



The Cathedral Church
of Saint Paul
A House of Prayer for All People

*Episcopal Diocese
of Massachusetts*

Dear Newcomer,

Welcome to the Sunday morning congregation of the Cathedral of St. Paul. This is a community of restoration, possibility, and transformation, grounded in the grace of God through Christ. We are so glad the Spirit has brought you here for worship today!

This is a faith community unlike any other. Located as we are at the crossroads of the city, we bring together people from all walks of life, with the widest variety of life experiences, perspectives, and wisdom. Our prayer is energized and informed by our view right out onto Boston Common and on to the State House. As a cathedral church, we commit to pray for our diocese and our world. Our Sunday Congregation Covenant, found in this packet, will give you a deeper sense of our core commitments and our ways of living into them.

We invite you to:

- Fill out a welcome card, so we can keep you in the loop on upcoming opportunities.
- Learn more about the Episcopal Church, if it is new to you. We've enclosed a few pamphlets here to get you started.
- Tell us more about what is on your mind and your heart, so we know how best to support you, invite you into ministry, and help you grow in Christ.
- Get to know some of the tremendous people in this community, who, like you, are striving to be faithful in a challenging time in the world.
- Learn more about the many other opportunities for prayer, learning, and service available here at the cathedral every week.

Christ's peace to you,

The Very Rev. Amy McCreath
Dean, Cathedral Church of St. Paul
amccreath@diomass.org



People bring all sorts of hopes, fears, yearnings, and experiences with them when they visit a church. We offer this poem, by Jan Richardson, as a way of welcoming all.

When the landscape
you have known
falls away.

When your familiar path
becomes foreign
and you find yourself
a stranger
in a story you had held
most dear.

Then let yourself
be lost.
Let yourself leave
for a place
whose contours
whose cadences
you have not learned
by heart.

It will come
as a surprise,
what arrives
to welcome you
through the door,
making a place for you
at the table
and calling you
by your name.

Let what comes,
come.

Let the glass
be filled.
Let the light
be tended.
Let the hand
lay before you
what will meet you
in your hunger.

Let the laughter
let the sweetness
that enters
the sorrow.
Let the solace
that comes
as sustenance
and sudden, unbidden
grace.

For what comes,
offer gladness.
For what greets you
with kindly welcome,
offer thanks.
Offer blessing
for those
who gathered you in
and will not
be forgotten –

those who,
when you were a stranger
made a place for you
at the table
and called you
by your name.

– Jan Richardson



ABOUT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, BOSTON

Organized as the Parish of St. Paul in 1818 and dedicated as the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in 1912, this site has a strong tradition of innovative service and outreach to those in need. Beginning in the 1840s-1850s under rector Alexander Hamilton Vinton, parishioners at St. Paul's Church practiced public and private charitable work alongside their personal religion. Beginning in the 1890s and continuing through today, other faith communities have been welcome to use the Cathedral's space, including the Jum'ah Muslim Friday Prayer group.

At the founding of the Cathedral in 1912, Bishop William Lawrence had the doors removed from the traditional pews, signaling that the Cathedral was a "house of prayer for all." Through World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II, the Cathedral supported the community through the Liberty Milk Shop (later The Neighborhood Kitchen), daily free lunches, and welcoming and supporting the armed forces. Young people from the poorest areas of the city were brought to the Cathedral's farmhouse for a choir camp each summer through the 1920s to the 1940s. The 1960s brought far-reaching missionary work to Polynesia, the Yangton Sioux, and Alaska, as well as support to the various demonstrations that took place in Boston and across the country, including sending a delegation to the last leg of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965. The tradition of ministry through food continued in the 1980s with the founding of the Cathedral Soup Kitchen in 1983, which continues today as MANNA's Monday Lunch. The Cathedral was the site of the first public healing services in an Episcopal Church for people with AIDS.

Today, our Sunday morning congregation strives to embody the justice and openness to brave change to which our diocese is committed through its mission strategy. Celebrating its tenth anniversary, the Cathedral's Crossing community offers food, fellowship and innovative worship to all with a particular outreach to LBGTQA persons and those who have often found themselves on the margins in other churches. MANNA (Many Angels Needed Now and Always), a ministry of and for the homeless community of Boston, offers worship, a writers group, meditation, a weekly meal, and pastoral and recovery support to many. The Cathedral is also home to a Chinese congregation established as a strategic ministry of the Diocese in 1982.

As we prepare for our future, we hope today's celebration allows you to learn more about the history of your cathedral and the many ministries it offers today.



Sunday Morning Congregation Covenant – Created September 16, 2018

We embrace Christ's call to respect the dignity of each person, knowing ourselves as equally beautiful and equally in need of God's grace. When in doubt, we will choose love, rejecting the individualism and violent competitiveness that are rampant in our world.

On Sunday mornings, our shared intention is to worship God. We seek to be transformed by Jesus, who is present in the Word, the sacraments, and each person here, so that we may be the face of Christ to one another and in the world. This calling is precious, and we know it will be costly. While held within the beauty and order of Anglican liturgy, we open ourselves to being divested of prejudices, assumptions, and rigidity.

To help one another walk to freedom in Christ, we will:

- welcome new people joyously,
- allow ordained and lay leaders to focus on the ministry to the whole congregation to which Jesus calls them, holding individual requests and church 'business' until after the service,
- incorporate a variety of voices and perspectives into our worship life, through welcoming preachers and presiders from an array of genders, cultures, and social locations; encouraging and training new members to participate in liturgical ministries; and making space in our prayers for individual petitions,
- train and designate members of the congregation to respond to those in distress or particular need during worship, and to take the lead in any situations where safety is uncertain,
- while celebrating that some people have particular, holy callings to help others in hardship, on Sunday mornings we will refer those in financial need to cathedral staff and/or help them brainstorm ways to find what they need, rather than giving out cash,
- pause twice a year to reflect on our experience living into this covenant and adjust our practices if needed, acknowledge and work through conflict, and rejoice in what Christ is doing in our midst,
- strive to be good listeners and grow as a spiritual community through mutual prayer.

As a cathedral congregation, we strive to embody the justice and openness to brave change to which our diocese is committed through its mission strategy.



Learn more and be in touch!
Check our facebook page at "the
cathedral church of st. paul
boston"

The Very Rev. Amy McCreath, Dean
amccreath@diomass.org

The Rev. Jennifer McCracken,
MANNA Head Pastor
jmccracken@diomass.org

Louise Munding, Music Director
lmunding@diomass.org



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WORSHIP WITH US!

Our services are open to the public and ALL are welcome!

SUNDAY

10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST in person and by Zoom.

MONDAY

8:30 AM MORNING PRAYER by conference call.

TUESDAY

8:30 AM MORNING PRAYER by conference call.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 AM MORNING PRAYER by conference call.

12:00 PM SANTA MISA EN ESPAÑOL.

7:00 PM SPIRITUAL RE-HYDRATION by Zoom.

THURSDAYS

8:30 AM MORNING PRAYER by conference call.

7:00 PM THE CROSSINGWORSHIP by Zoom.

FRIDAYS

8:30 AM MORNING PRAYER by conference call.

12:30 PM JUM'AH MUSLIM FRIDAY PRAYERS in person.

7:00 PM COMPLINE by Zoom.

- ❖ Conference call information – Dial **716-427-1337** & when prompted, enter passcode **945309#**. To participate use a hardcopy of the Book of Common Prayer, or go to www.bcponline.org.
- ❖ To register for Zoom events, please visit the Cathedral website at www.stpaulboston.org.