

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost
August 16, 2020

Hymns - Proper 13A

Processional Hymn

There's a wideness in God's mercy (Beecher) -- H# 470

Gospel Hymn

O Spirit of the living God (music) -- H# 531

Offertory Hymn

He who would valiant be (St. Dunstan) -- H# 564

Communion Hymn

I Love You Lord -- A3#77

Alleluia Medley -- A3#8

Recessional Hymn

All hail the power of Jesus' Name (Coronation) -- H#450

Morsel for Meditation

The relief of being accepted by God as a sinner can never be known by one who never thought himself unaccepted or sinful. And yet today one is always hearing of "good Christians." There were no good Christians in the first church, only sinners. Peter never let himself or his hearers forget his betrayal in the hour of the cockcrow. James, stung by the memory of his years of stubborn resistance, warned the church members: "Confess your faults to one another." Today the last place where one can be candid about one's faults is in church. In a bar, yes; in a church, no. I know; I've tried both places.

Jerome Ellison, *Report to the Creator*

Readings

- Genesis 45:1-15
- Psalm 133
- Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
- Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

Stewardship Today

The only way we can confront money's power of possessiveness is by giving it away freely and cheerfully, from the wonderful blessings we have received from God.

One Minute Stewardship Sermons by the Rev Charles Cloughen Jr.

Frank E. McKee
Stewardship Chairman

Lay Ministry

Lector:	8/16: TBD	8/23: TBD
Acolyte:	8/16: TBD	8/23: TBD
Altar Guild:	8/16: Georgianna Harrison	8/23: Georgianna Harrrrison
Vestry Person of the Day:	8/16: Steve Ramsey, Joe Bleier	8/23: Mike Lavigne, Debbie Shaffer

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

Rector's Update

Our Bishop recommended, and I just finished reading, a short book by N. T. Wright, *God and the Pandemic: A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and Its Aftermath*. It's a worthwhile 76-page practical read (\$10 on Amazon and \$19 on Audible). If you use Amazon, please select "St Pauls Episcopal Church Greenville TX" as the Amazon Smile recipient. N. T. Wright is a retired bishop, scholar, and one who can put theology in understandable terms. Don't think this means he offers marshmallow theology. In a recent interview about this book with *Christianity Today*, he said, "I was talking to a senior church leader a few weeks ago about this, and he remarked: 'You know, Tom, we don't do lament very well. We're not used to it. But nor do we celebrate terribly well either. What we mostly seem to do is complacency.' And I think he's right." Wright sees ways for us to respond in this time that will not be comfortable, but will build for the Kingdom of God. In the chapter "Where Do We Go from Here," he says, "Part of the answer to the question, 'Where is God in the pandemic?' must be, 'Out there on the front line, suffering and dying to bring healing and hope.'" Expect this book give solid theological underpinning that challenge you to take action!

To repeat last week's announcement about Alpha: If you're looking for ways to grow in faith and fellowship, the Diocese has given us the opportunity to participate in a completely online version of the 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. 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.
- As mentioned last week, September 13th looks to be the day we'll open up for people to attend service! We'll have one service at 10:30. We will continue to have a cleaning before the service, masks, and physical distancing, etc., just like we did in June.
- 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 when Zoom and Facebook work together.
- 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, Evelyn Rovell

Peace,

Fr. Nick