministry has some shawls available to be distributed on October 15. If you know of someone who could benefit from the comfort of a shawl, please contact Betty McLoone at 201.387.0226 or the Parish Office with your name, the name of the recipient and the reason you would like to gift the shawl.

HELP SPREAD OUR GOOD NEWS: We are seeking people who would like to share their talent of advertising and social media with St. Paul's. We are looking for volunteers who would like to share with the public the events taking place at St. Paul's through various social media outlets. Share your gifts and passions for God's Mission through St. Paul's, please contact the Parish Office.

BAPTISM: The Sacrament of Baptism will be offered on All Saints Sunday, November 5. If you or someone you know desires to be baptized, please call the Parish Office.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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| Oct 15 | Blessing of Health Professionals & Caregivers |
| Nov 5 | Sunday of All Saints & All Souls |
| Nov 23 | Thanksgiving Day |
| Dec 2 | Advent Tricky Tray |
| Dec 3 | Advent Concert: Handel's <i>Messiah</i> with the St Paul's Choirs and Orchestra |



Scan here

EGIVING AT ST PAUL'S

Please feel free to make a gift and offering in thanksgiving to God. To take advantage of our electronic giving options, please visit online through your electronic device: stpaulsenglewood.org/egiving.html or follow the *qr* code to the left with your capable electronic device.

SPECIAL REMINDERS

NAME TAGS: Please help by wearing your name tag, found on the table in the Atrium. If you can't find your name, or you would like a name tag, please sign up for one with a pink slip as they are prepared during the week. Pink slips are on the name tag table; just drop the slip in the basket.

MENTORS NEEDED: The Timothy Project is our ministry with young men, ages 16-22, as they approach significant points of discernment in their lives, i.e. college, trade school, employment, independence, fatherhood, new marriage. As our ministry continues to expand and deepen, we need mentors willing to join young men as in their journeys, meeting. Current mentors typically spend one afternoon per month with a young man, with more frequent contacts by telephone, emails, or other means encouraged. Please contact Dr. Albert Griffith, Rodney Jackson, or Gary Mason, to offer your time, wisdom, care, and experience to these young men.

ALL SOULS' REMEMBRANCE Since the 1940s, St. Paul's Church has held a service of remembrance to honor

loved ones and members and friends of this parish community who have died. This year's All Souls' Vespers will be Sunday afternoon, November 5 at 5pm in the Historic Sanctuary. The combined choirs will sing Choral Evensong, including Herbert Sumsion's *Evening Canticles in G*, as well as much by Bainton, Oxley, and more. If you wish to include the name of a loved one who has died, please let the Parish Office know by Friday, November 3. Everyone is welcome to attend.

2016 MATCHING GIFT CAMPAIGN: We raised \$32,285, 129 percent, of our matching gift goal! Thank you for each of your gracious gifts and offerings! An additional anonymous donor has offered to match any additional gifts beyond our \$25,000 goal, until the beginning of Advent. Every gift counts!

HOBOKEN SUNDAY: St Paul's provides food for the Hoboken Shelter this Sunday. Please bring your cooked food items to the kitchen by 5 pm.

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

8 am: *Robin Jackson* (Lessons); *Andrea Bills* (Prayers & EM); *George J. Hill* (Vestry Host)

10:30 am: *Veroonique Dhont & Abigail Allport* (Second Lesson, Prayers, & EM) *Shane Nelson* (Crucifer); *Maggie Allport* (Gospeller); *Gary Mason* (Thurifer & Vg); *Jacob McAllister* (Bt); *Choir School* (T); *Rafael Martínez* (Vestry Host)

HEAD OF THE CHURCH

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

BISHOP OF THE CHURCH

The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith, Bishop

THE MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

All the People

2017 VESTRY

The Rev. Dr. William H. Allport, II, *Presider*

Michele Simon & Max McDaniel, *Wardens*

Beverley Lannanman, *Treasurer*

Albert Griffiths (2019¹), John Herbert (2017¹)

George J. Hill (2019¹), Robin Jackson (2018³)

Rafael Martínez (2017¹), Aubrey McDonald (2017⁰)

Coralius Noble (2018²), Jonathan Stevens (2018¹)

Nicole Thomas (2019¹)

Fellowship: *Bill Payne*

Counters: *Beverley Lannaman & Aubrey McDonald*

ST. PAUL'S STAFF

The Rev. Dr. William H. Allport II, *Rector*

The Rev. Joanne O'Neill, *Deacon of the Parish*

Kai Alston, *Director of Christian Formation*

Mark A. Trautman, *Director of Music*

Colleen Habick, *Parish Administrator*

Lisa Keenan, *Financial Accountant*

José Sánchez, *Interim Sexton*

Gary Mason and George Gill, *Sunday Sextons*

Marteze Golden, *Housekeeper*

GET THE LATEST NEWS

Join the electronic communications of the Parish by following us on Facebook or signing up for daily messages (registration always available at the bottom of the website).

CONTACT INFORMATION

201.568.3276 | office@stpaulsenglewood.org

113 Engle Street | Englewood, NJ 07631

www.stpaulsenglewood.org