

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 2020

8:45 am Liturgy of the Word
Digital Service

Pre-service Music

Entrance Hymn *Father, We Praise Thee*

Hymnal 1

Bill Markley, organist

1 Fa - ther, we praise thee,
2 Mon - arch of all things,
3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther,

o - ver, ac - tive and watch - ful,
man - sions; ban - ish our weak - ness,
Spi - rit, Trin - i - ty bless - ed,

fore thee; sing - ing we of - fer prayer and med - i -
send - ing; bring us to hea - ven, where thy saints u -
va - tion; thine is the glo - ry, gleam - ing and re -

ta - tion: thus we a - dore thee.
nit - ed joy with - out end -
sound - ing through all cre - a -
ing.

Officiant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

BCP 355

The Officiant 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.**

Gloria (all say)

BCP 356

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

Collect of the Day

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Exodus 15:1b-11,20-21

"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

The LORD is my strength and my might,
and he has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

The LORD is a warrior;
the LORD is his name.

"Pharaoh's chariots and his army he cast into the sea;
his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.

The floods covered them;

they went down into the depths like a stone.
Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power--

your right hand, O LORD, shattered the enemy.

In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries;
you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble.

At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up,
the floods stood up in a heap;

the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.

The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake,
I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them.'

I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.'

You blew with your wind, the sea covered them;
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.

"Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods?
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,
awesome in splendor, doing wonders?"

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing.

And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pre-Gospel Hymn *Praise to the Lord*

Hymnal 390

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
2 Praise to the Lord, o'er all things he is glo - rious - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -
4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
reign - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his
fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall
dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng,
saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen
ev - er at - tend thee; pon-der a - new what the Al -
prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - eth?
might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

Deacon:

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

People:

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Gospel

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Deacon:

The Gospel of the Lord.

People:

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 18:21-35

Post-Gospel Hymn God Is Love and Where True Love Is

Hymnal 577

Refrain

God is love, and where true love is God him - self is there.

1 Here in Christ we gath - er, love of Christ our call - ing.
2 When we Chris - tians gath - er, men - bers of one Bo - dy,
3 Grant us love's ful - fill - ment, joy with all the bless - ed,

Christ, our love, is with us, glad - ness be his greet - ing.
let there be in us no dis - cord but one spi - rit.
when we see your face, O Sa - vior, in its glo - ry.

Let us fear and love him, ho - ly God e - ter - nal.
Ban - ished now be an - ger, strife and ev - ery quar - rel.
Shine on us, O pur - est Light of all cre - a - tion,

Repeat Refrain

Lov - ing him, let each love Christ in one an - oth - er.
Christ, our God, be al - ways pres - ent here a - mong us.
be our bliss while end - less a - ges sing your prais - es.

A time of silence for reflection follows the sermon.

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.

Prayers of the People

Confession and Absolution

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.

Hymn Now Thank We All Our God

Hymnal 396

BCP 360

1 Now thank we all our God, with heart, and hands, and voice - es,
2 O may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us!
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,

BCP 360

who won - drous things hath done, in whom his world re - joic - ess;
With ev - er - joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us;
the Son, and him who reigns with them in high - est hea - ven,

BCP 360

who from our mo - ther's arms hath blessed us on our way
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
e - ter - nal, Tri - une God, whom earth and heaven a - dore;

BCP 360

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be, ev - er - more.

The Lord's Prayer (all 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Peace

Officiant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Announcements

Blessing

Officiant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. And may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you today and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn *Go Forth For God*

Hymnal 347

1 Go forth for God; go to the world in peace;
 2 Go forth for God; go to the world in love;
 3 Go forth for God; go to the world in strength;
 4 Go forth for God; go to the world in joy,

be of good cour - age, armed with heaven - ly grace,
 strength - en the faint, give cour - age to the weak;
 hold fast the good, be ur - gent for the right;
 to serve God's peo - ple ev - ery day and hour,

in God's good Spi - rit dai - ly to in - crease,
 help the af - flict - ed; rich - ly from a - bove
 ren - der to no one e - vil; Christ at length
 and ser - ving Christ, our ev - ery gift em - ploy,

till in his king - dom we be - hold his face.
 his love sup - plies the grace and power we seek.
 shall o - ver - come all dark - ness with his light.
 re - joic - ing in the Ho - ly Spi - rit's power.

Dismissal

The Deacon will dismiss the people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Assisting in Today's Service

Officiant & Preacher:

The Rev. Annie Mertz

Deacon: The Rev. Beth Gaines

Lector: Susan Owen

Intercessor: Jackie French

Music: Bill Markley

Technical Support: Jorge Castaneda

Zoom Management: Betsy Zampa

Yann Jouvenot Sells

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU

The Rev. Annie Mertz, Rector

Associate Priests:

The Rev. Canon Mary Goshert

The Rev. Pamela Higgins

The Rev. Dr. Arthur Holder

The Rev. Beth Gaines, Deacon

PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Louis Borst, Wayne Cody, Neal Mulholand,
Bob Varson

BIRTHDAYS

Ken Nowinski, Phil Johnson

ANNIVERSARIES

Jorge & Lisa Pena

Bob & Debbie Varson

John & Heather Healy

PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES

PFC Toby Williams, U.S. Army
PVT Andrew Contreras, U.S. Army
Warrant Officer Brandon Niemann,

U.S. Army
AB Andrew Severa, U.S. Air Force
SA Michelle Severa, PA,

Air National Guard
Jake Sackett, U.S. Air Force

Capt. Xacasia Evans-Walp, U.S. Army

VESTRY

Yann Jouvenot Sells, Senior Warden

Kim Rodekohr, Junior Warden

Betsy Zampa, Clerk

Jorge Castaneda, Cathy Cellini,

Heather Healy, Helen Kennedy-

Lazar, Charlie Kilbourne, Ken

Nowinski, David White, Giovanna
Zampa (Youth Advisor)

STAFF

Glenn Walp, Traditional Music Director

Mark Sackett, Contemporary Music
Director

Jim Brown, Peddlers' Fair Coordinator

Tim Markley, Archivist

Beckie Pelkey, Youth & Family
Ministries Coordinator

Andria Reid, Godly Play/Nursery
Coordinator

JoAnn Souza, Parish Administrator
Betsy Zampa, Communications
Coordinator

Carolyn Conlin, Lily Field,
Emma Gilbert, Nayda Guerin,

Giovanna Zampa, Nursery Care

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sacred Ground: An Adult Education Series on Race and Faith at St. Paul's



Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. The 10-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

Sacred Ground is part of Becoming Beloved Community, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. This series is open to all, and especially designed to help white people talk with other white people. Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.

To learn more about the program, visit <https://episcopalchurch.org/sacred-ground> and watch the introductory videos.

Logistics and Expectations

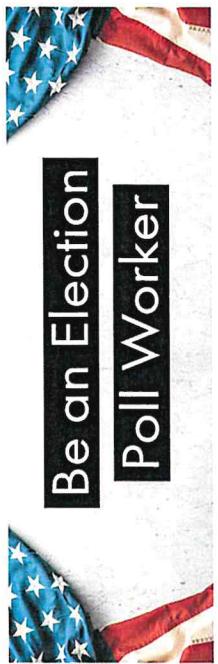
Our Sacred Ground circle will meet every two weeks via Zoom to allow ample time to review the films and readings (2-3 hours per session). The group will choose the specific day and time for our meetings. Each session will be 1 1/2 hours long, with a break in the middle and small group discussions. Participants are expected to attend all sessions, which will launch this fall and conclude in February or March 2021. Participation is limited to 10 people. There are two books to purchase: *Waking Up White* by Debbie Irving and *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman. The course will be co-facilitated by Rev. Annie and Gene Ekenstam. Contact Rev. Annie with questions at rector@stpaulsbenicia.org.

To sign up, please fill out this form (no Google sign-in required)

<https://forms.gle/Q3jHLiiHzuYcfheK6>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Paul's Adopt-A-Poll Update



Twenty-seven St. Paul's members joined the Adopt-A-Poll team for the primary election in March -- and raised \$1,500 for our parish budget by donating their Election Day earnings to St. Paul's! Team members enjoyed doing a vital civic service as a team working together.

At a Zoom meeting Wednesday evening, Sept. 9, Rev. Annie welcomed the team and offered a prayer for our work. We reviewed new safety precautions for Election Day, as well as pre-election online education to protect team members and make their work effective. Leo Harrod promised that he'd again supply his excellent homemade cookies on Election Day. Robin Silver reminded us of our recognition and applause for new first-time voters. Several folks recounted stories of the appreciation voters showed for the team's work.

Currently 21 people, returning members and new volunteers, are on board to staff the polling site at Gateway Church in Benicia on November 3.

NEEDED: An additional six to ten volunteers for the day! Volunteers are paid for each education module completed online, for one in-person training, and for every hour worked on Election Day. Volunteers may choose to donate their earnings to St. Paul's.

Can you answer this call? Please contact Gene Ekenstam at 707-747-5653 or stam@gmail.com and say YES!

Wednesday Bible Study

Join us online on Wednesdays at 11 am as we dive into next Sunday's readings while enjoying fellowship, deep conversation, and entertaining tangents. Remember – you can always call into the meeting by phone, no computer required!

Smartphone, Tablet, or Computer:

Click here to be taken directly to the meeting room

<https://zoom.us/j/194285844?pwd=bW9CbWZXYVVMS9sci9vdz09>

Or, visit <http://zoom.us> And enter the following:

Meeting ID: 194 285 844

Password: BookWorm

Telephone

Dial +1 669 900 9128

Enter the Meeting ID: 194 285 844



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Host a Zoom Coffee Hour

Friends, do you feel boxed in by the Zoom coffee hour? There is an opportunity to break through the wall and occasionally host our fellowship gatherings on Sunday mornings (at 9:45). The lay people will be relieving Rev. Annie so she has a moment to reflect and collect herself between services.

If you have been able to participate regularly you know they are great fun and another chance to better know the people of St. Paul's. We also share hopes and dreams, sheltering tips, good meals, movies, meals, etc.

You won't be asked much: prepare a discussion question, post it to the group and moderately steer the conversation if we begin to stray.

If you are interested, or have questions, contact Larry Lutz. He will be scheduling the hosts and assist you in getting started: larrylutz@yahoo.com or (817) 229-9950.



JOIN US ONLINE FOR

COFFEE HOUR

Zoom Coffee Hour on Sundays

Join us online at 9:45 am for our Sunday virtual coffee hour.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/439774574?
pwd=SXJzcVi5d0k2RnVjc21WRFROYT
FJdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/439774574?pwd=SXJzcVi5d0k2RnVjc21WRFROYT FJdz09)

Meeting ID: 439 774 574

Passcode: Fellowship

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,439774574# US
(San Jose)

*Our mission is to beautify our church
and enhance our worship here at St. Paul's.
Thank you for your support.*

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
Meeting ID: 439 774 574



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekday Morning Prayer Online

This half hour service of scripture reading and prayers will start your day off on the right foot.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8739753361>

Meeting ID: 873 975 3361

One tap mobile

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 873 975 3361

weekday worship **MORNING PRAYER**

Morning Prayer Ordo 8/31/20 through 9/18/20

Wk of 13 Pent. (Proper 17)	Day	Psalm	OT	Canticle	Gospel	Canticle	Suffrages
31 August	Monday	25	Job 12:1-6, 13-25	9	John 8:21-32	19	A
1 September	Tuesday	26, 28	Job 12:1, 13:3-17, 21-27	13	John 8:33-47	18	B
2 September	Wednesday	38	Job 12:1, 14:1-22	11	John 8:47-59	16	A
3 September	Thursday	37:1-18	Job 16:16-22, 17:1, 13-16	8	John 9:1-17	20	B
4 September	Friday	31	Job 19:1-7, 14-27	10	John 9:18-41	18	A
Wk of 14 Pent. (Proper 18)	Day	Psalm	OT	Canticle	Gospel	Canticle	Suffrages
7 September	Monday	41, 52	Job 32:1-10, 19-33:1, 19-28	9	John 10:19-30	19	B
8 September	Tuesday	45	Job 29:1-20	13	John 10:31-42	18	A
9 September	Wednesday	119:49-72	Job 29: 1, 30:1-2, 16-31	11	John 11:1-16	16	B
10 September	Thursday	50	Job 29:1, 31:1-23	8	John 11:17-29	20	A
11 September	Friday	40, 54	Job 29:1-31:24-40	10	John 11:30-44	18	B
Wk of 15 Pent. (Proper 19)	Day	Psalm	OT	Canticle	Gospel	Canticle	Suffrages
14 September	Holy Cross Day	66	Numbers 21:4-9	16	John 3:1-17	21	A
15 September	Tuesday	61, 62	Job 40:1, 41:1-11	13	John 12:9-19	18	B
16 September	Wednesday (ember day)	72	Job 42:1-17	11	John 12:20-26	16	A
17 September	Thursday	71	Job 28:1-28	8	John 12:27-36a	20	B
18 September	Friday (ember day)	69:1-23, 31-38	Esther 1:1-4, 10-19	10	John 12:36b-43	18	A

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Benicia

This Week @ St. Paul's

CONNECT WITH US ON ZOOM

Altar Guild

Jeanne Brown, Lorraine Ndusha

Monday, 9/14/2020

- 9 am +Morning Prayer
4:30 pm Community Meal Take Out

Flower Guild

Tuesday, 9/15/2020

- 9 am +Morning Prayer
6:30 pm Vestry Meeting

Verger

Gene Ekenstam

Wednesday 9/16/2020

- 9 am +Morning Prayer
11 am Bible Study
4:30 pm Community Meal Take Out
7 pm Worship Meeting

The deadline for submitting

announcements is

Wednesday at noon.

Please e-mail information to:

admin@stpaulsbenicia.org.

Thursday 9/17/2020

- 9 am +Morning Prayer

Office Phone:

(707) 745-0307

Friday, 9/18/2020

- 9 am +Morning Prayer

Office email:

admin@stpaulsbenicia.org

Saturday, 9/19/2020

- 12 pm Wedding (Rectory Yard)

Pentecost 16, 9/20/2020

- 8:45 am +Worship Service—
via Facebook Livestream

- 9:45 am Coffee Hour

- 11 am +Outdoor Worship Service

Pre-registration Required

Serving This Week



St. Paul's
September 13th
Flower Dedication

Gene and Mary
Ekenstam
Just a happy day!

