



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Port Townsend, Washington

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany



**January 28, 2024
10:30 am**

Welcome!

Whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on life's journey,
please enter and receive God's blessing.



If you are unfamiliar with worship in the Episcopal tradition,
simply relax and let the congregation help carry you in worship.



God's peace be with you this day and always.

10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

We prepare for our worship together with a time of centering silence.

Bell – Silence – Bell

Prelude Music

Processional Hymn

Thou whose almighty word

Hymn #371

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: Glory to God for ever and ever.

Collect for Purity

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.**

Gloria

S-280

Service music (indicated with an “S”) can be found in the front section of the Hymnal.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said: The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: “If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.” Then the LORD replied to me: “They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die.”

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 111

- 1 Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
- 2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! *
they are studied by all who delight in them.
- 3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, *
and his righteousness endures for ever.
- 4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.
- 5 He gives food to those who fear him; *
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
- 6 He has shown his people the power of his works *
in giving them the lands of the nations.
- 7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *
all his commandments are sure.
- 8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *
because they are done in truth and equity.
- 9 He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever; *
holy and awesome is his Name.
- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever.

Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Where charity and love prevail (vs. 1-3)

Hymn #581

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Canon Carla Robinson

Creed of Uniting Church of Australia

We believe in God, sovereign in grace and love, maker of all things.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God, the firstborn of a new creation.

**We believe in God's eternal Spirit, pledge and foretaste of the future,
given that we may not lose the way, who has endowed us with a diversity of gifts.**

We are a pilgrim people on the way to the promised goal.

**On this way, we are called to live and work within the faith and unity
of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

In this unity, we offer our worship, witness and service, and receive one another in love and joy.

**We look with yearning and hope to the final reconciliation of humanity with God,
and the renewal of all creation.**

Alleluia. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Kathy Couch

Gracious God, you have made us plentiful with your numerous blessings. With open hands and hearts, help us to share these gifts with the Church and the world, telling others of your majesty and faithfulness.

Yahweh, God of Glory, hear the prayers of your people.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things. Pour out your wisdom on our country's leaders to guide them, building a culture of faithfulness, justice and truth, bringing your authority to every part of our land and its peoples. We pray that other countries will look to you for guidance and mercy as well.

Loving and liberating Creator, send your healing Spirit upon all involved in the current conflict and violence in the Middle East, especially the beloved members of our own Bet Shira community. Comfort those who mourn or who have been harmed by brutality. Stand with those who are fearful. Protect and provide for the powerless and the vulnerable. Inspire a spirit of forbearance and understanding within all and uphold those who even now work for a just and durable peace.

Yahweh, God of Glory, hear the prayers of your people.

Lord, make us mindful of your covenant with us. May we always be vigilant, remembering your instructions to watch over the earth and all of your creation. Help us heed your valuable wisdom and compassion so that the earth and all of its inhabitants will flourish and faithfully serve you.

Yahweh, God of Glory, hear the prayers of your people.

Loving God, in this period of transition, look with favor on your faith community at St. Paul's. Guide and protect those who uphold our parish life in worship, fellowship, pastoral care, and service. Grant to the people of St. Paul's the vision to continue on the path you have set for us, that we may love one another as you have loved us, and that through this love we may open our hearts, minds, and actions in service to the world.

Yahweh, God of Glory, hear the prayers of your people.

Gracious God, grant your healing grace to those people who are sick, disabled, or awaiting surgery. Support and encourage those who live with chronic illness and continual pain. Comfort and restore hopefulness of heart to those with mental illness, anxiety, loneliness, or despair. Give their caregivers and health care workers clarity of mind, kindness, skill, and knowledge. We pray especially for those we now name silently or aloud (*pause*). We turn our hearts to you.

Yahweh, God of Glory, hear the prayers of your people.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, you are the lover of souls. We pray for those who have died. Rejoice with them and receive them into your glory. We pray especially those we now name silently or aloud (*pause*). Console those of us who mourn and help us to live with confidence and hope in your faithful love.

Yahweh, God of Glory, hear the prayers of your people.

(continued...)

Thank you for your marvelous works and graciousness towards us, your wayward people. Thank you for your patient guidance, love and faithfulness that invites us time and time again to return to you and your plan for us. May we always seek your redemption, removing those obstacles that separate us from your presence, and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart.

Yahweh, God of Glory, hear the prayers of your people. Amen.

Confession

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, resisting your will in our lives. We have not honored you in ourselves, in each other and in the world which you have made. Reach out your saving arm and rescue us from our sin. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will, for your people and all creation. Amen

Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through out 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: May the peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements & Blessings

Birthday Blessing

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Anniversary Prayer

God of tenderness and strength, you brought the paths of these people together and led them to this day. May your blessings continue through good times, through times of struggle and through change. Bless their home, their partings and their meetings. Make them worthy of each other's best, tender with each other's dreams, and trusting in your love through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Prayer for Travel - *adapted from The Book of Common Prayer (Church of Ireland)*

God be with you in every pass,
 Jesus be with you on every hill,
 Spirit be with you on every stream, headland and ridge and lawn;
 Each sea and land, each moor and meadow,
 Each lying down, each rising up,
 In the trough of the waves, on the crest of the billows,
 Each step of the journey you go – God be with you.

Offertory Sentence

Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself an offering and sacrifice to God.

Your gifts are greatly appreciated.

On-line giving is always an option. You will find the “Give to St. Paul’s” button at the top of the St. Paul’s website homepage: www.stpaulspt.org

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Anthem

Offertory Hymn

O for a thousand tongues to sing

Hymn #493

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 1, Enriching Our Worship

“...all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.” 1 Chronicles 29:14

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels, and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Sanctus

S-130

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.



But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

Contemporary Lord's Prayer – Parker J. Palmer

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, holy and blessed is your true name.

**We pray for your reign of peace to come, we pray that your good will be done;
let heaven and earth become one.**

Give us this day the bread we need. Give it to those who have none.

Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, from each one to each one.

Lead us to holy innocence beyond the evil of our days – come swiftly, Mother, Father, come.

**For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:
Forever your name is All in One. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Fraction Anthem

S-151

Sharing the Feast *All are welcome to receive communion at Christ's table.*

Notes about receiving Communion: *The usher will direct you forward. You may ingest the bread when it is handed to you. The cup will be offered. If you do not wish to receive wine, cross your arms across your chest and the words "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation" will be offered while the cup is held in front of you. If you would not like to receive bread or wine, but would like a blessing, cross your arms across your chest when in front of the priest. Please do not dip bread into the wine.*

Communion Hymn

Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

Hymn #339

Post Communion Prayer

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Recessional Hymn

Thine arm, O Lord, in days of old

Hymn #567

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Fellowship time follows the service.



10:30 Worship Team

Celebrant and Preacher	The Rev. Canon Carla Robinson
Music Director	Jennifer Pipia
Lectors	Sue Cook Laurie Neuenschwander
Eucharistic Minister	Shelly Brown
Bread Baker	Sue Taylor
Usher	
Altar Guild	Team 4
Coffee Hour	Last Names: S-Z

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Rev. Carla Robinson, Canon for Multicultural Ministries and Community Transformation

Today we welcome Rev. Carla Robinson to St. Paul's. Rev. Carla Robinson, a graduate of Concordia Seminary, St Louis, was a Lutheran pastor for 13 years before being received into the Episcopal Church in 2001. She was a member of St Mark's Cathedral for eight years and served on the bishop's staff for four years. She was ordained in 2009 and has since served on the staffs of Resurrection in Bellevue, All Saints in Rainier Beach (Seattle), St Mark's Cathedral on Capitol Hill (Seattle), Ascension in Magnolia (Seattle), St James in Kent, Christ Church in the University District (Seattle) and St Matthew San Mateo in Auburn. In 2022, she became the Canon for Multicultural Ministries and Community Transformation.