**St. Paul’s Church**

**August 15, 2021**

**Welcome**

**\* Processional Song**

**\* Opening Acclamation**

 Blessed be God, most holy, glorious and undivided

 Trinity**.**

 **And blessed be God’s reign now and forever.**

There is one Body and one Spirit;

**There is one hope in God’s call to us;**

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

 **One God and Father of all.**

**\*Collect**

Almighty and everliving God, let your caring hand ever be over us your people; let your Holy Spirit inspire and guide our small but mighty community; leading us in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that we may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

**\*Words of Praise**

Jesus says, ‘I am the way for you.’

**And so we come to follow Christ.**

Jesus says, ‘I am the Truth for you.’

**And so we come for enlightenment.**

Jesus says, ‘I am the Life for you.’

**And so we come, leaving behind all else to which we cling.**

**\*Prayer for the Day**

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquillity the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  *Amen*.

**\*Preliminary Reading *Access Road* by Alison Luterman**

I don’t know if other people feel like there’s a life

running alongside their so-called real life like an

Access road runs alongside the main highway.

It’s funkier, lonelier; you didn’t expect to find yourself on this one-

Lane frontage path, you kept thinking you’d get on the

Freeway any minute now, where you fondly imagined yourself

Doing eighty, ninety, hurtling down the untrammeled autobahn of

Free will. That was the life you thought would be yours when you

Were young and everything seemed laid out as at a picnic with red

Gingham tablecloths. Only it was never like that, not really, you had

Just been raised with too many stories, always stories, not the real,

Ancient ones with burning bushes and three-headed dogs, but the

White-washed, idealized, candy-coated pap fed to children in mid-

Twentieth-century suburbs. And so in your fantasies you neglected

to factor in the reality of ants crawling up your legs at the actual picnic,

 the way they tickle and sting, or the spilled juice and

 crumbled potato chips and your beautiful mother young again, and

 strong, but anxious and discontented amid all that messy beauty,

 because she too, was always calibrating how reality didn’t measure

up to the story. So you’ve inherited her dilemma, what else is new,

and evening is drawing nigh, and you are still on that

access road, which as it turns out is going to the same place

the main road was headed all along.

**First Testament Reading** *Please be seated* **Proverbs 9:1-6**

Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars.
She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table.
She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town,
“You that are simple, turn in here!” To those without sense she says,
“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.
Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

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

### Response Psalm 34:9-14

Fear the Lord, you that are my saints, for those who fear me lack nothing.

 **The young lions lack and suffer hunger, but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good**.

 Come, children, and listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

 **Who among you loves life and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?**

 Keep your tongue from evil-speaking and your lips from lying words.

 **Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.**

..

**The Epistle** **Ephesians 5:15-20**

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\* The Gospel John 6:51-58**

 The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
 **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord
**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon** *The Reverend Rebecca Ragland*

***Baptism of Naomi Lynn Randell***

**Baptismal Liturgy Prayer Book pp. 301 – 308**

**Prayer of Dedication**

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised her to the new life of grace.

**Sustain Naomi, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit.**

Give her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works**. Amen.**

**\* The Exchange of Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**Liturgy of Rededication for St. Paul’s**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Congregational Prayer**

**Christ Jesus, you go before and behind us, you are our light and our shield; guide our path, be our clear sight, lift us up in your Gospel joy, and bless the work we do in your name and honor, for you are our beloved, and our life made new. AMEN**

**Happy Birthday, St. Paul’s!**

**Offering & Preparation for the Blessed Sacrament**

***The service continues using the communion insert.***

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