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**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

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November 18, 2018, at 9:45 AM

*The St. Paul's family welcomes you as we worship God together.  
Childcare for infants and toddlers is provided in the Jones Building.  
Large print hymnals are available from the ushers.  
Please silence your cell phone.*

**ENTRANCE AND PRAISE**

**VOLUNTARY** "Nun danket alle Gott," BWV 657 *Johann Sebastian Bach*

*The congregation rises as the crucifer passes.*

**HYMN 117** "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" *ST. ANNE*

**GREETING**

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**Grace and peace to you also.**  
Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.**

**COLLECT**

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*All sit.*

**THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Listen for the word that God has spoken  
**Speak, Lord, to our speaking,**  
**Speak, Lord, to our listening,**  
**Speak, Lord, to our soul's deep understanding. Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON**

**1 Samuel 1:4-20**

On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, and wept bitterly. She made this vow: "O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."

**PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING**

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we commit ourselves to a life in which the glamour of evil is renounced, a life in which we give ourselves to God's service, a life of love. Amen.**

*All Stand.*

**HYMN 400** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" *NETTLETON*

**RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

*When new members are received, the congregation responds in unison:*

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and welcome you in Christian love.  
As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant to participate faithfully in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

**VOLUNTARY** Fanfare *Percy Whitlock*

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**LAY READER**

Julie Countess

**FLOWERS**

The flowers in the Chancel are placed to the glory of God by Jim and Jeff Benton-Henningsen in celebration of their anniversary.

**Today is Commitment Sunday!**

*As we look forward to 2019, you're invited to make a pledge to help fund the vibrant ministries of St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Please fill out your "All for the Common Good" pledge card and put it in the offering plate today or make a pledge online at [www.stpaulshouston.org/stewardship](http://www.stpaulshouston.org/stewardship)*

**TODAY AT ST. PAUL'S**

**Exploring St. Paul's**, 11:05 AM in the Parlor. Visitors and new members are invited to come find out ways to connect, serve, worship, and learn in the St. Paul's community.

**Women's Healing Art Circle**, 11:05 AM in S-300. *(Meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)*

**St. Paul's Choral Scholars Benefit Recital for the Emergency Aid Coalition (EAC)**, 4 PM in the Sanctuary.

**THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S**

**Lectionary Bible Study** led by Rev. Dr. Matthew Russell, Tuesdays at noon in J-211.

**Men's Lectionary Bible Study Breakfast**, Wednesdays at 7AM in Fondren Lounge with Rev. Tommy Williams.

**Holy Communion**. Wednesdays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel.

**Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday**, Wednesday (following 12:15 PM service of Holy Communion). Offices will reopen on Monday, November 26. Please call 713-528-0527 to contact clergy for emergencies.

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

5501 MAIN STREET, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004  
713-528-0527, voice [www.stpaulshouston.org](http://www.stpaulshouston.org) 713-528-7748, fax  
Dr. Matthew Russell ..... Senior Associate Pastor  
Eddie Quaid ..... St. Paul's Choral Scholars Director

 **Share your generosity** with St. Paul's by texting "SPUMC" to 73256.  
Your donation supports the ministry and mission efforts of the church.

Holy are you, and blessed is Jesus Christ, who called you Abba, Father. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own and filled them with a longing for peace that would last and for a justice that would never fail. In Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection you destroyed the power of sin and death, poured out your Holy Spirit upon us, and made us the people of your new covenant. Your Son Jesus now reigns with you in your glory.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus shared bread and wine with his friends. Breaking the bread he said, "This is my body, receive it in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the last supper he poured wine and said, "This is my blood, receive it in remembrance of me."

So, gracious God, we gladly say:

**Goodness is stronger than evil. Love is stronger than hate.  
Light is stronger than darkness. Truth is stronger than lies.**

Pour out your spirit on this community and these gifts. We pray with confidence that the bread and wine that we have offered here will be to us too the body and blood of Christ.

By your spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in kinship with all the world. Through your Son Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit, we exalt you O God, our source of liberation and light. **Amen.**

And now, with confidence of the children of God, let us pray.

**LORD'S PRAYER**, Hymnal 895 *(said in unison)*

**BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND BLESSING OF THE CUP**

We break this bread, remembering the divisions of the world.  
**Lord, heal our brokenness.**

We break this bread remembering the disunity of the church.  
**Lord, heal our brokenness.**

We break this bread, remembering the fragmentation of our lives.  
**Lord, heal our brokenness.**

**FRACTION ANTHEM** *(sung by all)*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the  
world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a-way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

*All are invited to share in the sacrament, coming by the center aisle and returning by the side aisles. Gluten free communion is available at the center stations. If you cannot come to the chancel, please notify an usher.*

**COMMUNION ANTHEM** "Kyrie" *Eleanor Daley*

<i>Kyrie eleison.</i>	Lord have mercy.
<i>Christe eleison.</i>	Christ have mercy
<i>Kyrie eleison.</i>	Lord have mercy.

As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. So Eli said to her, “How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine.” But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time.” Then Eli answered, “Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him.” And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your sight.” Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer.

They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, “I have asked him of the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 113

*The Antiphon is introduced by the cantor and then repeated by all.*



Let the Name of the Lord be praised from this time forth for ev-er- more.

Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the Lord; praise the Name of the Lord.

Let the Name of the Lord be blessed, from this time forth for evermore.

#### ***Antiphon***

From the rising of the sun to its going down let the Name of the Lord be praised.

The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

#### ***Antiphon***

Who is like the Lord our God, who sits enthroned on high but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

He takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes.

#### ***Antiphon***

He sets them with the princes, with the princes of his people.

He makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children.

#### ***Antiphon***

### SECOND LESSON

#### **Hebrews 10:11-25**

Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, “he sat down at the right hand of God,” and since then has been waiting “until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.” For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,” he also adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand and sing the hymn. During the hymn, children may be escorted to the Jones Building for Children’s Church.*

**HYMN 163** “Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know” *HENDON*

**GOSPEL** **Mark 13:1-8**

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, I am he! and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please sit. The congregation joins in repeating Psalm 19:14.*

Let the words of my mouth

**and the meditation of my heart**

**be acceptable in your sight, O Lord,**

**my strength and my redeemer. Amen.**

**SERMON** Rev. Karyn Richards-Kuan

## RESPONSES AND OFFERINGS

*All stand.*

**THE APOSTLES’ CREED**, Hymnal 881 (*said in unison*)

*All sit.*

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*During each petition, a time of silent meditation is held. Each petition concludes with:*

Lord, in your loving grace,

**Make us instruments of your peace.**

### INVITATION, CONFESSION AND PARDON

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore let us confess our sin before God and one another. Let us pray.

**Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done, and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance; we have sinned in weakness; we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us, for our Savior Christ’s sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory be to God. Amen.**

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*All exchange signs and words of God’s peace.*

### REGISTRATION OF ATTENDANCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please register your attendance on the pew card and share any prayer requests you may have on the opposite side of the card. If you would like to become a member of St. Paul’s Church today, please bring the card with you to the front during the last hymn; otherwise, place it in the offering plate.*

**OFFERING** “Create in Me a Clean Heart” *Daniel E. Gawthrop*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence and take not thy holy spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation and uphold me with thy free spirit.

*The congregation stands when the acolytes come forward to present the elements.*

**DOXOLOGY**, Hymnal 94 (*sung by all*) *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!**

**Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!**

**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, our Alpha and Omega, whose strong and loving arms encompass the universe, for with your eternal Word and the Holy Spirit you are forever one God. Through your Word you created all things and called them good, and in you we live and move and have our being. In Christ your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS** (*sung by all*) *Robert Powell*



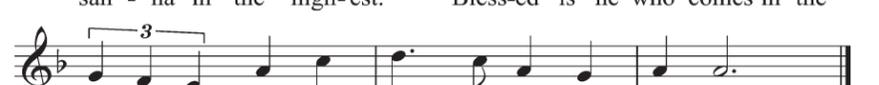
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of



power and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the



name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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*The congregation sits.*