

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost
August 9, 2020

Hymns - Proper 12A

Processional Hymn

At the name of Jesus (King's Weston) -- H#435

Gospel Hymn

The Christ who died but rose again (St. Magnus) -- H#447

Offertory Hymn

Eternal Father, strong to save (Melita) -- H#608

Communion Hymn

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot -- A3#157

Servant Song -- A3#171

Recessional Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven (Lauda anima) -- H#410

Morsel for Meditation

Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing compared with love in dreams. Love in dreams is greedy for immediate action, rapidly performed and in sight of all. People will give their lives if only the ordeal does not last long but is soon over, with all looking on and applauding as if on the stage. But active love is labor and fortitude.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky: *The Brothers Karamazov*

Readings

- Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
- Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
- Romans 10:5-15
- Matthew 14:22-33

Stewardship Today

Paul tells us to walk in love with Jesus, as Jesus loves us. Jesus died on the cross, because he loves us that much. Our offerings this morning are given in love, in response to the love of Jesus for us. Thank You for your offerings - a living, tangible way of saying, "Jesus, we love you."

Frank E. McKee
Stewardship Chairman

Lay Ministry

Lector:	8/9: TBD	8/16: TBD
Acolyte:	8/9: TBD	8/16: TBD
Altar Guild:	8/9: Gail Rolston, Laura Funk	8/16: Georgianna Harrison
Vestry Person of the Day:	8/9: Debbie Shaffer, Frank McKee	8/16: Steve Ramsey, Joe Bleier

Rector's Update

Last week I took my annual spiritual retreat, and I found refreshment alone at All Saints' Camp on Lake Texoma. Since the camp is not active this year, it was easy to avoid distractions, and the lack of Wi-Fi helped too! There was phone/data coverage, so I could call out, check urgent emails, etc. Spiritual retreats give the opportunity to hear Jesus in a special way, and I appreciate our Bishop reminding his clergy of the expectation of us to go on a retreat. To be fair, I would have probably not taken a retreat this year due to the ongoing coronavirus mess, but the Bishop's reminder came at a time when a continuing education conference at Baylor had been rescheduled to 2021. Since I already had arranged with Fr. Getz for clergy coverage, I knew that if I didn't take the opportunity it would be St. Paul's loss. A retreat is not a vacation, or continuing education. A retreat is a time away from the normal push and pull of life when Christians intentionally re-centers their vision on Jesus and His call. Reading and relaxing may be a part of the time, but most

importantly a retreat involves prayer and meditation. When possible, I prefer going to a monastery as it's easier to plug into their cycle of prayer and worship and remain focused on Christ. Our spiritual health, like our physical health, needs regular attention, and the only person who can attend to your spiritual health is the person that you see in the mirror. No one can go to the gym for you, and no one can seek the face of Jesus for you. I highly encourage all of us to make space in our life for an occasional retreat. If taking a retreat is something that you've done a few times, then All Saints' Camp would be a good place to consider. If you've never been on a retreat, then probably a monastery would be a better option, as most monasteries offer guided retreats.

One of the questions that I get asked the most is 'when will we open the church back up?' I don't have a full answer, but I do have an answer. Our Bishop seeks to proceed with caution, and also to allow for variance in a Diocese with different situations. Therefore, "individual congregations will be operating under will be determined by the *most restrictive* regulatory demands of the nation, state, county, public school district, or priest's prudence." The Bishop has chosen to tie the opening of parishes to the action of the local ISD. When our local ISD holds classes, we will be allowed to open our church. Currently GISD intends to hold in person classes on September 8, and God willing, we will begin onsite worship at 10:30 on September 13th. We will continue to have a cleaning before the service, masks, and physical distancing, etc.

If you're looking for ways to grow in faith and fellowship, the Diocese has given us the opportunity to participate in an online Alpha program. The Alpha program started at an Anglican church in London, and has spread all over the world. It teaches the basics of Christianity in an environment that fosters conversations and relationships. It's my understanding that St. Paul's did an Alpha program a number of years ago, and this one will be similar – though it will be completely online. If you'd like to research Alpha more, go to <https://www.alpha.org>. If you're interested in being one of the leaders or participants, please contact me. The course begins on September 10, 2020 (Thursday evenings) via Zoom.

Here's some St. Paul's news for the week:

- Since we're doing so much online our Google, YouTube, Facebook reviews are particularly important. Please take the time to give us a 5-star review!
 - Here the link to Google:
<https://www.google.com/maps/place/St.+Paul's+Episcopal+Church/@32.8568565,-95.865936,7.5z/data=!4m8!1m2!2m1!1sst+paul's+episcopal+church!3m4!1s0x864be792e71fa069:0xdb0badd555c605f1!8m2!3d33.0869325!4d-96.081569>
- Our Sunday services are available live at 10:25 am (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCmlrRFxbQF7CSAnFS8H9FA>) and Facebook (<https://facebook.com/stpaulsepiscopalgreenville>). Our recorded Sunday service is broadcast on the GEUS community Channel (Channel 34) on Wednesdays at 8 am and 6 pm. Previously recorded services may be accessed anytime on our Facebook and YouTube pages. The recorded sermons may be found on our website as MP3s.
- Remote Eucharist continues, and a few parishioners are helping distribute the Eucharist to parishioners' homes on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please let me know by email if you'd like to receive the Holy Sacrament remotely. The best way to contact me is fathernickfunk@gmail.com.
- The Parish office remains closed; however we continue to check voicemails and emails regularly.
- The St. Paul's Zoom Meeting may be found at <https://zoom.us/j/9037772020>. Our Meeting ID is: 903 777 2020. To call in, use one tap mobile: +13462487799,,9037772020# or to dial: +1 346 248 7799.
- We offer Noonday Prayer on Wednesdays at noon via a Zoom meeting, and upload it live if Zoom and Facebook work together (about +75% success rate).
- Our Friday morning Bible Study continues at 8:00 am via Zoom. We're studying 1 Corinthians.

Hospitalized, Rehab, or recovering at home: Paula Reeves.

Peace,

Fr. Nick

The Altar flowers for August were given to the glory of God by Jennifer Faunce for her family and friends.