

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
The Third Sunday after the Epiphany:
The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

January 23, 2022 ✠ 10:00 a.m.

The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts now requires congregants maintain physical distancing (6 ft. or more) between households at all gatherings and that masks be worn by everyone (except children aged 2 and under) at all indoor gatherings.



“Conversion of Saul” William Blake, 1800

William Blake's Conversion of Saul is part of his biblical watercolour series, produced between 1800–05 for his loyal patron, Thomas Butts.

Interestingly, Blake includes some medieval motifs in his composition. Saul sits atop a magnificent yet prostrate white horse. Yet in a nod to the Renaissance iconography, a flying Christ dominates the top half of the composition. He is bathed in light and surrounded either by a heavenly host, or perhaps by the souls of those whom Saul was persecuting (see Acts 26:9–11). Christ appears to be pointing Saul in the direction of Damascus. His robes almost touch Saul, suggesting a mingling of the human and the divine that was for Blake the ultimate aim of discipleship.

Saul himself is young, muscular, and attired in the Roman style. He too has spread his arms in what may be a simple sign of total acceptance of his mission, or more symbolically a cruciform gesture (an acknowledgement of the consequences of that acceptance). Blake believed that anyone could share in the “(Christ) so long as they altered their way of perceiving the world.”

Thus here we see the moment at which, for Blake at least, Saul, a known persecutor of Christians, definitively opened his field of visionary perception. The dark and huddled mass of his travelling companions in the background of the image, only one of whom has turned his head to see the vision, form an important visual counterpoint to the man who, in becoming Paul, is the ‘ideal’ disciple. (thevcs.org)

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Ciacona in f minor

Johann Pachelbel
1653-1706

Welcome

The Rev. Melanie L. McCarley

Please stand for the

Opening Hymn 530

“Spread, O spread, thou mighty word”

Gott sei Dank

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free.

The Celebrant says

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.*

The Gloria S 280 Canticle 20, Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -

ceive our prayer. 6. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One,
 you a-lone are the Lord, 7. you a-lone are the Most
 High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the
 glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant continues

O God, by the preaching of your apostle Paul you have caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we pray, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may show ourselves thankful to you by following his holy teaching; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated for

The Lesson

Acts 26:9-21

Paul said to King Agrippa, "Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with authority received from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme; and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities.

"With this in mind, I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, when at midday along the road, your Excellency, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The Lord answered, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles - to whom I am sending you to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

"After that, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do deeds consistent with repentance. For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67

- 1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
- 2 Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
- 7 May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

The Epistle

Galatians 1:11-24

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus.

Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days; but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; they only heard it said, "The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy." And they glorified God because of me.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the

Gospel Hymn 255 (vv. 1, 2)

"We sing the glorious conquest"

Munich

The Gospel

Matthew 10:16-22

Then, all standing, the Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the twelve, "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

After the Gospel, the Priest says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel Hymn 255 (v. 3)

"We sing the glorious conquest"

Munich

The Sermon

The Rev. Melanie L. McCarley

Said by all, standing

The Nicene 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.

All sit for

The Prayers of the People From *Prayers4reparation.wordpress.com*

Leader Jesus Christ, the risen Lord, sends the word of light into a world of darkness to enlighten, to transform, to heal, and to save. With grateful joy, we pray: *In your light we see light.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you turned Saint Paul's zeal for the way of his ancestors into zeal for you, who are the Way and the Truth:

– open the minds of all people of good will to receive your transforming word.

People In your light we see light.

Leader Lord Jesus Christ, you called Saint Paul out of darkness into marvelous light:

– enlighten all those who hate and persecute.

People In your light we see light.

Leader Lord Jesus Christ, you sent St Paul to preach the good news to the Gentiles:

– send us to speak of your love to those who have yet to hear the Good News.

People In your light we see light.

Leader Lord Jesus Christ, you commissioned St Paul to bring new life to Jew and Gentile, man and woman, slave and free:

– speak the word of life and love to all who dwell apart from you and are hostile to one another.

People In your light we see light.

Personal intentions

Great God of glory, you called Saint Paul to preach the Gospel to all nations. By the power of the Gospel he preached, draw all peoples to yourself, through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Peace

The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offering and come into his courts.

Psalm 96:8

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory Anthem

O how amiable

Ralph Vaughan Williams

1872-1958

O how amiable are thy dwellings thou Lord of hosts. My soul hath a desire and longing to enter in to the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house And the swallow a nest where she may lay her young. Even thy altars O Lord of hosts, my king and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. They will be always praising thee. The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us. Prosper thou the work of our hands upon us. O prosper thou our handy work, o prosper thou our handy work. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come. Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer 3 from "Enriching Our Worship 1"*

The people remain standing. The Celebrant says

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

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

The Sanctus S 130

"Holy, holy, holy Lord"

Franz Peter Schubert

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Presider and People

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

The Presider continues

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with [blessed _____, and] all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Presider and People

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN

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

Celebrant and People

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Agnus Dei S 164

“Jesus, Lamb of God”

Franz Peter Schubert

Jesus, Lamb of God:
Have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins:
Have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world:
Give us your peace.

The Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The People remain in their pews while the Celebrant delivers the consecrated bread to each pew. Please wait to remove your mask and consume the bread until the Celebrant has moved on to the next pew.

Communion Hymn 581

“Where charity and love prevail”

Cheshire

Communion Motet

King Jesus hath a garden

arr. Charles Wood
1866-1926

King Jesus hath a garden, full of divers flowers, Where I go culling posies gay, all times and hours. There naught is heard but Paradise bird, Harp, dulcimer, lute, With cymbal, trump and tymbal, And the tender, soothing flute. The Lily, white in blossom there, is Chastity: The Violet, with sweet perfume, Humanity. The bonny Damask-rose is known as Patience: The blithe and thrifty Marygold, Obedience. The Crown Imperial bloometh too in yonder place, 'Tis Charity, of stock divine, the flower of grace. Yet, 'mid the brave, the bravest prize of all may claim The Star of Bethlem-Jesus-bless'd be his Name! Ah! Jesu Lord, my heal and weal, my bliss complete, Make thou my heart thy garden-plot, fair, trim and neat. That I may hear this musick clear: Harp, dulcimer, lute, With cymbal, trump and tymbal, And the tender, soothing flute.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People, standing

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 409

“The spacious firmament on high”

Creation

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Marche Triomphale

Théodore Dubois
1837-1924

*You're invited to stay and listen to the Postlude but if you choose to leave instead,
please do so quietly so that others may enjoy the music. Thank you!*

A special thank you is extended to those who have made today's service possible:

David Tierney, *Minister of Music*

Nini Colmore & Betsy Edie, *Altar Chapter*

Maggi Lamb, *Lay Eucharistic Minister*

Betsy Edie & Peter Gregory, *Lectors*

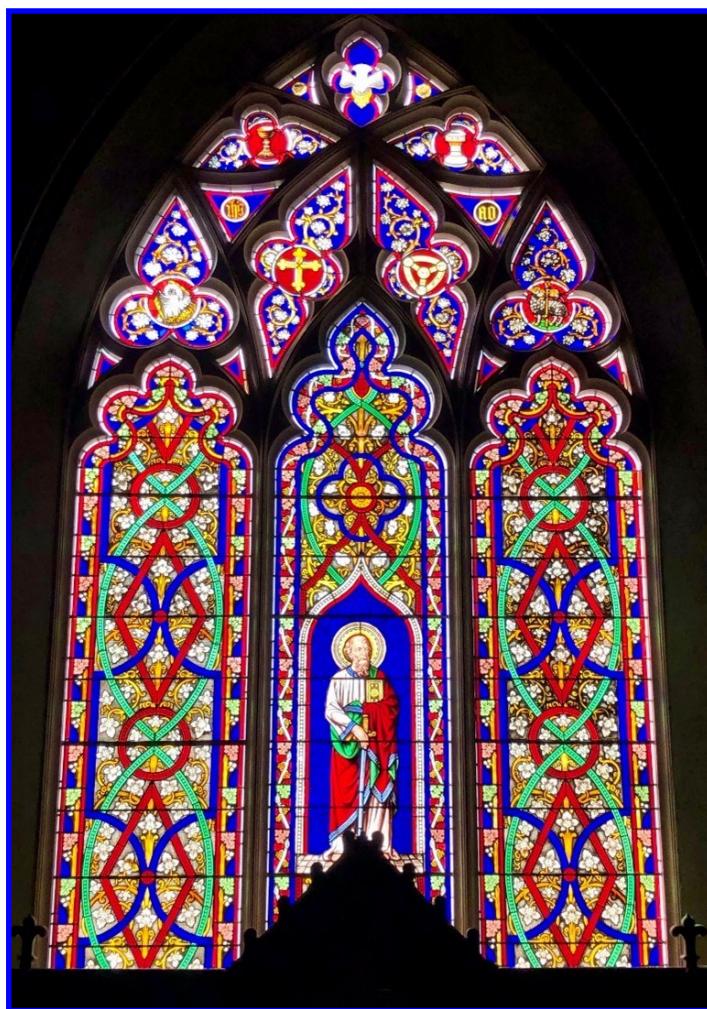
Pen Jones & Amy Ranji, *Greeters*

Sarah Ducas, *Flower Guild*

Rachel & Russ Miller, *Church School Teachers*

Ben Emerson, Joe Luszcz, Phil McCarley, *Technical Support*

Susie Jackson, *Chimesmaster*



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