



ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Sacred Space for Your Busy Life

Sunday, August 20, 2017, the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

We especially welcome visitors and newcomers today. Please fill out the newcomer card in the pew and place it in the collection plate or give it to a member of the clergy. Following the service, the clergy will be standing near the doors to greet you. We encourage you to join us for coffee hour in Duncan Hall. For more information about St. Paul's, please visit www.StPaulsSanRafael.org or call our office at 415.456.4842.

At St. Paul's we are all called to follow Jesus together in worship, prayer and service.

WORSHIP

The service begins on page 355 of the Book of Common Prayer (BCP)

Prelude	Impromptu	Franz Schubert
Opening Hymn	655	Hymnal
Gloria	S-280	Hymnal
Psalm	133	BCP p. 787
Gradual	S-236	Hymnal
Nicene Creed		BCP p. 358
Prayers of the People	Form III	BCP p. 387
Offertory Hymn	554	Hymnal

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion. Whoever you are, wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome to receive initiation into the church through the sacrament of baptism.

Eucharistic Prayer B		BCP p. 367
Sanctus	S-129	Hymnal
Fraction Anthem	S-154	Hymnal
Closing Hymn	292	Hymnal
Postlude	Impromptu	Franz Schubert

The Altar Flowers are given by Scott Hastings to the glory of God and in loving memory of Esther Molony, and David and Mary Godfrey.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Downstairs Bathroom** remodel is in progress. For the next few weeks please use the upstairs bathroom next to the Upper Room. (A stair chair is available for those with mobility issues.) Also, there are two bathrooms available on the second floor of the education wing, at the top of the stairs.

The **Parking Lot** will be resurfaced starting Monday, August 21st. The parking lot will not be usable during that week.

Tuesday Morning Prayer is back at 7:30 am in the Church.

Wednesday Bible Study at 10am begins again on August 30th. We continue our study of the book of Acts.

The Recommended Book for Summer is "A Long Obedience in the Same Direction." This is a complicated title for a simple and accessible book. The popular Christian writer Eugene Peterson writes reflections on the 15 "Psalms of Ascent." These are short psalms (numbers 120-134) that the ancient Hebrews would sing on their regular pilgrimages to Jerusalem. Peterson invites us to imagine that these psalms apply to our own Christian pilgrimage through life.

Fall Book Study. On the first Tuesdays of September, October and November, Walter Tanner and Christopher will be hosting a book study of *The Politics of Virtue: Post-Liberalism and Human Future*. This book, by John Milbank and Adrian Pabst, is a Christian critique of our moment of crisis. It names four facets of what it names the "metacrisis of liberalism": capitalism, democracy, culture and the nations. For each, it then proposes alternatives that come from a radically Christian orthodox position. These discussions will be from 7pm to 9pm and are likely to have the feel of a graduate school seminar.

SERVING TODAY

Preacher & Celebrant:	The Rev. Christopher Martin
Choirmaster/Organist:	Michael Struck
Acolytes:	Michael Green, Dawn Rice, Demelza Rice
Readers:	Michael Green, Dawn Rice, Neville Armstrong
Altar Guild:	Michael Green, Joy Moss, Al Petrie, Pamela Barnes

CHRISTOPHER'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

We are what we consume. You probably know the phrase "you are what you eat." It's also true that our imaginations are shaped by the media we feed it.

At St. Paul's this fall there are five invitations for you to feed your imagination with things that are good, true and beautiful.

- **Basic Discipleship.** In this four or five week experience I coach a small group of 3-5 people in the habit of daily prayer. We also tell some of our own stories and learn healthy small group norms. I offer Thursdays at 2pm, Saturdays at 8am and Sundays at 12:40pm. As soon as there are 3 of you for any of those time slots, we'll start.
- **Bible Studies.** We have two weekly Bible Studies, Wednesdays at 10am and Thursdays at 6:15. Both are regularly attended by folks with inquiring minds. All are welcome to join at any time and no previous experience is needed or expected. The Wednesday one starts August 30th and the Thursday one starts September 7th.
- **Sunday Forum.** This is another lively and faithful group, always delighted to fold a new voice into the conversation. At the moment we're taking great delight in slowly exploring an imaginative book by C.S. Lewis, which we read aloud slowly and discuss. There's much laughter and insight. 9am to 9:40am in Duncan Hall each Sunday.
- **Tuesday Prayer.** Every Tuesday morning at 7:30am a group gathers in the church to pray a simplified version of Morning Prayer. (We use an easy to follow bulletin.) We're done before 8am. Every Tuesday at 5pm a group gathers in the church to do a 20 minute sit of silent prayer, concluding with the Lord's Prayer. You are welcome to give either one a try. (What if those two things were offered every day but Sunday? How would that shape our imaginations? What impact would that have on our lives and the world?)
- **Book Study.** Starting the first Tuesday of September, the 6th, Tanner and I will be offering a monthly book study this fall. The book is called *The Politics of Virtue: Post-Liberalism and the Human Future*. It's incredibly accurate in naming our current sense of disorientation and in offering a way forward based on the core of our Christian faith. It's also hard to read. Tanner and I will be offering some guidance before the first meeting to help people engage in conversation and exploration. (Email me if you're interested and I'll send you a PDF of a review of the book and the Introduction.)

I close by repeating a sentence many of you liked from last week's message. "In a world going increasingly virtual we remain stubbornly incarnational." Basic Discipleship, Bible Study, the Forum, Prayer and the Book Study are five ways we gather face to face at St. Paul's and so learn to love both each other and God.

Blessings,
Christopher

PRAYER

Arty	Gary Westover	Kevin & Tara	Mika Kappen & Family
Bill Donnelly	Gina	Laurel	Nancy S (surgery 8/2)
Brenda Paupst	Grace Michael	Laurie Hubbard	Richard F
Dan Pollart & Family	Jennifer Fritz	Lisa R	
Dawn Rice	Jae Eitel	Marcella Hermstad	
Della Holloway	Jim	Mark Hardin	

SERVICE

Teen Success Breakfast: Serve hot breakfast to at-risk youth. Contact Beverly Armstrong at 415.454.4015 or nevbev@sbcglobal.net.

San Rafael Health Care: Services 1st and 3rd Sundays, 11:00 – 11:25. Help us with the simple service. Children are welcome. Contact Sue Adamson at 415.461.1798.

Prison Ministry: St. Paul's has been engaged in regular visitations and correspondence for 20 years with Joseph Cook, a death row inmate at San Quentin who was confirmed by Bishop Swing as a member of our Church. The prison ministry has grown and the rector and other parishioners are now visiting Joe and six other inmates. For further info contact Richard Olive (415.259.9198 or ollipops@comcast.net).

ONGOING

Plate Cash: 1st Sunday of the month goes to the Rector's Discretionary Fund; 3rd Sunday goes to Outreach.

Childcare: Sundays from 9:30 to 11:00am, childcare is available in the Basement Level classroom.

Marin Episcopal Youth Group: Sundays from 5-6:30pm at Church of the Redeemer in San Rafael. Middle and high school students from 5 Marin churches. Daniel London, youth minister, daniel.london@gmail.com.

Centering Prayer: Meditation in the Christian tradition. Join us in Duncan Hall on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, 7:00-8:30 pm. Leave a message for Chris Olson at the parish office at 415.456.4842.

Our Spiritual Core: Discipleship Groups are the spiritual core of St. Paul's because they are where we encourage one another to follow Jesus in worship, prayer, and service. Contact Christopher Martin at 415.456.4842 or cmartin@stpaulssanrafael.org.

Altar Flower Dedications: Looking for a way to honor a loved one, give thanks or remember a special occasion? You can by dedicating the flowers at the altar. A donation of \$40 is suggested. Contact Alex Elliot at 415.488.7930.

Memorial Wall Plaques: Contact the office if you would like to purchase a plaque to be inscribed with the name of a loved one who has died.

St. Anne's Guild: St. Anne's Guild meets Thursdays at 11:00am. All are invited - bring a bag lunch.

Facebook & Twitter. Please like and follow us to join the fun!

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulssanrafael>, <https://twitter.com/StPaulsSR>