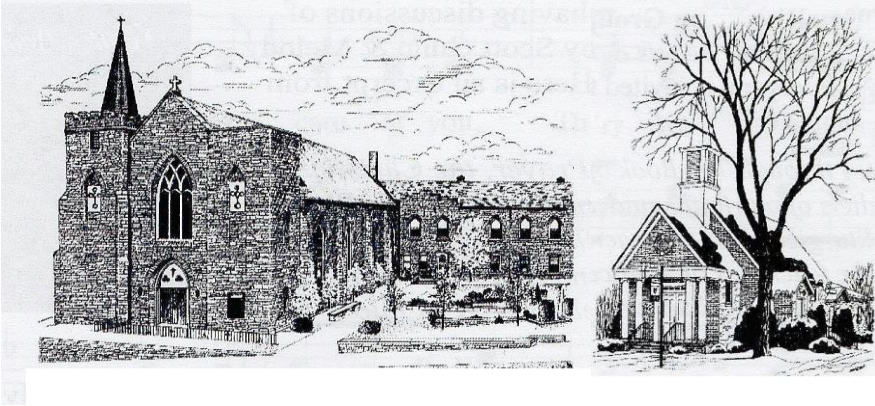


THE EPISCOPAL PARISH OF ALTON

Alton, Illinois



St. Paul's Church
10 E. Third St.
10:30 a.m.

Trinity Chapel
1901 State St.
8:15 a.m.

September 17, 2023

The Rev. Christopher Ashmore+
Interim Rector

The Rev. Christopher Ashmore – Mobile - 217-473-1862 or Email: revkash@msn.com

Church Office Telephone – 618-465-9149

Church Email: episcopalalton@gmail.com

Rector's Office Hours – Tuesday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Admin. Assistant Office Hours – Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - Noon

Welcome to the Episcopal Parish of Alton! We are glad to have you worship with us today. All baptized Christians are invited to receive the Bread and Wine of Holy Communion or to simply come forward for a blessing.

**Asterisk is sung service music at St. Paul's Church only*

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II *BCP p. 355*

Prelude *'Lasst Uns Erfreuen'* arr. D. Hustad

Hymn #400 *All creatures of our God and King* *The Hymnal 1982*

Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis *S280 The Hymnal 1982**

The 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.***

The Lessons *Please be seated* *BCP p. 357*

A reading from Genesis *Genesis 50: 15-21*

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Psalm 103: 8-13

Benedic, anima mea

The people respond with the verses in bold italics

- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

A reading from Romans

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.

Hymn #516

Come down, O Love divine (vs 1-2 only)

The Hymnal 1982

Please stand if you are able

The Gospel

Matthew 18: 21-35

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."

The Sermon		The Rev. Gene Stormer+	
The Nicene Creed	<i>Please stand</i>	<i>BCP</i> p. 358	
The Prayers of the People: Form III		<i>BCP</i> p. 387	
Confession of Sin		<i>BCP</i> p. 360	
Welcome and Announcements			
Offertory Sentence			
Offertory Anthem	<i>‘Urbs Beata’</i> (Sarum Plainsong)	arr. O. Russell	
The Great Thanksgiving			
	<i>Eucharistic Prayer A</i>	<i>BCP</i> p. 361	
<i>Lift up your hearts: Sursum Corda</i>		S120 <i>The Hymnal 1982*</i>	
<i>Holy, holy, holy Lord: Sanctus</i>		S128 <i>The Hymnal 1982*</i>	
The Lord’s Prayer		<i>BCP</i> p. 364	
		S119 <i>The Hymnal 1982*</i>	
<i>Jesus Lamb of God: Agnus Dei</i>		S164 <i>The Hymnal 1982*</i>	
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 10px;"> <p><i>All baptized Christians are welcome to come forward to receive Communion, and everyone is welcome to come to the rail for a blessing.</i></p> <p><i>If you do not wish to receive either the bread or the wine, please cross your arms across your chest as a silent request for a blessing from the priest.</i></p> </td> </tr> </table>			<p><i>All baptized Christians are welcome to come forward to receive Communion, and everyone is welcome to come to the rail for a blessing.</i></p> <p><i>If you do not wish to receive either the bread or the wine, please cross your arms across your chest as a silent request for a blessing from the priest.</i></p>
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Communion Anthem	<i>‘Das Neugeborne Kindelein’</i>	M. Vulpius (c. 1560-1615)	
Post-Communion Prayer		<i>BCP</i> p. 365	
The Blessing		<i>BCP</i> p. 366	

Dismissal

BCP p. 366

Hymn #598

Lord Christ, when first thou cam'st to earth

The Hymnal 1982

Postlude

A Pompous March

G. Young

SERVING TODAY

NEXT WEEK

Trinity:

Celebrant: The Rev. Gene Stormer+
Organist: Gay Anderson
Lector: Laurna Hutchinson
Intercessor: Laurna Hutchinson
CB/Acolyte: Laurna Hutchinson
Altar Guild: Nancy Weiss-Hayes

The Rev. Christopher Ashmore+
Gay Anderson
Mary Molloy
Mary Molloy
Donna Fisher
Lisa Springman

St. Paul's:

Celebrant: The Rev. Gene Stormer+
Organist: Gay Anderson
Crucifer: Dereck Cook
Acolyte: Marie Drennan
Altar Acolyte: Destiny Drennan
Chalice/BB: Tom Harris
Lector: Chuck Drennan
Intercessor: Chuck Drennan
Altar Guild: E. Bumbacher, C. Terry

The Rev. Christopher Ashmore+
Gay Anderson
Tom Wrausmann
Tom Harris
Elias Silkwood
Donna Fisher

D. Cook, J. Cook

Calendar & Announcements for the week of September 17, 2023

Monday, Sep 18 Meeting of the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sep 19 Morning Prayer at 9:30 a.m., No Bible study

Tuesday, Sep 19 Evening Prayer at 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sep 19 Vestry meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, Sep 21 *Feast of St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist*

Friday, Sep 22 Morning Prayer at 9:30 a.m.

Friday, Sep 22 Evening Prayer at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, Sep 24 8:15 a.m. Mass – Trinity Chapel
 10:30 a.m. Mass – St. Paul’s
 Special Coffee Hour at St. Paul’s for Anna Potter
 Organ Recital and Celebration – 2:00 p.m. at St. Andrew’s
 Episcopal Church in Edwardsville

Please welcome Fr. Gene Stormer as Celebrant this morning in Fr. Kip’s absence.

Thursday, September 21st is the Feast of St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist.
 This feast day may be celebrated privately – no noon Mass will be held.

All members of the parish are invited to join the family of Anna Potter on Sunday, September 24th for a special coffee hour after church in honor of her 85th birthday!

An organ recital will be held at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Edwardsville on Sunday, September 24th at 2:00 p.m. to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination to deacon of Fr. David Boase, our former Rector.

A CPR certification class will be held Tuesday, October 10th at 6:30 p.m. at St. Paul’s. Please contact Irene McLaughlin at ibmpat17@gmail.com for more information or to register.

A friendly reminder that **the Office Asst. will be out of the office this coming week,** September 18th – 22nd.

If you are interested in joining the weekly walking group, please let Mimi Almonroeder know at diamondzoe@charter.net or 618-581-5756. We have been meeting on Friday mornings at 8:00 a.m. to beat the heat.

Please help out Parish Life by taking a turn at hosting Coffee Hour at St. Paul's after the 10:30 a.m. service. A sign-up sheet can be found in Heneghan Hall.

Join our Weekly Bible Study. In June, Fr. Kip began teaching a Bible Study group on Tuesday mornings at St. Paul's following the usual Morning Prayer in St. Elizabeth's Chapel. Fr. Kip conducts Morning Prayer on Tuesdays and Fridays beginning at 9:30 a.m. Bible study starts at 10:15 a.m. and lasts approximately an hour. We are currently studying *The Letter of Paul to the Philippians*. All are welcome! Be sure to bring your Bible! **Please Note: there will be no Bible Study until further notice.**



Please remember in your prayers this week:

K-Lou and Fr. Kip, Nell, Claudette, Marie, Charles, Robin, Bianca, Albert, Audrey, Linda, Debra, Al, Mother Jane, Terry, Kay, Barb, John, Don, Tony, Dan, Nolan, Helen, Greg, Don, Irene, Katie, Judy and those known only to us.

Our sincere condolences to Lynn and Michael Hoffman on the death of her father, Les Bowles, on September 7th.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*