



# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

*Seeking to see and serve Christ in all persons*

**The Seventh Sunday After Pentecost**

**July 16, 2023 • 10:30 AM**

**Rite II without Holy Eucharist**

*We welcome Nicole Walters as the officiant for today's service. The service begins on page 355 of  
The Book of Common Prayer.*

**The Opening Voluntary**

*Upon the Willows (Psalm 137)*  
Arr. Brook Boddie

**The Opening Hymn**

*O day of radiant gladness*  
Hymnal 48

**The Liturgy of the Word**

*All standing, as able, and say the following*

*Officiant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*Officiant and people*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.

*Children ages 4-10 are invited to gather at the rear of the church to attend Children's Chapel,  
returning during the Peace.*

*All standing, as able, and say the following*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### **The Collect of the Day**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **The First Reading ~ Isaiah 55:10 - 13**

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

For you shall go out in joy,  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.  
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

*Leader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      *Thanks be to God.*

### **The Psalm ~ 65:9 - 14**

9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly;  
you make it very plenteous; \*  
the river of God is full of water.

10 You prepare the grain, \*  
for so you provide for the earth.

11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; \*  
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

12 You crown the year with your goodness, \*  
and your paths overflow with plenty.

13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, \*  
and the hills be clothed with joy.

14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,  
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; \*  
let them shout for joy and sing.

### **The Second Reading ~ Romans 8:1 - 11**

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk

not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

*Leader*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        *Thanks be to God.*

**The Sequence Hymn**    *Almighty God your word is cast like seed upon the ground*  
Hymnal 589

### **The Holy Gospel ~ Matthew 13:1 - 9, 18 - 23**

*Officiant*     The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People*        Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares  
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of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

*Officiant*     The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*         Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## **The Sermon**

Nicole Walters

## **The Nicene Creed**

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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped 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.

## **The Prayers of the People — Form VI**

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Leader*         For all people in their daily life and work;  
*People*         *For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.*

*Leader*         For this community, the nation, and the world;  
*People*         *For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

*Leader*         For the just and proper use of your creation;  
*People*         *For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

Leader For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
People *For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.*

Leader For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
People *For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

Leader For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; and Rob, our Bishop; and for all  
bishops and other ministers;  
People *For all who serve God in his Church.*

For those celebrating birthdays this week, especially Isabelle, Rowan, Tony, Emily,  
Sarah, Elijah, James, Jane, John, Juliana, Dianne, and Beth.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation and all those on our prayer  
list, especially Rev. Hope and Christian.

*Silence. The People may add their own petitions.*

Leader Hear us, Lord;  
People *For your mercy is great.*

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

*Silence. The People may add their own thanksgivings.*

Leader We will exalt you, O God our King;  
People *And praise your Name for ever and ever.*

We pray for all who have died, especially Reagan, that they may have a place in  
your eternal kingdom.

*Silence. The People may add their own petitions.*

Leader Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
People *Who put their trust in you.*

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader and People*

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Officiant says*

### **The Absolution**

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

### **The Peace**

*Officiant*     The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People*        And also with you.

### **The Announcements**

### **Blessings and Thanksgivings**

### **The Offertory Voluntary**

*Trio*  
Josef Rheinberger

### **The Presentation Hymn**

*How lovely is thy dwelling place*  
Hymn 517

### **The Prayers**

*The Officiant will now offer a selection of prayers. The People may stand or kneel.*

*Officiant*     The Lord be with you.  
*People*        And also with you.  
*Officiant*     Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

## **A Collect for Sundays**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **A Collect for Peace**

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **A Collect for Guidance**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **The General Thanksgiving**

### *Officiant and People*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.*



## **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

## **The Blessing**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.* (2 Corinthians 13:14)

## **The Closing Hymn**

*O Christ the Word Incarnate*  
Hymnal 632

## **The Dismissal**

*Officiant* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

## **The Closing Voluntary**

*Te Deum*  
Marc-Antoine Charpentier

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### ***Remember in your prayers:***

A Prayer for Love (From The Daughters of the King): Bless us with Love, O Merciful God; That we may love as you love. That we may show patience, tolerance, kindness, caring, and love to all. Bless us with your love.

We pray for those with timely concerns: David Waldron, Irene Ferris, Dora Hayes, Roy Dinsdale, Sandra Yarker, Rea Robles Harrison, Anne Murphy, Anne Stanier, Christian Llosa.

We pray for those with ongoing concerns: Brink Howard, Greg Parsons, Melanie Patton, Ed Sergent, Ernie Williams, Annie Bulford, Joan Doggrell, Marcy Brewer, Sherry Cook, Kelsey Crow, Jaron Smith, Al Williams, Larry Sams, Rev. Hope Knobler.

We pray for the members of the Vestry: Marianne, Mark, Frankey, Marge, Mary Frances, Polly, Tony, Roy, Virginia and for the Staff: Rhett, Dawn, Cynthia, Geoff, Cole, Nicole, Kimberly.

We pray for members of the Rector Nominating Committee: Philip Hand, Lisa Beerman, Kasey Bulford, Brother Massenburg, Katie McBride-Newman, JJ Thomasson, and Bill Tudor.

We pray for members of our armed services and their families: Phil Kearney, Kevin Bradley, Joe Clay, Tom Choate, Linda Boyce, Dariel Johnson, Sean McGraw, Steven Puckett, Bill Tudor, Jr., Scott Woodward, Luke White, Tommy White, Zach Simkins, Jacob Britt, Morgen Davis, Luke Eason, Michael Rafferty, David Norwood, Arron Essex, Adam Harrison, Sam Vermilyea, Charles Mathews, Cameron Everett, Lanier Sealy, Beau Massenburg, Ryan Whitfield, Stephen Malcom.

We give thanks for the lives of those celebrating birthdays this week: Isabelle Ream, Rowan Mattera, Tony King, Emily Benjamin, Sarah Barr, Elijah Edwards, James Edwards, Jane Murdock, John Tucker, Juliana Fisher, Dianne Teer, and Beth McAllister.

We pray for those who have died, especially Reagan Hand. Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen.

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*Service Participants*

<b>Vestry Person of the Week</b>	Mark LeVan
<b>Vergers</b>	Jennifer Thomasson
<b>Acolytes</b>	Adele Bulford (1st); Mary Scott Fabrizi (2nd); Jaden Reynolds (Banner); Rowan Mattera & Zachary Reynolds (Torchbearers)
<b>Healing Intercessors</b>	Lou Graner & Carolyn Groover
<b>Ushers</b>	Mike Scott, Mike Gallagher, Chris Howell, Amy Jones, Daryl Jones, Brother Massenburg, Michele Mattera, & Bill Stemberger
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Renee Powell
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Nikki Henderson

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*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by  
Dawn & Bill Harrison in thanksgiving for their 60th wedding anniversary.*

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## *Parish Notices*

**Summer Sunday Dinner:** Join us July 16th at 5 pm for dinner! Our Midsummer Sunday Supper and Family Game Night will feature hamburgers, hot dogs, and all the sides, as well as Cornhole, Jenga and a selection of board games and prizes! Please sign up via Realm using the QR code below. Suggested donation of \$5 per person to go to our outreach projects is appreciated!



**Vacation Bible School:** We are rocketing out of this world with Stellar VBS this year! Join us the week of July 24th - 28th from 9 am to 12 pm as we embark on our cosmic quest to shine Jesus' light to the world. To register as a camper or as a volunteer use the QR code below. Come join us and invite a friend or two!



**Salvation Army:** St. Paul's will begin its Market Mission projects in July. Our first mission project will be a canned food donations drive for the Salvation Army. A donation box along with a list of needed items will be in the hospitality foyer during the month of July.

**Men's Retreat:** The Men's Retreat will be August 18-20, 2023 at Camp Mikell. For questions or to register, please contact Frank West at (262) 501-7547 or [frankankay@gmail.com](mailto:frankankay@gmail.com).

**Healing Service:** Wednesday Healing Services without Holy Eucharist are held at 11 am in the Nave.

**Youth Readers:** Calling all youth, grades 4-12! Are you interested in being a Youth Reader? Youth Readers are scheduled every other week, reading either the Second Lesson or the Prayers of the People. This equates to reading about three times per year. We would love to have you! Please email Lauren Gallagher at [laurengallagher77@gmail.com](mailto:laurengallagher77@gmail.com) and let me know. We will be making a new schedule for the school year, so this is a good time to join our ranks.

**Coffee Hour:** The Coffee Hour Ministry is one of the best ways to reconnect with one another and especially to invite newcomers to join our fellowship. A new SignUp Genius has been released for volunteers to fill in for the months of July through December. If interested in joining the Coffee Hour ministry, please contact Nikki Henderson via email at [Nikki.Henderson@cowetaschools.net](mailto:Nikki.Henderson@cowetaschools.net) for more information and to receive the link for the Signup Genius. Coffee hour is held Sundays after the 10:30 am service in the Parish Hall. Come, grab a cup and a treat, and connect with your St. Paul's family. All are welcome!

**Prayer Requests:** Prayer requests for the parish prayer list or the confidential Daughters of the King (DOK) prayer list may be submitted online or via [admin@stpaulsnewnan.org](mailto:admin@stpaulsnewnan.org) or via the DOK confidential prayer box in the Narthex.

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**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

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**CLERGY AND Staff**

**Rhett Barnwell**, Organist/Choirmaster; **Dawn Harrison**, Music Associate; **Cynthia Meisinger**, Children and Youth Director; **Geoff Mattera**, Communications Director; **Cole Hankins**, Multimedia Associate; **Nicole Edwards**, Parish Administrator; **Kimberly Stokes**, Financial Administrator.

**VESTRY**

**Marianne Lawhead**, Senior Warden; **Mark LeVan**, Junior Warden; **Marge Bass**, Outreach; **Frankey Henderson**, Parish Life; **Mary Frances Honea**, Health & Healing; **Polly Hopkins**, Formation; **Tony King**, Worship; **Roy Reynolds**, Communications; **Virginia Williams**, Stewardship.