



The Epistle 2020

June

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1135 12th Street
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Sparks, Nevada 89432
775-358-4474
www.StPaulsSparks.org

The Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff, Rector

The Rev. Chip Arnold,
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Mike Patterson
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Hal Woomer, Jr.
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Jody Lediard
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Mike Margerum, Deacon

The Rev. Linda Smith, Deacon

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WHO ARE WE?

St. Paul's is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, you belong here. Our understanding of belonging extends to those who are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered. Belonging here has no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. We believe that God delights in the diversity of creation and so do we. You are worthy, so come as you are.

Need Toilet Paper?

Contact the church.

Need Food?

Contact the church.

**If you need anything,
contact the church.**

From the Pile on Fr. Kirk's Desk...



I was reminded recently that where we are right now is not the end of the story. When things pile up on us, it often feels like the end of the road with no way forward. I was reminded that God is the God of history, the present, and the future. God's story continues and we are right there in the middle of it with God.

What I like about this image is that God's story is a story of love, one that never ends. During these trying, and at moments even unimaginable times, we must hold onto the love of God's story and find hope in knowing that this is our story too.

Kirk+

Pentecost Lament

For those who missed worship on Pentecost and who don't get our emails, I want to share this gift. It is a gift that I needed to hear, a gift I needed to experience.

I read it this during Zoom worship. Afterwards, during Zoom coffee hour, some expressed gratefulness for it, that it allowed us a means to lament together as a community.

I agree wholeheartedly, and also for me, in lieu of Communion this lament became our means of communally receiving the Eucharist today....a reminder for us to live as the Incarnational Body of Love with all the messiness that comes with it.

In the midst of all your feelings, take a moment to share in this Pentecost Lament and maybe even experience the healing and wholeness it has to offer.

Blessings, Kirk+

The Author is

The Rev. Canon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent
Canon for Transition and Church Development
The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York

A Pentecost Lament

God, the world is on fire.

But it feels more like the fires of Gehenna, where our ancestors in faith burned their trash, more than it feels like the fires of Pentecost.

Injustice feels so heavy.

The sins of humanity weigh us down.

For some of us, it feels like a weight on our chest, making it hard to breathe.

For some of your children, Lord, it is a weight that has choked the life out of them.

There is so much to fear.

I fear a virus that I can't see, yet whose reach has upended the lives of your people.

I struggle to learn to live in a world where hugs are hazardous and raising our voices together in song in the same room is a public health danger.

I miss my family and friends so much that tears fall on this page.

And yet I remember that this could be so much worse.

I try to force gratitude.

I can't feel it now, which brings me some measure of shame and guilt.

It's a familiar feeling to have so many emotions crowded in the space of my heart, vying for attention.

For now, I'll leave a corner free for gratitude and trust that we'll meet up when the time is right.

Because, with a voice as loud as sadness, Rage also demands my attention.

I am angry because your black and brown people are not treated fairly.

I am angry because they fear for their lives in so many ways because of the colors of their skin.

I am angry because we were all born into a sinful world where racism, prejudice, and systemic, structural injustice aren't just left to its own devices – they're fed, nurtured, and encouraged in ways I can't even understand right now.

I am afraid that I am part of the problem
I am afraid I don't have enough stamina, courage, or wisdom to do the work that is mine to do
of learning, unlearning and understanding, and asking you to heal that racism in me that I cannot even see.

We need so much from you right now, God.
I need you so much right now.
Breathe your Holy Spirit of peace into our hearts.
Not just into the open hearts, asking for your peace,
But breathe it also, with all your might, into the cold corners of hearts that don't feel a need for peace.
Breathe your Holy Spirit of peace into all of those places in our society where racism has taken root.
Breathe your Holy Spirit of peace into the places where we can't even see one another's humanity.
Breathe your Holy Spirit of peace into every place of entitlement, self-righteousness, misguided loyalties, and selfishness.

God, we need so much from you right now.
God, we need so much of you right now.
Breathe your Holy Spirit of peace into the homes and hearts of those who mourn and grieve.
Breathe your Holy Spirit of peace into places where fear abides.
Breathe your Holy Spirit of peace into the lives of your people who are sick.
Sick in body, sick in spirit, and just sick of all the weight of injustice and sin.
God, we need so much from you right now.

God, we need so much of you right now.
Even as the world groans with sickness and sin.
Even as I groan in sadness and rage.
I trust in you.
I know you are big enough
to hold all of this in your loving hands.
I know you are close enough
to dwell even in the furthest parts of my heart.
I know you are strong enough
to see us through this storm.
For you are the God who brings order out of chaos.
You breathed your Spirit over creation and made order in our world.
You are a God who liberates captives, who calms stormy seas, who raises the dead to life.
I put all my trust in you.

Thank you for being with me always,
Even in fear, even in rage.
Thank you for not placing limits on my emotions and letting me bring it all to you,
All of my unrefined, unedited feelings.
I will trust you always.
Even when the order you bring out of the chaos is not what I expect.
Even when the Kingdom you bring shatters things that I've clung to
Even when life changes.
Even when the status quo is upended.
I will trust you always.
Even when your Holy Spirit feels like the rush of a violent wind.
Even when I'm confused.
Even when I'm scared.
I will trust you always.
For you are the peace which passes all understanding.

A Pentecost Lament

May 31, 2020

The Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent

Latest Update from Bishop Jim

Bishop's Statement: No Re-Opening Yet

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I have been in communication with other Bishops in Province VIII, with our Chancellor, clerics, and diocesan staff members, I have made the decision to keep our church campuses closed. Coronavirus numbers continue to climb in Nevada, and protocols from the CDC and other health agencies prescribe safety procedures for reopening churches that we are not yet able to meet. Liability issues are also considered in this decision, along with the health and welfare of our parishioners. The decision about how and when to reopen our parish buildings will be revisited in early July. Throughout June, no gatherings may be held on church property in the Diocese of Nevada. Next week I will be sending out a more detailed letter about our plans for moving forward together, and how we might continue to be church even when we are not able to meet in our buildings. Please be assured that detailed information about reopening your campuses will be given to you when the time is appropriate - you do not need to create your own plan. In the meantime, may you and your parish continue to grow in depth of love, patience and compassion through this time of sacrifice.

Bishop Jim

BishopJim@EpsicopalNevada.org

Worship Information

10:00 a.m. Sundays

8:00 p.m. Wednesdays

Details can be found on under the online worship tab at StPaulsSparks.org.

NEW Sunday Book Study

Everyone is invited to join us for a new on-line Book Study, Sundays 12:00 to 1:00 on ZOOM, beginning June 28th. Email Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org so we can make sure you get the Zoom links.

The Book is Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith by Rob Bell.

In Velvet Elvis, Rob Bell frees us to consider God beyond the picture someone else painted for us in order to find an authentic understanding of the Christian faith. God doesn't have boundaries, and faith doesn't have to be limited to what someone else has told us. God is alive. Faith is alive. Velvet Elvis helps us find our faith. And even if it doesn't, it encourages us to keep looking.

Prayers of the People

This is such a trying time for everyone. We cannot emphasize enough the power of prayer. We are not praying for anyone specific but everyone as a whole. With this outbreak of COVID19 virus, all of our lives have been touched adversely in some way, so everyone needs prayers now more than ever.

Please keep all family, neighbors, co-workers and people in your community in your everyday prayers and keep positive thoughts that we will be able to return to our lives as we knew them before this event took place. We need to remain vigilant in our everyday life to maintain a healthy existence physically, mentally and spiritually.

What's your favorite Worship Song?

We are taking music requests for Sunday Zoom worship! If you have a favorite Praise Song or Traditional Hymn, please email the name to Kirk@StPaulsSparks.org. We can't promise to get to them all, but we'll try.

The Community Food Pantry

If you are in need of food, we will be open EVERY WEDNESDAY from 5:30-7pm until further notice. We are practicing social distance, but we will be able to get you some food. Please message us if you need further information. Location 1135 12th Street Sparks, NV (behind the Library). Our normal Wednesday 10:00 to 12:00 and Saturday 9:00 to 11:00 are still operational this is just an additional opportunity.



We might very well be in need of some volunteers for food pick-up and shelving the food, as well as pre-bagging before distribution days. If you want to help, email Barbra Monroy bmonroy0216@gmail.com.

Laundry Love

This once-a-month ministry helps people do their laundry so they can use their limited funds on medicine, rent, etc. Doing a load of laundry is expensive, so we continually collect quarters (or other \$\$ that we can turn into quarters). Monetary donations can either be handed to Linda Devon or designate it in an envelope and put it in the offering plate. If you have any questions or interest in helping with this ministry, contact Linda Devon at LSD4764@hotmail.com.



Social Media Tips

Before you post, ask yourself a few questions:

Do I know this is factual? Do your research before you post and add the source.

What is my motivation for posting it? Ask yourself the source of your emotional response.

Where does what you are posting fit into your values? As people of faith, we should know our values and only post things that promote things that represent our core.

Is what I want to post going to promote healing or separation? Separation is sin. Healing is love.

Would I say this to someone face to face? Social media is fracturing relationships.

Prophecy in Pictures

This picture is from the Church Pension Fund calendar. This calendar was printed/published in 2019.

Robin and Fr. Kirk always look forward to turning the page each month to see what humor the church has to offer. They just about fell over in shock this month.



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STAMP
HERE

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Web Site: www.stpaulssparks.org

Place Label Here



Sundays 10:00 a.m.

Wednesdays 8:00 p.m.

Online Worship: Check at StPaulsSpark.org