



# THE EPISTLE

April, 2022



## Diocesan Confirmation at St. Paul's on May 22, 2022, 4:00 P.M.

Have you been confirmed as a part of the body of Christ within the Anglican/Episcopal tradition? If not, please let Fr. Don know and join a confirmation class following the service beginning April 24. The following information is from the "Dictionary of the Episcopal Church" from Episcopal Publishing.

The sacramental rite in which the candidates "express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop" (BCP, p. 860). Those who were baptized at an early age and those baptized as adults without laying on of hands by a bishop are expected to make a mature public affirmation of their faith, recommit themselves to the responsibilities of their baptism, and receive laying on of hands by a bishop (BCP, p. 412). Adults baptized with the laying on of hands by a bishop are considered to be confirmed.

The Prayer Book rite for Confirmation includes forms for Reception and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows. In some dioceses, those who have already made a mature Christian commitment in another denomination are recognized as members of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, and received into the fellowship of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. In other dioceses, those who have been sacramentally confirmed in the Roman Catholic or Orthodox churches are received and others are confirmed. Those who have returned from a time of religious inactivity to an active practice of faith may publicly reaffirm their baptismal vows. Others who have experienced a renewal of faith or desire to renew their Christian commitment may also reaffirm their baptismal vows. Reaffirmation may be repeated, depending on the pastoral needs of the person. Preparation for Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation should help the candidates discover the meaning of Christian commitment in their lives, and explore ways that their Christian commitment can be lived. This preparation may draw upon the baptismal covenant (BCP, pp. 416-417) and An Outline of the Faith (BCP, pp. 845-862).

Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation are rooted in the baptismal covenant. Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation may be done at the service of Holy Baptism or at the Easter Vigil when a bishop is present (BCP, pp. 292, 309-310). When there is no baptism, the entrance rite for Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation follows the entrance rite for baptism (BCP, p. 413). Candidates for Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation are presented in separate groups by their presenters. Candidates may have individual presenters who will support them in their Christian life by prayer and example. It is not necessary that the presenters be members of the clergy. The candidates reaffirm their renunciation of evil, and renew their commitment to Jesus Christ. They reaffirm the promises made by them or for them at the time of baptism. Those present in the congregation promise to do all in their power to support the candidates in their life in Christ. The bishop leads the congregation in renewing the baptismal covenant. The Prayers for the Candidates from the baptismal liturgy may be used as the Prayers for the Candidates for Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation (BCP, p. 417). The bishop lays hands on each candidate for Confirmation. The BCP provides specific prayers to be said by the bishop for Confirmation, for Reception, and for Reaffirmation. The bishop may shake hands with those who are being received to welcome them into this communion, and the bishop may lay hands on them in blessing. The bishop may also bless those who reaffirm their baptismal vows. (continued next page)



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The Episcopal Church's theology of Confirmation has continued to evolve along with its understanding of baptism. Confirmation is no longer seen as the completion of Christian initiation, nor is Confirmation a prerequisite for receiving communion. Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's body the church (BCP, p. 298). Accordingly, Confirmation has been increasingly understood in terms of a mature, public reaffirmation of the Christian faith and the baptismal promises. Some dioceses require that candidates for Confirmation be at least sixteen years old to insure that the candidates are making a mature and independent affirmation of their faith. There is considerable diversity of understanding and practice concerning Confirmation in the Episcopal Church. Confirmation has been characterized as "a rite seeking a theology."

When Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation is celebrated on Sunday or a major feast, the propers (collect and readings) for that day are used. The BCP also provides special propers for Confirmation at other times.

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## The Warden's Word

"'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" Jeremiah 29:11

During our Wednesday Bible study we were asked to reflect on a time that you had to change your plans and how did you respond? One thing that came to my mind was the delay of our Community gathering with Partners for Sacred Places. When you reflect on the question knowing that God is the guide, is he directing you in a new direction? I have been considering this and trying to listen for the Holy Spirit's direction. We decided to offer an invitation to visit St Paul's anytime before the event is rescheduled. Walt Peake has had several people approach the church and meet to discuss how we might work together. Even though the formal gathering is on hold, I believe we are being called to move forward. While we felt that the new Development Officer for Crossover would be a great asset for that organization to further their mission, he has answered a call to a new ministry. Once again how are we being called to respond to this new direction. It may turn out that new partnerships



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will be formed and lead to even more opportunities.

It is easy to get stuck and not want to move forward. We can make excuses and convince ourselves it is too hard. During Lent, we are reminded that Jesus understood obeying the will of his Father would be hard and not only cause mental but physical pain. Please checkout all the opportunities we have to offer at St Paul's for each one of us to move forward and be willing to connect with our church family and welcome others to share in His Grace.

As I write this article, we are now going to meet Thursday June 2 at 3:30 pm with Partners for Sacred Places and our community members. The Tuesday lunch program reopens on Tuesday April 5 for a meal in Barth Hall. We are having coffee hour and a Reflection lead by Father Don each Sunday. We are ready to once again have servers, ushers, acolytes and parishioners bring the bread to the altar. Please volunteer for a Sunday. We will soon have a training session for our new sound system. To make a robust live streaming of our services we will need someone to operate the cameras. Let a vestry member or Father Don know where and when you are willing to serve.

I believe we have a bright future and will find ways to serve our neighbors with the light of Christ leading the way.

For His Sake  
Barbara Mannor

## NEW LIVE STREAMING!

Our new live-streaming equipment has arrived and is installed. The equipment will allow a multi-camera system to present a high-definition to the Internet. Your picture will depend on your home computer and the speed of your home broadband connection.

The system includes the ability to add pre-recorded material as well as camera switching ability equal to that of a small television station. We need help from those willing to learn how to run the system on Sundays.

## The Music Note

The last two years the church across the world has been unable to meet and worship corporately. In a devotional I was reading recently, the author stated, *Our worship of God, both personally and corporately, should share with the young prophet these five elements depicted in Isaiah 6:*

*Recognition: "I saw the Lord" vs 1*

*Praise: "Holy, Holy, Holy" vs. 2*

*Confession: "Woe is me" vs.5*

*Assurance of Pardon: This has touched your lips...forgiven" vs. 7*

*Dedication: "Here am I" vs. 8 from pg 269 Amazing Grace by Osbeck*

This started a reflection of how awful it felt to not be in our church space every week during the pandemic. Dear members, we are designed to worship together, to sing together, to listen to the scripture and take communion together, we are designed for corporate worship. The peace my soul feels to personally walk into our sanctuary, the balm it supplies my soul is indescribable. This is not achieved when I sit on my couch at home.

1. *Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God; Will you pray with all your power, while we try to preach the Word? All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down; Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.*

2. *Brethren, see poor sinners round you slumb'ring on the brink of woe; Death is coming, hell is moving, can you bear to let them go? See our fathers and our mothers, and our children sinking down; Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.*

3. *Sisters, will you join and help us? Moses' sister aided him; Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin? Tell them all about the Savior, tell them that He will be found;*

*Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.*

4. *Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace, and filled with fears? Is there here a weeping Mary, pouring forth a flood of tears? Brethren, join your cries to help them; sisters, let your prayers abound; Pray, oh, pray that holy manna may be scattered all around.*

*Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other, too; Let us love and pray for sinners, till our God makes all things new. Then He'll call us home to Heaven, at His table we'll sit down; Christ will gird Himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.*

Written by George Atkins, before his death in 1816.

<https://youtu.be/LvtTDdWs9Ik>

I hope everyone will come back and worship corporately this Lenten and Easter Season.

Holly Richardson, Director of Music

A Thought...

Please do not let Holy Week come in second or third on your list of options and events next week.

I know that we all have more to do than time, and our time is complicated. With that in mind, we have made our services during Holy Week on different days and different times from 7:30 AM until 8:00 PM. There are 6 celebrations of the Holy Eucharist on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. There is an Ecumenical service at Court Street United Methodist and less formal service which will be similar to the beautiful Great Vigil of Easter.

You are welcome to come stop in the church building anytime during our regular hours and spend some time in prayer.

No matter what I may ask you to do, and no matter how much time attending a service or multiple services, I am sure that you will agree that is nothing in comparison to what our Lord has done for us?

Don+



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**Intersection**

**150**

As we approach the opening weekend of our 150th Anniversary Celebration, we hope to help everyone get into the spirit of the event and represent St. Paul's along the way.

These attractive shirts are designed with to reflect a sense of history, and tell a little bit of our parish story. The shirts are being printed on high-tech, wicking fabric and should run pretty true to size. The lightweight material is ideal for exercise and outdoor activities.

We are taking pre-orders for "150 Years at the Intersection' souvenir T-shirts" that should be available for purchase in a few weeks. The price for shirts will depend on the size of our order, but will certainly be between \$15-\$20 per Shirt.

In order to help us understand the demand and size assortments, we are asking everyone to let us know if you'll be interested in a purchasing a shirt when they arrive, and let us know what size you'll want.

**NO PAYMENT IS DUE NOW!** Once they arrive, pre-orders will be available for pick-up only. Shipping and delivery ARE NOT available. For More Information, please see either Susumu Inoue or Joel Arnold. Thanks!

[Click Here to Pre-Order Your St. Paul's 150th Souvenir T-Shirt](#)

## **BYE BYE COVID Let's Hope!**

The Bishops and Dioceses of Michigan, Eastern Michigan and Western Michigan have approved the return to reception of the Holy Eucharist in both kinds (bread and wine) beginning Maundy-Thursday.

Those who were Eucharistic Ministers, those who would like to be Eucharistic Ministers are asked to meet with Fr. Don on Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 10:00 A.M.

If you are unable to attend the re-training session, please contact Fr. Don and alternative training will be setup. We truly need your help.

At the time when everyone is given the opportunity to receive communion, those who would like to receive the blood of Christ from the chalice will turn one direction and those who would rather not (or are not feeling well) will turn the other direction.

Intinction will not be permitted.



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# Holy Week

## ***Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022***

9:00 A.M.

Blessing and Processions begins in Barth Hall,  
Holy Eucharist continues in Nave

### *Holy Monday*

Holy Eucharist 5:30 P.M.

### *Holy Tuesday*

Holy Eucharist 7:30 A.M.

### *Holy Wednesday*

Holy Wednesday 12:10 P.M.

## ***Maundy Thursday***

Holy Eucharist 6:30 P.M.

## ***Good Friday***

Ecumenical Service, 12:00 Noon  
Court Street United Methodist Church

Stations of the Cross 6:30 P.M.

## ***Holy Saturday***

Lighting of the Pascal Candle  
and Holy Eucharist 8:00 P.M.

***Easter Day*** Festival Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM

