St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Canton, Ohio

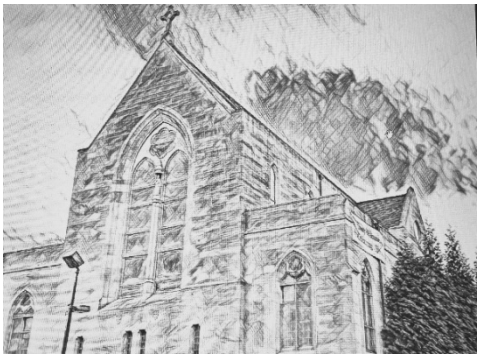
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist with Litany for the Nation
July 5, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to St. Paul's

Online and in-person services begin with music at 10:25 a.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
425 Cleveland Ave SW
Canton OH 44702
(330) 455-0286

Website: www.stpaulscanton.org
Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/stpaulscanton
e-mail: stpaulsoffice@att.net
We're on YouTube: StPaulsCanton



St. Paul's Mission

St. Paul's is an exceptionally welcoming Episcopal community in downtown Canton, grounded in faith, and called by God's Love to minister to the world.

The mission of The Episcopal Church is "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." In step with that mission, we follow Jesus into loving, liberating, and life-giving relationships with God, with each other, and with the earth.

"Love God. Love Your Neighbor. Change the World."

"God Loves You. No Exceptions."

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Celebrants: The Revs. Joe and Kay Ashby

Readings and Psalm
Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 145:8-15
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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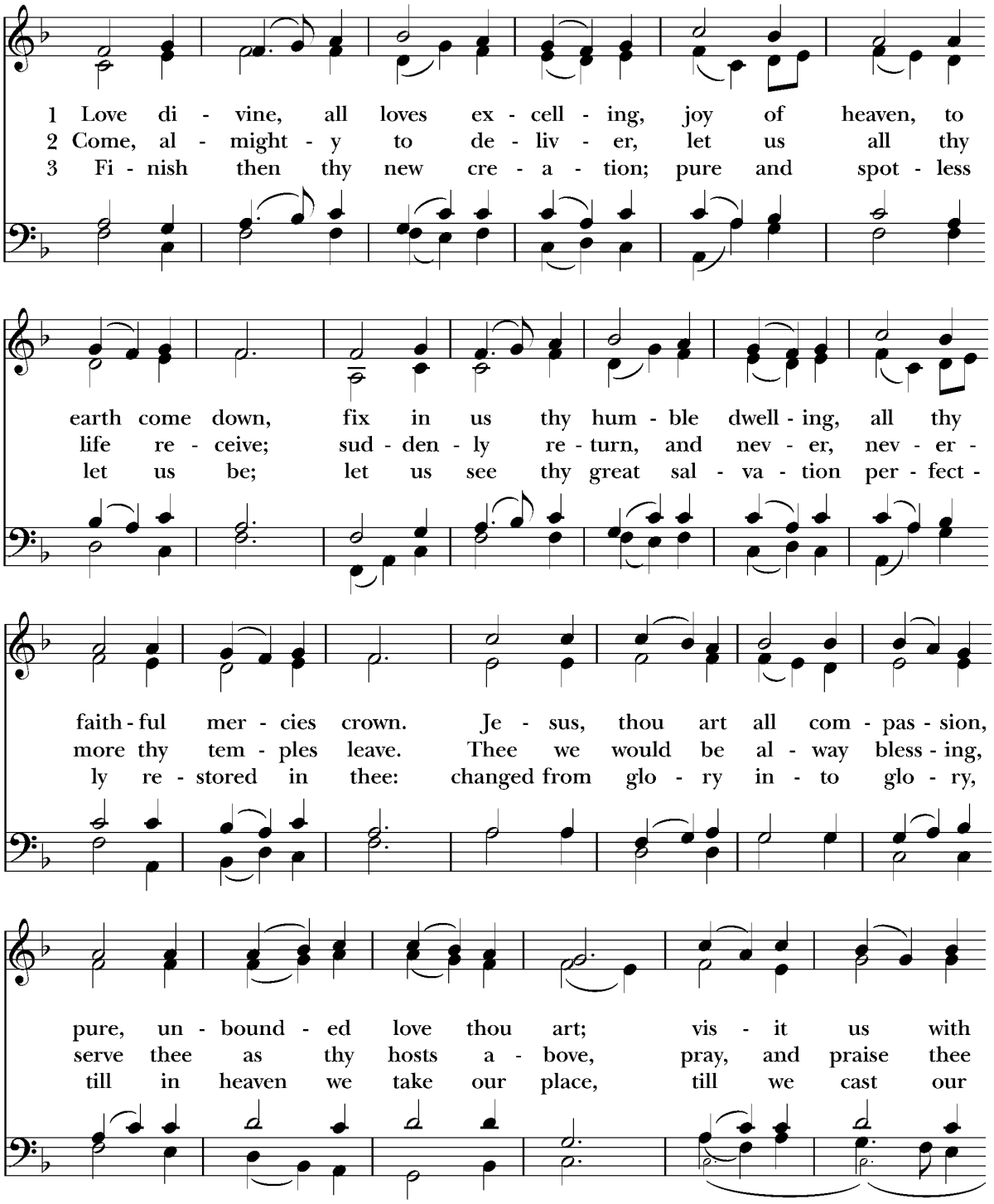
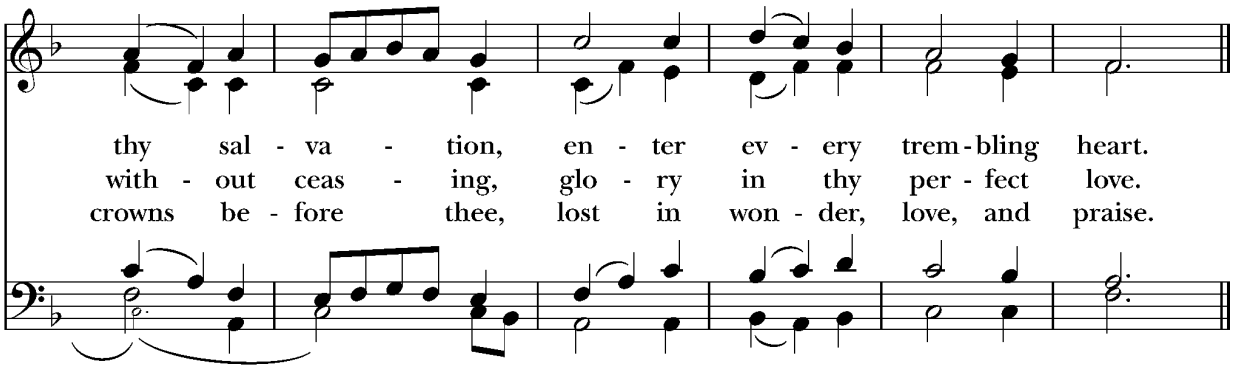
Prelude: *Benedictus* (Max Reger,1873-1916)

The Word of God

Please stand in body or spirit

Entrance Hymn: *Love divine, all loves excelling* (Hyfrydol) (H657)





Opening Acclamation

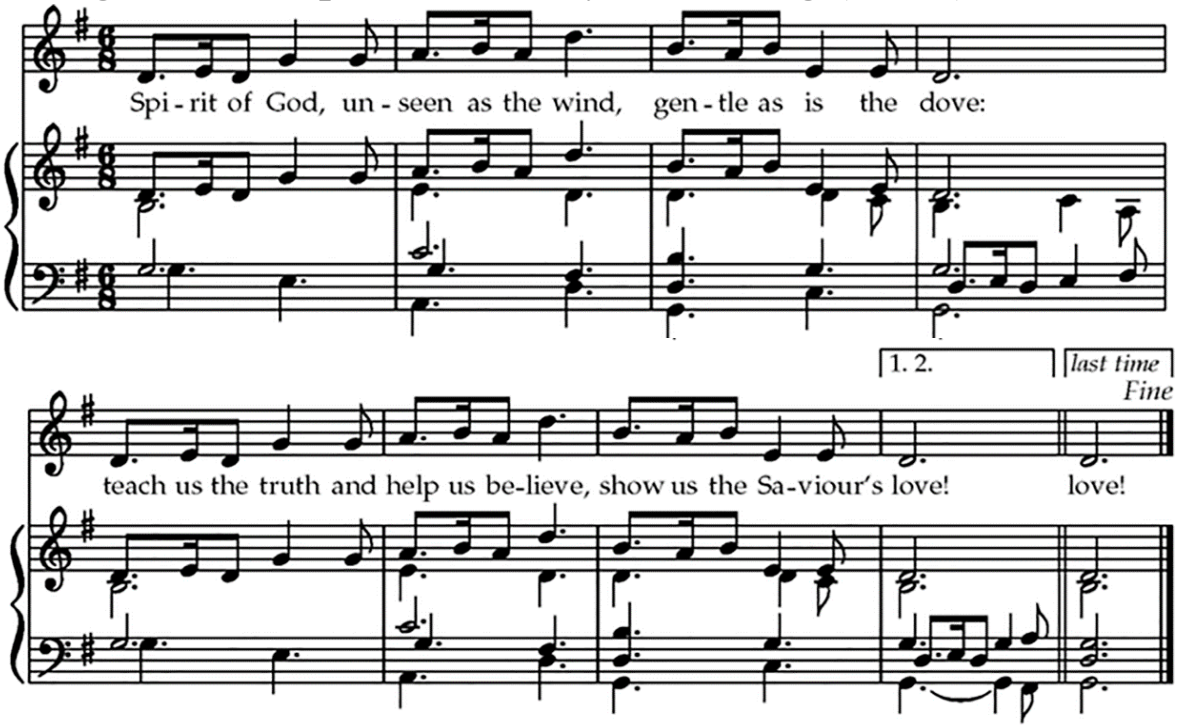
Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

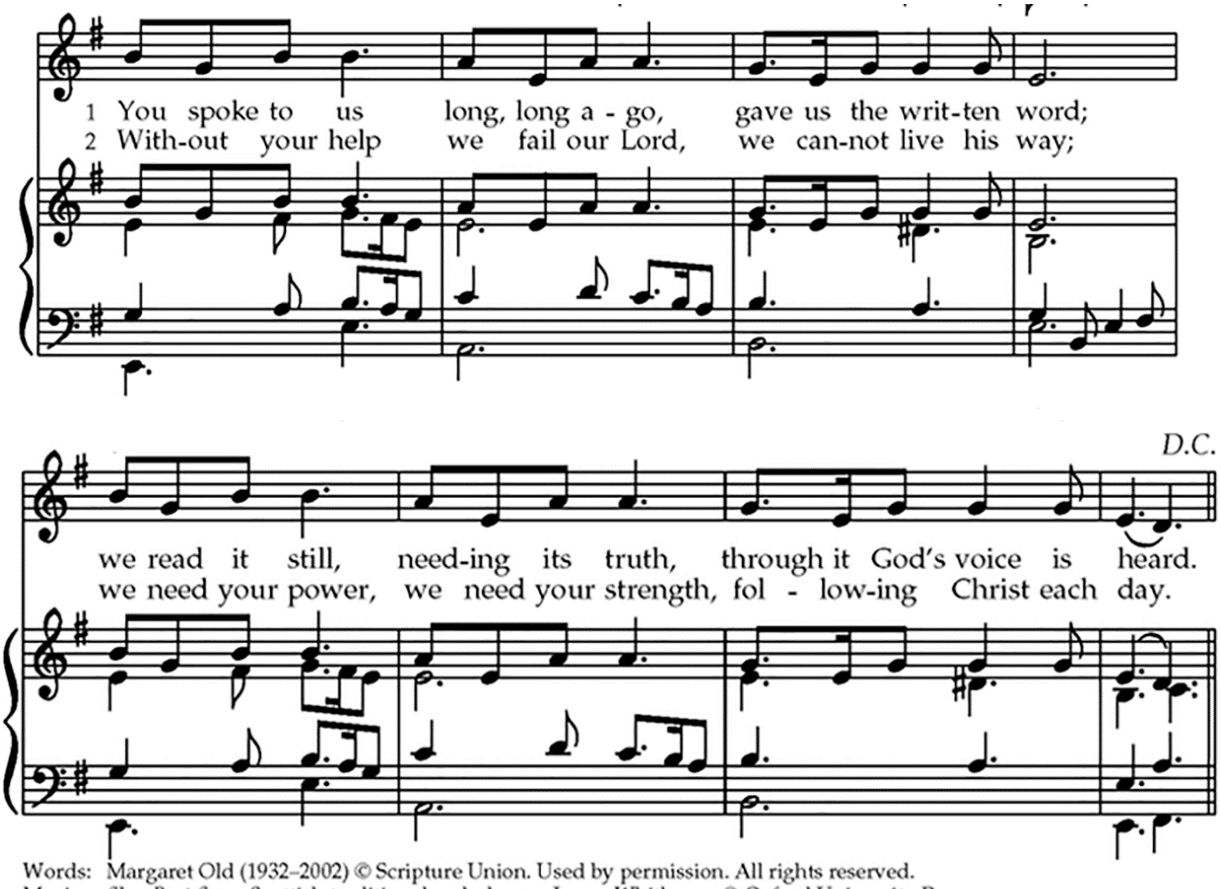
People You come to your people and set them free.

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.*

Song of Praise Spirit of God *Skye Boat Song* (VF 53)





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Music: *Skye Boat Song*, Scottish traditional melody; arr. James Whitbourn © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*.

Please sit.

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

A Reading from the book of the prophet Zechariah.

9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
10He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
11As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.
12Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:8-15

8The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
9The Lord is loving to everyone *
and his compassion is over all his works.
10All your works praise you, O Lord, *
and your faithful servants bless you.
11They make known the glory of your kingdom *
and speak of your power;
12That the peoples may know of your power *
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
13Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; *
your dominion endures throughout all ages.
14The Lord is faithful in all his words *
and merciful in all his deeds.
15The Lord upholds all those who fall; *
he lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

15I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. 17But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. 19For I do not do

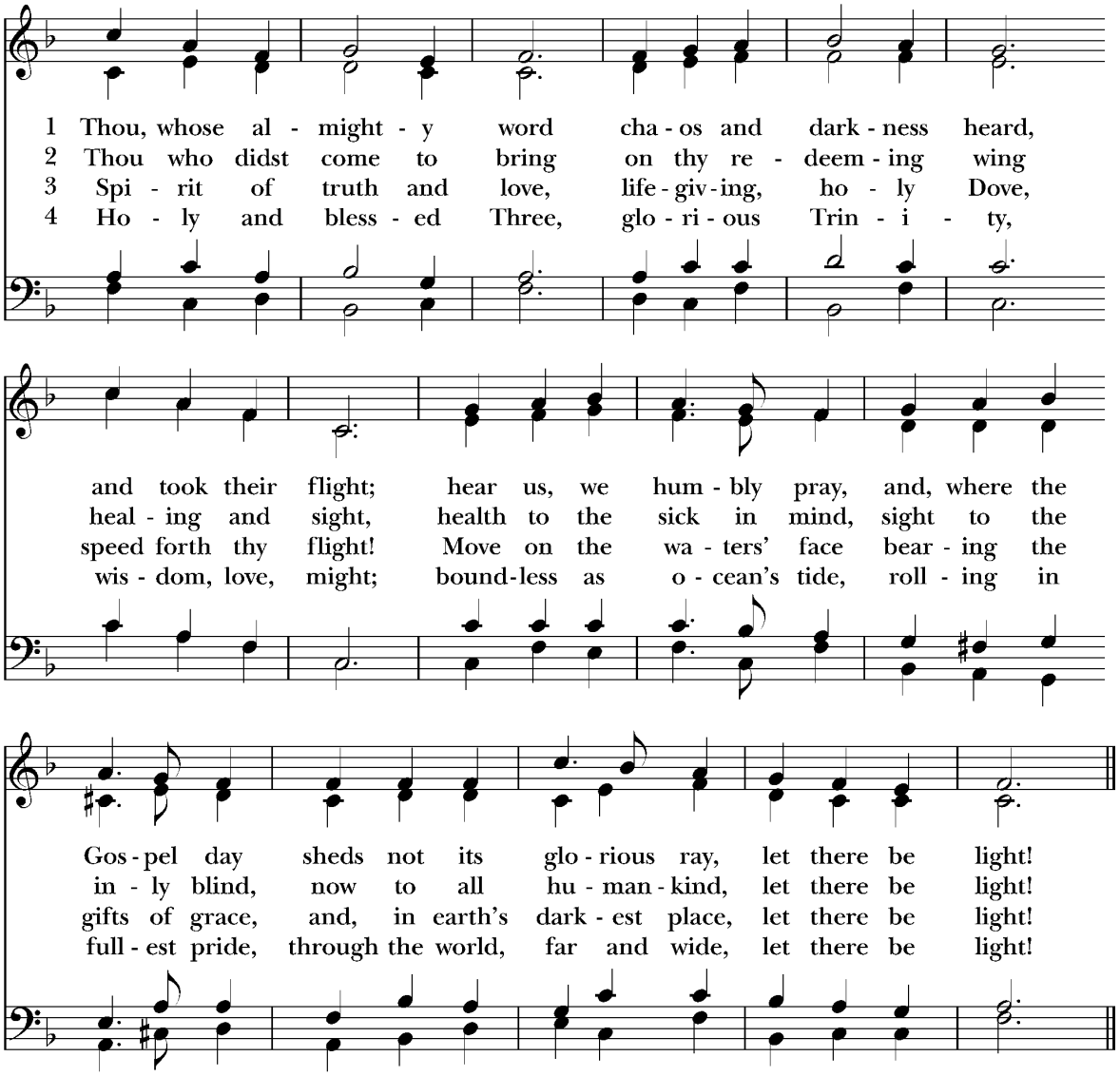
the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. [20]Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

[21]So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. [22]For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, [23]but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. [24]Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? [25a]Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or spirit

Sequence Hymn: *Thou, whose almighty word* (Moscow) (H371)



GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said,] 16"To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,
17'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'
18For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; 19the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."
25At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; 26yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 27All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.
28"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Celebrant The Gospel of Christ
People Glory to you, O Christ

The Sermon: The Rev. Joe Ashby

Please stand in body or spirit

The Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please remain standing

Prayers of the People

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours for ever. *Amen.*

We give thanks to you, O Lord our God, for all your servants and witnesses of time past: for Abraham, the father of believers, and Sarah his wife; for Moses, the lawgiver, and Aaron, the priest; for Miriam and Joshua, Deborah and Gideon, and Samuel with Hannah his mother; for Isaiah and all the prophets; for Mary, the mother of our Lord; for Peter and Paul and all the apostles; for Mary and Martha, and Mary Magdalene; for Stephen, the first martyr, and all the martyrs and saints in every age and in every land. In your mercy, O Lord our God, give us, as you gave to them, the hope of salvation and the promise of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the first-born of many from the dead. *Amen.*

Almighty God, giver of all good things:
We thank you for the natural majesty and beauty of this land. They restore us, though we often destroy them.
Heal us.

We thank you for the great resources of this nation. They make us rich, though we often exploit them.
Forgive us.

We thank you for the men and women who have made this country strong. They are models for us, though we often fall short of them.
Inspire us.

We thank you for the torch of liberty which has been lit in this land. It has drawn people from every nation, though we have often hidden from its light.
Enlighten us.

We thank you for the faith we have inherited in all its rich variety. It sustains our life, though we have been faithless again and again.
Renew us.

Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun. Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to abolish poverty and crime. And hasten the day when all our people, with many voices in one united chorus, will glorify your holy Name. *Amen.*

O Judge of the nations, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

All-loving God, whose life is the source of our life, whose love is the source of our salvation, pour out your grace upon your church and upon the world, that all may know you, love you, and serve one another in your Name;
Hear our prayer.

All-governing God, who set forth the foundations of the world, so direct, inspire, and correct those in authority in this nation and the world, that the laws they make and the policies they embrace may reflect the dignity with which you created humanity in your image, and in harmony with your creation. Remove from the imaginations of power all thoughts toward oppression, discrimination, or other sins of pride, that we may truly love your image in one another, and in your Name;
Hear our prayer.

Incarnate God, you lived among neighbors, friends and enemies alike; you know the intimate and everyday concerns of your people in this and every community. Where there is suffering, continue to heal it. We pray especially for healing of
Tammy Patterson, Tom Lilly, Johanna Middleton, Viola Sullins, Linda Fogle, Peter Dench, Cara Warren, Alice Bolam, Molly and Nathan Weisel, Andrea, Marilyn Dickinson, Doug Geissinger, Jackson, Gary, Richard Green, John Titmas, Holly

Hillen, Bob Reiner, Frances Beacon, Vicki Simpkins, Brinley Wyczalek, Ronnie Long, Aiden Ortiz. Where there is harm, continue to expose it. Where there is need, continue to feed your people with the abundant Providence of God, from whom all blessings flow. Do not let us forget, either, our responsibility for one another's welfare, in your Name;
Hear our prayer.

For those who rest in Christ and for all the dead, especially Ed Denning, we pray.
Hear our prayer.

We pray together now the Discernment Prayer for St. Paul's:
O Lord our God, May we, the parish of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, embrace your commandment of loving our neighbors as you have loved us while we discern who we are and how best to serve you. We ask that you quiet our souls, so we may listen to you. We ask that you grant us wisdom as we seek new leadership. And lastly, we ask for the courage to follow wherever you lead us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen*.

Please stand in body or spirit

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.
The People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Church Announcements

Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence (Psalm 50:14)

The Celebrant says
Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

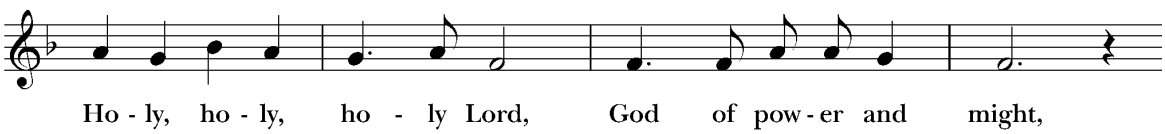
Offertory Hymn: *Lied* (Louis Vierne 1870-1937)

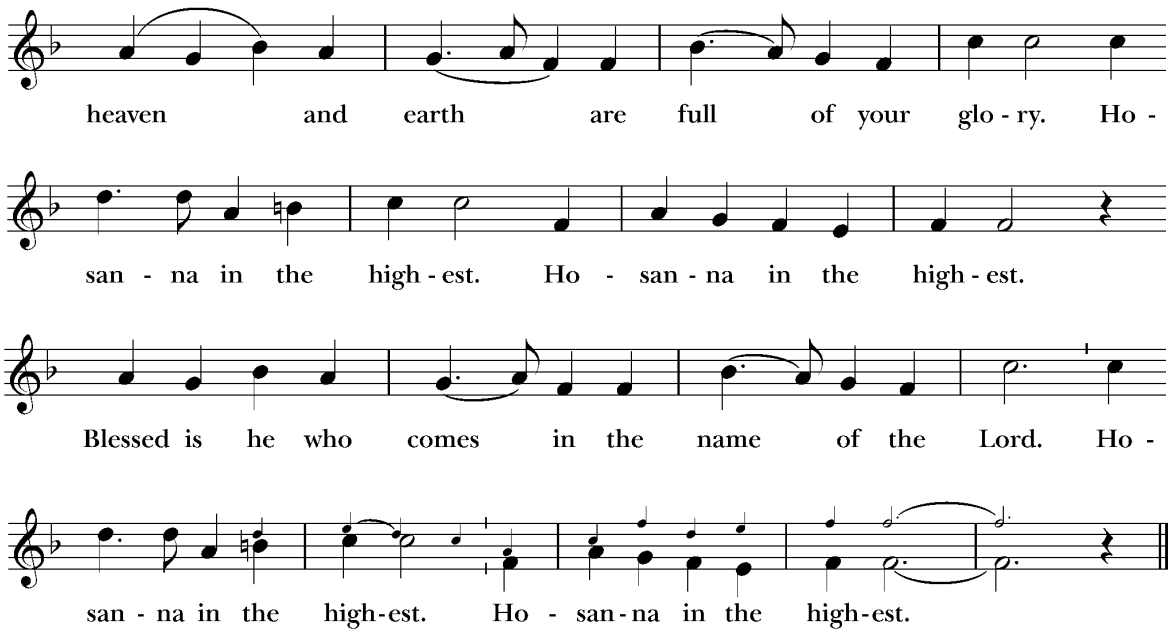
The Great Thanksgiving

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 our 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 S125





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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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:
Celebrant and People
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

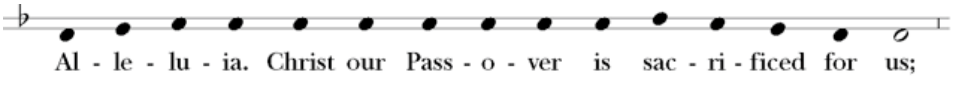
Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.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

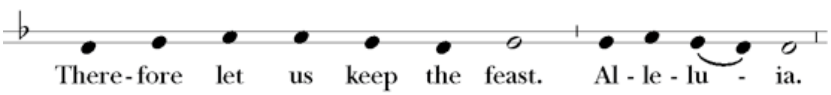
The Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread (S 152)





Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion music: *Come Unto Him* (*Messiah*, G.F. Handel), Heather Hershey, solo

Spiritual Communion

Celebrant Please join us in praying with our siblings in Christ who are with us online and receiving communion spiritually.

Dearest Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We love you above all things and long for you in our souls. Since we are not altogether in our church today to receive the bread and wine made holy, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. Fill us with your light and nourish us all with your word and Spirit. Amen.

****Note to the congregation: Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please tell the clergy if you need gluten-free bread. If you come to the communion station for a blessing instead, please cross your arms on your chest. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact the priests of St. Paul's.*

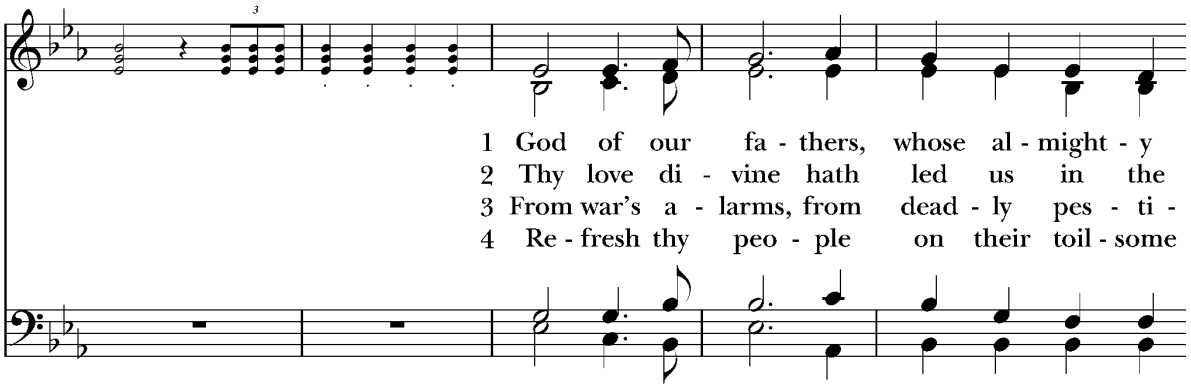
Post-Communion Prayer

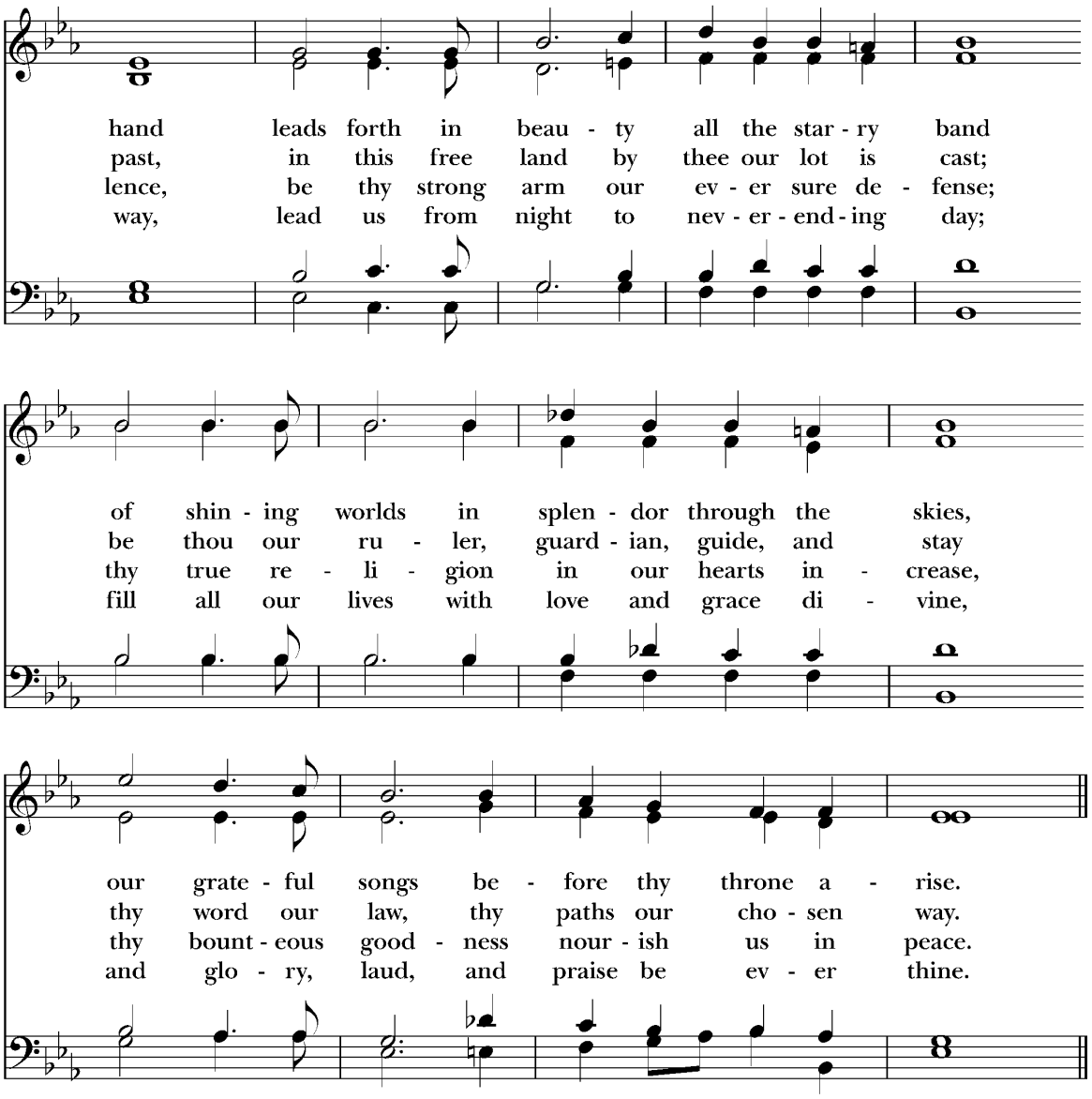
God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and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

The Blessing

Celebrant
God's Blessing be with you,
Christ's peace be with you,
the Spirit's outpouring be with you,
now and always. Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: God of our fathers, whose almighty hand) (National Hymn) (H718)





Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Con moto maestoso* (Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1847)

A prayer for peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

TODAY'S SERVERS:

Celebrants: The Revs. Kay and Joe Ashby
Musician Emeritus: William H. Kendrick
Greeters: David Lewis and Paula Hampton
Crucifer: Demetrius Carrothers
Eucharistic Minister: Douglas Colmery
Video: David Lewis
Lector: Valerie Frear
Altar Guild: Peggy Neidig and Susan Phillips
Counters: Peggy Neidig and Valerie Frear

Parish News

Happy July Birthdays

Kay Ashby, 7/1
Alice Hopkins, 7/2
Molly Ryan, 7/5
Marcia Enslen, 7/8
Baylor Wade, 7/12
Lilly Montgomery, 7/15
Richard Enslen, 7/17
Brett Marcum, 7/25
Troy Dunn, 7/31

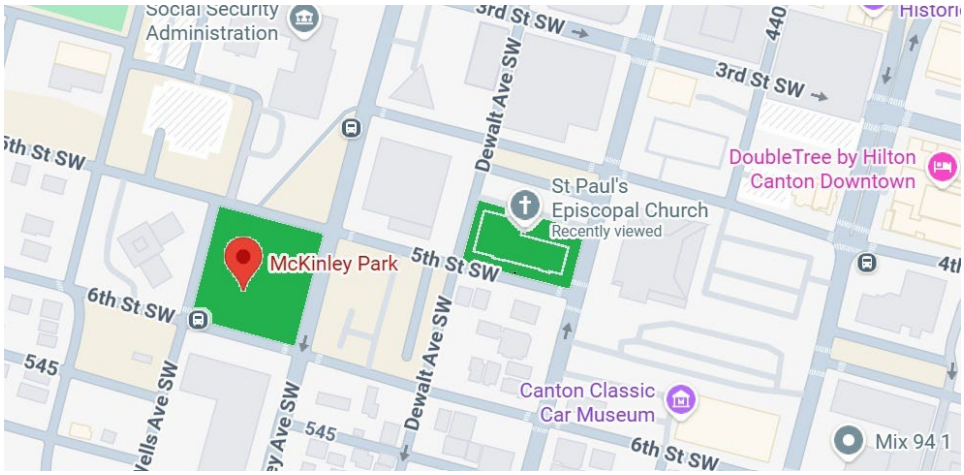
Happy July Anniversaries

Theresa and Mark Voyk, 7/14

Welcome home Bill and Linda

Today, we welcome back Bill and Linda Kendrick, who traveled north to enjoy the cool weather (hah) and warm friendships. Bill is today's organist and he's joined by soloist Heather Hershey singing "*Come Unto Him"* from *Messiah*. Thanks to both for deepening our worship with something so special!

Sunrise Eucharist, breakfast and Morning Prayer



Next Sunday, July 12, St. Paul's will celebrate a special Sunrise Service at McKinley Park, a block southwest of us, at 7 a.m.

The park is actually the site of the oldest cemetery in Canton, making it an extra special sacred space.

We'll be inviting the near Southwest neighborhood as well and will follow the service with breakfast in the Guild Hall. And for those who have a bit of a hard time with early rising, we'll follow the breakfast with Morning Prayer.

Please join us as we greet the day with this symbol of new beginnings.

Also, here's the list of services to come throughout July.

- July 12: Sunrise service, 7 a.m. processing from St. Paul's to McKinley Park (southwest of St. Paul's), followed by breakfast at St. Paul's. (Those who aren't big on early rising can join us for a short Morning Prayer after breakfast.)
- July 19: Morning Prayer Rite 1 (no music but lots of "thees" and "thous").
- July 26: Holy Communion with guest organist Sally Little.

HOF Parade is very much on the horizon

St. Paul's again has a front row seat to the Hall of Fame parade, which steps off at 8 a.m. Aug. 8 pretty much at our doorstep. We will again be celebrating the event and raising money for our HOT lunch program by offering the community coffee, water, hot dogs and donuts. It's never too early to start collecting, so please consider donating a case of water and/or money to help us underwrite the costs. We'll also be posting a signup sheet in July if you want to help.

The bus tour, part II

Last year, Courageous Conversations on Race Relations launched its inaugural bus tour of Canton. The counter-clockwise exploration of our city and the philosophies and structures that shaped it will be repeated and upgraded next month.

We'll gather in the Guild Hall at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, then head out on a tour bus to see first-hand how barriers such as Route 30 and the largely unfilled promises of jobs slashed through neighborhoods on the south side of the city. We'll also see how redlining shaped our city in the decades before the highways and factories hollowed out neighborhoods deemed "undesirable."

Our tour guides for the evening will be many of those who lived in once-vibrant neighborhoods and still remember the sounds, sights and bustling activity urban renewal replaced.

A bagged dinner from Deli Ohio will be provided and the entire tour is free (though donations are welcome). Seating is limited, however, so if you'd like to join us, please click on (or cut and paste) this link.

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An important note from our sister parish

The rector of St. Timothy's in Massillon has accepted a calling to become priest-in-charge of Church of the Ascension in Lakewood. Fr. George Baum has been a good friend to St. Paul's, and we wish him all that is good at his new parish. His last service in Massillon will be July 26 and he'll begin his new ministry in September. So, like us, St. Tim's will be in a period of transition. We will do everything we can to support our fellow Episcopalians as they navigate their path. Here is a letter from the St. Tim's Vestry on this time of change.

June 30, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

After a period of discernment, the Rev. George Baum has shared with us that he will conclude his ministry at St. Timothy's. His final Sunday will be July 26, and July 31 will be his last day in the office.

We write with both gratitude and sadness. Over the past 10 years, we have shared a meaningful season of ministry. Fr. George has led us with care, prayer, and deep commitment. We are grateful for his leadership and love—and we will miss him dearly.

At the same time, we trust in God's ongoing work among us. Transitions are part of the life of every church, and we believe this season can be one of reflection, growth, and new possibility. We are not walking this road alone. Our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly, and the diocesan staff are walking closely with us to provide guidance and support through the months ahead.

In the coming weeks, we will work together to plan a meaningful farewell for Fr. George and Cristin, and to honor the ministry we have shared. We also want to be clear about an important boundary: after his departure, the Rev. George Baum will no longer serve in a pastoral or liturgical role with this community. This is not about personal relationships—it is about making space for the next season of leadership to emerge, without confusion or divided loyalties. In the meantime, the wardens — in collaboration with the diocesan staff — are actively ensuring the continuity of worship, pastoral care, and parish life. We are in good hands, and support is in place to guide us through this time of transition.

We ask your prayers for the Fr. George and Cristin, and for our whole community in this time of change. May we walk together in grace, holding one another in compassion, and trusting that the Holy Spirit is already preparing the way forward.

In gratitude,
Liz Susor, Senior Warden
Jim Jobe, Junior Warden