



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Seeking to see and serve Christ in all persons

**The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 17, 2023 • 10:30 AM
Homecoming**

The service begins on page 355 of The Book of Common Prayer and is printed here in its entirety.

The Opening Voluntary

Prelude, from Suite No. 1, BWV 1007
Johann Sebastian Bach

The Processional Hymn

All creatures of our God and King
Hymnal 400, vs. 1, 4, 5, 7

The Liturgy of the Word

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The People say together

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.

The Gloria

Hymnal S 280

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; 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 ~ Genesis 50:15 - 21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

The Psalm ~ 103:8 - 13

The Psalm is sung by the Choir

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.

13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.

The Second Reading ~ Romans 14:1 - 12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

The Sequence Hymn

Lord, make us servants of your peace
Hymnal 593

The Holy Gospel ~ Matthew 18:21 - 35

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Canon C. John Thompson-Quartey

A period of silent prayer.

The Nicene Creed

All say together

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 III

Intercessor Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People *That we all may be one.*

Intercessor Grant that every member of the Church may truly and
humbly serve you;
People *That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

Intercessor We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
People *That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and
Sacraments.*

Intercessor We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations
of the world;
People *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Intercessor Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People *That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Intercessor Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or
trouble, especially Mike;
People *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Intercessor Give to the departed eternal rest, especially Linda and Colin;
People *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Intercessor We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Intercessor We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week, especially
John, Marge, Susan, Carol, Rachel, Jude, Elise, and Sarah.

Intercessor Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The People may add their own petitions.

The celebrant adds a concluding collect

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Confession of Sin

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

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 says

The Absolution

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.*

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Announcements

The Blessings and Thanksgivings (Birthdays, Anniversaries, Backpacks & Briefcases)

The Offertory

The Holy Communion

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The Offertory Anthem

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken
“Jefferson” from *The Southern Harmony*

The Presentation Hymn

O bless the Lord, my soul!
Hymnal 411

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

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 him thanks and praise.*

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus

Hymnal S 129

Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of 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 Savior 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 before he died for us, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O 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 may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of 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 him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

The Great Amen

Hymnal S 146



And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

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A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem

Hymnal S 154

Holy Communion is offered via the common cup for sipping or intinction (dipping the wafer into the wine). Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. A mobility impaired individual can receive communion at your seat by raising your hand.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion Anthem

Bless the Lord, My Soul
Taize' Chant

The Communion Hymn

Come down, O Love divine
Hymnal 516

The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

The Closing Hymn

Now thank we all our God
Hymnal 397

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

The Closing Voluntary

Allegro Maestoso
George Frideric Handel

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: Rea Robles Harrison, Robert Callahan, Scott Edge, Carla Ross, Pamela Waldron, David Gregory, Roger Hines, Anne Petrey, Elisabeth Stubbs, Dr. Henry Wells, Wilbur Maddox, Gary Henault, Max Thomas, Glenn L. Eaton, Ronnie Peoples, Katie & Todd Mattera, Mike Nelson.

We pray for those with ongoing concerns: Greg Parsons, Ed Sergent, Annie Bulford, Kelsey Crow, Anne Murphy, Jaron Smith, Al Williams, David Waldron, Larry Sams, Rev. Hope Knobler, Jim Myrick, Candy Waldron, Ashton Hughes, Lanie Mae Henderson.

We pray for the members of the Vestry: Marianne, Mark, Frankey, Marge, Mary Frances, Polly, Tony, Roy, Virginia and for the Staff: Canon John, Nicole, 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, J.J. 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, Victoria Eversoll, Trey Bland.

We give thanks for the lives of those celebrating birthdays this week: John Payne, Marge Bass, Susan Heindel, Carol Tucker, Rachel Foster, Jude Henderson, Elise Wendelburg, and Sarah Crow.

We pray for those who have died, especially Linda Nelson and Colin Major Hart. Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen.

Service Participants

Vestry Person of the Week	Marianne Lawhead
Vergers	Katie McBride-Newman & Jennifer Thomasson
Eucharistic Ministers	Wendy LeVan, Carolyn Masters, & Mike Scott
Acolytes	Lanie Mae Henderson (1st); Liam Bulford (2nd); Sydney Pape (Banner);

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Readers**Healing Intercessors****Ushers****Altar Guild****Flower Guild**

Pearl Borders & Jack Bulford (Torchbearers)

Anne Graner & Elijah Edwards

Betsy Candler & Nicole Walters

Virginia Williams, Danny Brown, Mike Colpoys,

Taylor Josey, Mark LeVan, Justin Nieto, &

John Tucker

Renee Powell

Bonnie Umberger

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by
Amy & Daryl Jones in memory of Harold and Rosemary Thompson, parents of Amy Jones,
and Charles Daniel, stepfather of Daryl Jones.*

Parish Notices

Lectors Needed: St. Paul's has a shortage of readers. There are only 3 requirements to be a lector: You like and are able to read; You can attend the 10:30 service and you have an active email address. If you would like to be a part of this important ministry, please contact Dean Eelman at dkeelman@att.net and let him know.

Adult Formation: Join us at 9:30 am on Sundays in Room 1 of the Parish Hall for Adult Formation. Led by Nicole Walters, Seminarian, we will study the Gospel of John through November 19th. All are welcome to attend!

Let's Dance: The Rutledge Center, a nearby non-profit providing person-centered services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Rutledge clients and staff will be in the Parish Hall on the third Tuesday of every month from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m., experiencing a joyful dance-centered time facilitated by Anne Graner. If you are available to assist Anne in setting up the space, interacting with our Rutledge friends, and dancing your heart out, please contact her at 404.444.6015 or anne.graner@gmail.com. The next meeting is Tuesday, September 19th.

Men's Club: The men's dinner will be held on Sunday, September 24th at 6 pm.

Women's Ministry: Join them Thursday, September 28th at 11:30 am in the Parish Hall for Dominoes. Bring a sack lunch and come have fun!

Kairos at Burruss CTC: *Thanks be to God!* Kairos Prison Ministry has re-entered Burruss Correctional Training Center (CTC) in Forsyth with Prayer & Share and Reunion Sessions on the second Tuesday of every month from 4-6 pm. For information contact Bill Harrison, 678.416.2435 or harrytartan63@gmail.com. The next session will be Tuesday, October 10th.

Newcomers Lunch: Sunday, October 15th; more details coming soon.

Acolyte Training: Canon John will lead Acolyte training on Sunday, October 22nd after the 10:30 service. All children, youth, and adult are welcome.

American Red Cross: Please consider giving! St. Paul's next sponsored Blood Drive will be held Monday, October 23rd. Questions should be sent to Virginia Williams, vb_williams@yahoo.com.

Healing Service: Healing Services with Holy Eucharist are held on **Tuesdays** at 11 am in the Nave.

Market Mission: St. Paul's Market Mission for Abby's Closet and the Salvation Army Food Drive continues. An Abby's Closet black wagon and the Salvation Army donation box along with lists of needed items are located in the hospitality foyer. Please refer to the newsletter for more details on St. Paul's Community Outreach.

The Daughters of the King: Information pamphlets are available on the bulletin board outside of the parish hall for anyone interested in learning more about The Daughters of the King. We welcome any prospective members!

Altar Flower Dedications: A lovely way to remember a loved one or celebrate an anniversary or birthday is to donate the altar flowers. The cost of the arrangements is \$60 per Sunday. Please remember to submit payment either via the collection plate or Realm and complete the "Flowers for the Altar" form by visiting St. Paul's website or email admin@stpaulsnewnan.org by Wednesday 12 pm to ensure that the announcement is placed in the bulletin.

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 or via the DOK confidential prayer box in the Narthex.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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CLERGY AND Staff

Rev. Canon C. John Thompson-Quartey, Interim Rector; **Nicole Walters**, Seminarian; **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.

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