

**A Service of Remembrance
for
Transgender Day of Remembrance**



**Saturday, November 20, 2021
5:00 pm**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
309 S Jackson Street, Jackson, MI 49201, (517) 787-3370
Church@St.PaulJXMI.org

Welcome Rev. Sarah Hurlbert

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **and also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Opening Prayer Rev. Melissa Congleton

Presider O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servants of the transgender community who we remember today, and grant them an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen**

First Reading

Psalm 139 (NRSV)

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.

³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.

⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

⁷ Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

⁹ If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

11 If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night,”
12 even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
13 For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
14 I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
15 My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
16 Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
17 How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
18 I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end^[a]—I am still with you.

“Visiting Hours”

by Ed Sheeran, performed by Brandon Whitford

The Gospel

Matthew 22:34-40

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon - Rev. Dan Miyake

The Litany Led by Karyl Baker

One Voice: We remember and give thanks for your transgender saints whom we lost this year due to violence: Tyianna, Samuel, Damián, Bianca, Dominique, Fifty, Alexis, Chyna, Jeffrey, Jasmine, Jenna, Diamond, Rayanna, Jaida, Dominique, Remy, Tiara, Natalia, Iris, Tiffany, Keri, Jahaira, Whispering Wind Bear Spirit, Sophie, Danika, Serenity, Oliver, Thomas, Poe, EJ, Taya, Shai, Tierramarie, Miss CoCo, Pooh, Disaya, Briana, Kiér, Mel, Royal, Zoella, Jo, Jessi, Rikkey, Marquiisha, Jenny, and all those around the world who have died, and those who go unnamed here.

One Voice: We praise you, Holy One, for the gift of life, precious, stubborn, fragile and beautiful; we are grateful for the time we have to live upon the earth, to love, to grow, to be.

***Many Voices:* We give thanks for the will to live and for our capacity to live fully all of the days that we are given;**

One Voice: and for those who have been taken by the devastation of violence used against them we remember them and claim the opportunity to build lives of wholeness in their honor.

***Many Voices:* We give you thanks for the partners, friends, allies and families who have been steadfast in their love; for the people who have devoted their life's work to the prevention of violence and those who support and make transition from one gender to another possible with passion and commitment.**

One Voice: For the careful science, brilliant ideas and insights that have led to new, life-giving procedures, for those in leadership who have acted to provide health care for people who are in transition.

***Many Voices:* We give thanks for those whose prejudice and judgment have yielded to understanding, for those who have overcome fear, indifference or burnout to embrace a life of caring compassion.**

One Voice: We praise you, Eternal One, for those who have loved enough that their hearts have broken, who cherish the memories of those we have lost, and for those who console the grieving.

***Many Voices:* God, grant us the love, courage, tenacity, and will to continue to make a difference in a world even with the violence aimed towards our community;**

One Voice: Inspire us to challenge and stand strong against the forces that allow the needless harm and *violence to continue -- prejudice, unjust laws, repression, stigma and fear.*

***Many Voices:* Into your care, we trust and lift up all of souls, named and unnamed, who have been tortured, murdered and died by suicide.**

One Voice: We lift up to you our dreams of a world where all are cared for.

***Many Voices:* Our dreams of wholeness,**

One Voice: Our dreams of a world where all are accepted and respected.

***Many Voices:* A dream we know you share.**

Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will.

People **Amen.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

People **Amen.**

Exchange the Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider

**And now, as Christ taught us, we pray,
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Presider and People,

**God of Grace,
we pray to you for those members of the transgender community we
remember today whom we love and see no longer.
Grant them eternal rest.
Let light perpetual shine upon them.
May their souls and souls of all the departed, through the mercy of
God, rest in peace. Amen.**

*Presider
People*

Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints,
**where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Presider

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of humankind;
and we are mortal, formed of the earth, and to earth shall we
return. For so did you ordain when you created me, saying,
“You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” All of us go down
to the dust; yet even at the grave we make our song: Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia.

*Presider
People*

Give rest, O Christ, to your servants with your saints,
**where sorrow and pain are no more,
neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

*Presider
People*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

O God of the living and the dead, you have trampled upon death and abolished the power of evil, giving life to your world. Give to your departed servants of the transgender community we remember today rest in a place of light, in a place of tranquility, in a place of refreshment, where there is no pain, nor sorrow, nor suffering. For you, Christ our God, are the resurrection, the life, and the repose of your servants of the transgender community we remember today, and to you we give glory, with your eternal Father and your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

Presider May Christ, who rose from the dead and has authority over the living and the dead, have mercy on us and save us. May the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all the saints in glory, strengthen us all and welcome those members of the transgender community we remember today in the heavenly places. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Presider Life is short, and we have too little time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind....and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

People **Amen.**

Dismissal

Presider Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Liturgical Sources

Hymn: “Visiting Hours” by Ed Sheeran

*Written by: Amy Victoria Wadge, Anthony Jr. Clemons, Edward Christopher Sheeran, Johnny McDaid,
Kim Lang Smith, Michael Ross Pollack, Scott MacFarland Carter
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Blessing: Fredrick Amiel

Transgender Resources

International list of those who died: https://transrespect.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/TvT_TMM_TDoR2021_Namelist.pdf

National List of those who died: <https://www.hrc.org/resources/fatal-violence-against-the-transgender-and-gender-non-conforming-community-in-2021>

Trans Murder Monitoring Update: <https://transrespect.org/en/tmm-update-tdor-2021/>

For young people: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>

Participants in the Service

Reader: Barney Rudolph

Reader of Litany: Karyl Baker

Acolyte: Joe Lathrop

Preacher: Rev. Dan Miyake

Musician: Brandon Whitford

Gospeler: Rev. Sarah Hurlbert

Presider: Rev. Melissa Congleton

Special thanks to: St. Paul’s Technology Team and Ushers



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