



ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Sacred Space for Your Busy Life

Sunday, February 12, 2017, the Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

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	Harp Prelude	Sergei Prokofiev
	Etude Op. 25 no. 2	Frederic Chopin
Opening Hymn	75	Hymnal
Gloria	S-280 <i>(Service music found in front of hymnal)</i>	Hymnal
Psalm	119:1-8	BCP p. 763
Gradual	S-236	Hymnal
Prayers of the People	Form III	BCP p. 387
Offertory Hymn	482	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 A		BCP p. 361
Sanctus	S-129	Hymnal
Fraction Anthem	S-154	Hymnal
Closing Hymn	625	Hymnal
Postlude	Fantasia-Impromptu	Frederic Chopin

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of Patricia Riggs.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Basic Christianity is continues after the 10:00 service in the Upper Room. This five part class, from 11:30 to 12:30 on Sundays, tells the whole Christian story from creation to the end. It includes time for discussion.

Re-Finance Your Spirituality. Invest in a 3-Day Weekend of discussion, laughter, music and superlative food. In return you get a lifetime of renewed joy and confidence in the future. Give you faith a chance to blossom and grow:

2017 Men's Cursillo Weekend- March 23-26

2017 Women's Cursillo Weekend- March 30- April 1

Contact Linda Bell for information. 408-373-3537. www.marincursillo.com

SERVING TODAY

Preacher & Celebrant:	The Rev. Christopher Martin
Choirmaster/Organist:	Michael Struck
Acolytes:	Jim Terstegge, Chris Hammond, Eric Guastavino
Readers:	Jim Terstegge, Chris Hammond, Neville Armstrong
Altar Guild:	Brigitte McCulloch, Felicia Demann, Ann Lisk, Steve Avanzino, Holly Pritchard

CHRISTOPHER'S WEEKLY MESSAGE

At the Annual Meeting on Sunday I surprised everyone by my final remarks. People were expecting a sort of run down of events and challenges to come in the next year. Instead, I delivered what was almost a sermon about our needing to take a more prominent and public role in our culture.

My theme was that ours is the voice that is missing right now. We, at our best as Christians, can be civil and free of contempt. Right now, Americans lack civility and have too much contempt. I mean specific things by both of these terms.

Civility means the capacity to stand in the tension between truth and reconciliation. When we are civil we know how to stand firm in the truth as we know it and, at the same time, be in reconciled relationship with those who see things differently than we do. It is no mistake that the "Truth and Reconciliation" work in South Africa was headed by an Anglican Christian, Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Contempt needs to be distinguished from anger. Moral Philosopher Karen Stohr succinctly captures the distinction: "If I express anger toward you, I am engaging with you. If I express contempt toward you, I am dismissing you. The distinction is crucial." Our culture has turned sharply contemptuous in the last eighteen months. It is contemptuous to dismiss a group of fellow citizens as a "basket of deplorables" and it is contemptuous to imitate the physical handicap of a reporter.

But contempt is not just at the top, it leaks into nearly all our discourse, often in subtle ways. For example, the snarkiness of so much humor is thinly veiled contempt. I recently received a clever letter from a Christian to one of our leaders and at first I thought I strongly agreed with it, but when I went back to the letter the next day, I found that it had awoken a contemptuous voice within me. I see that I must remain vigilant or else contempt may be provoked in me.

I wonder what it would look like for us to fast from contempt for Lent? I imagine that such a practice would have both outward expressions like choosing not to consume certain media, and inward practices such as careful vigilance of our thoughts and fantasies.

Such a practice would be excellent preparation for taking our proper place in the public conversations of our time. Our civilized Anglican Christian voice is not heard now as often and as clearly as it ought to be. In part, this is because many in our culture don't seem to have ears to hear. But in part, it is because we are not speaking clearly and with conviction.

I have to believe that our culture still yearns for the nobility of soul that comes with Christian civility and that it still wants the respect that comes with relationships purified of contempt. In this season of our political life let us, with confidence, take our honorable place as Episcopalian citizens of Marin and of the United States.

Blessings,
Christopher

PRAYER

Arty	Grace Michael	Mark Hardin	Susan Bowman
Bill Donnelly	Jennifer Fritz	Mika Kappen & Family	Syrian Refugees
Bill Tate	Kairos Inside San Quentin	Pat David Binkley	The Rev. Stefani Schatz
Cathy	Laurel	Phyllis	
Dan Pollart & Family	Lisa R	Rosa Montes	
Dana Testa	Lokita	Ruth Orovich	
Deborah	Marcella Hermstad	Sandy G	

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.

Children's Choir. Rehearsals on Friday afternoon and some Sundays. Contact Alison Blume at alisonblume@comcast.net

Marin Episcopal Youth Group: Sundays from 5-6:30pm at Church of the Nativity 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 Judy Rowcliffe at 415.606.4355 or jlrowcliffe@comcast.net.

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>