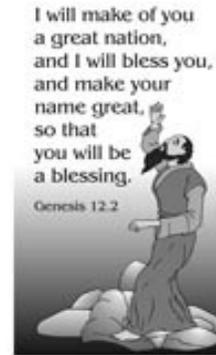


Born of the Spirit



Welcome everyone as we continue the journey of Lent. Today's scriptures present two great characters, Abram, who responds in faith to God's gift of new life, and Nicodemus, who remains in the dark, because he chooses not to respond.

Abram and his wife Sarai, are presented as our new father and mother in faith, in contrast to Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve said **no** to God, resulting in sin and death entering our world. Abraham and Sarah said **yes** to God, resulting in the gift of a new Covenant between God and humankind.

Nicodemus, like so many of us, struggles with trying to understand what it means to let go and trust God. Being a good Pharisee, he tries to gain God's favour by observing all the laws. Jesus invites Nicodemus to 'open up to God' and to see salvation as a gift, not something that is earned. This gift allows us to be born again in Jesus. It's not a once and for all, but an ongoing life of faith.

The message is clear, God offers all persons eternal life and reconciliation in Jesus Christ, to the extent that each of us allows God to be 'born anew' in our lives. For Christians, Baptism is the Way by which we are born again by water and the spirit. The challenge for us is to accept the gift and then to trust it in our daily lives. Blessings. *Father Michael+*

An oil painting of St. John's Church by the late Hal Cunningham of our parish, is being presented today to the Congregation of St. John's by Craig Munroe. It is from his mother, Verna Munroe, in Memory of the Very Rev'd Austin Munroe, Rector of St. John's Church 1968-1979.

LAY MINISTERS TODAY

Lay Readers: 8:30 am Barbara Eisenhauer
10:30 am Sharon Green, Holly Mitchell, Heather Hyson
Lectors: 8:30 am Cathy Ramey, Laura Roblee
10:30am Sharon Green, Ann Grandy; **Server:** Aisling Curtin
Sidespersons: 10:30 am Catherine Hanhams, Lillian Keeping

NEXT SUNDAY MARCH 23RD

Lay Readers: 8:30 am Barbara Eisenhauer
10:30 am Heather Hyson, Sheila Morris, Susan MacMillan
Lectors: 8:30 am Ben & Roxie Smith; **Server:** Aisling Curtin
10:30 am Bruce Holdbrook, Heather Hyson
Sidespersons: 10:30 am Catherine Hanhams, Lillian Keeping

St. John's Anglican Church

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Rector: Archdeacon Michael H. Mitchell

*To all who mourn or need comfort,
To all who are weary and need rest,
To all who seek friendship,
To all who desire to grow in relationship with God
To all who yearn to pray,
To all who need a Saviour, And to all whoever will worship,
This Church of St. John's opens wide its doors
and in the name of Christ our Lord, says - WELCOME.*

The Holy Eucharist

Prelude: Blessed Jesus, At Your Word - J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand for Processional Hymn

Hymn #40 'O Spirit of the Living God'

The Gathering of the Community

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

All Almighty God,
**to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
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.**



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant Let us pray. *The community prays silently. The celebrant then says the collect.*

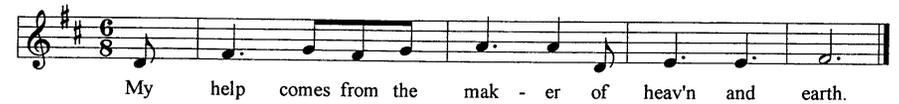
Almighty God, you show those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant that we may be like Father Abraham, ready to respond in faith to your free gift of salvation, in your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. **GENESIS 12:1-4A**
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Refrain:



I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. **R**
He will not let your foot be moved and he who watches over you will not fall asleep. Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep; **R**
The Lord himself watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand, So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. **R**
The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; it is he who shall keep you safe. The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore. **R** **PSALM 121**

CHOIR ANTHEM: God's Peace - B. F. White/M. Dawn

Come away from rush and hurry to the stillness of God's peace;
from our vain ambition's worry, come to Christ and find release.
Come away from noise and clamour, life's demands and frenzied pace;
come to join the people gathered here to seek and find God's grace.

In the pastures of God's goodness we lie down to rest our soul.
From the waters of God's mercy we drink deeply, are made whole.
At the table of his presence all the saints are richly fed.
With the oil of God's anointing into service we are led.

Come, then, children, with your burdens,
life's confusions, fears, and pain.
Leave them at the cross of Jesus; take instead his kingdom's reign.
Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them - he alone will satisfy.
All our longings find attainment when to self we gladly die.

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? *"Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."* Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, *"I have made you the father of many nations"*)-in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17

Gospel Acclamation 'I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light'

1. I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world; the star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all; the night and the day are both alike. The Lamb is the light of the city of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2. I want to see the brightness of God; I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father.
3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

The Gospel

Reader The Lord be with you. People **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John.

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, *"Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God."* Jesus answered him, *"Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."* Nicodemus said to him, *"How can anyone be born after having grown old?"*



Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, *"Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

Nicodemus said to him, *"How can these things be?"* Jesus answered him, *"Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, what whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."*

JOHN 3:1-17

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Please kneel or sit for the prayers.

Response: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
God welcomes sinners and invites them to the table.
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Most merciful God,

**All 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 neighbours 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.**

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon + and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace *All stand, and the celebrant addresses the people.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

The assembly greets one another in the name of the Lord.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn #468 'To Abraham and Sarah'

Representatives of the parish present the gifts of bread and wine for the Eucharist. Each one as they are able, makes an offering to the Lord for the needs and responsibilities of the Church to be placed on the altar.

The Prayer over the Gifts *Read by celebrant*

God of wisdom, may the light of the eternal Word, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, guide us to your glory. We ask this in his name.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. Therefore with angels and archangels and all who have served you in every age, we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take, and eat: *this is my body which is broken for you.*"

In the same way he took the cup, saying, "*This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me.*"

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith. **#728**

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ. All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray in confidence to our Father in heaven, saying:

**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, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread for distribution, and says:

We break this bread,

All: Communion in Christ's body once broken.

Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.

**All: If we have died with him, we shall live with him;
if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.**

The Gifts of God, for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD

CANTOR: ALL:
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the
world: have mer - cy on us.
Final
world:— grant us peace,— grant us peace.

The celebrant and people then receive communion.

The body of Christ (given for you). The blood of Christ (shed for you).

The communicant responds each time, Amen.

*This community of faith,
welcomes to the Lord's table
all who are baptized and who wish to be nourished
with the Body and Blood of Christ.*

Communion Hymn #559 'Blessed Jesus, At Your Word'

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Let us pray. Standing, the community prays in silence.

Creator of heaven and earth, we thank you for these holy mysteries, which bring us now a share in the life to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Doxology

Glory to God,

whose power, working in us,

can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

**Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church
and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing & Dismissal

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty, Father + Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn #481 'May the Grace of Christ Our Saviour'

Postlude: Praeludium in F minor BWV 534 - J. S. Bach

NOTICES

MUSIC NOTE FOR TODAY'S 10:30 SERVICE:

The Kyrie and Lamb of God sung today are part of the Mass of Remembrance by Marty Haugen and will be sung throughout Lent. On Easter Sunday, however, we will sing Mass of Creation with choir, organ, brass and handbells. All the music used throughout Lent - hymns, anthems and prelude music - will reflect particular Lenten themes. The words for today's choir anthem God's Peace are included if you wish to sing along - the tune Beach Spring is a familiar one. Do join in for a brief review of I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light, before the service. This is a new hymn which will be easy and accessible for you.

Parish Bulletin Memorials

If you would like a loved one remembered, or if you would like a milestone birthday, anniversary or a "new birth" placed in the Parish Bulletin, please call with the information and we will be happy to publish it as a Bulletin Memorial. The cost is \$20. which is credited to your envelope number. Thank you.

LENTEN / EASTER NEWSLETTERS

Your Newsletters are ready for pick up at the back of the church. Please try to help with postage costs by taking your Newsletter and that of a neighbour or friend.

Daily Prayer Booklets are available at the back of the church. A donation of \$2.00 will cover the cost of these books.

MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL: Thursday, March 20th at 7pm.

Music and Meditation - each Wednesday at noon throughout Lent
March 19 - Nina Scott Stoddart, mezzo soprano; Barbara Butler, piano/organ

Musique Royale events this week at St. John's:

Friday, March 21 at 7:30 pm - Earth Mass Capella Regalis, King's Chorus, Instrumental Ensemble - directed by Nick Halley. Special guest is great American gospel singer, Theresa Thomason

Sunday, March 23 at 3:00 pm - Flute Alors

Dynamic and versatile, the Montreal-based ensemble Flûte Alors! is composed of four new-generation recorder players.

CANDLELIGHT CONCERT - MUSIC FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER

This concert is being held at Central United Church, Lunenburg on Saturday, March 22nd at 7 pm. Their talented teachers and students will be performing. Admission is: \$10 for Adults & \$5 for Children.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui, The Most Revd Dr Paul Kwong, Archbishop of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui & Bishop of Hong Kong Island.

Diocesan Cycle: Pray for the Parish of Canso, Rev Darroch Fagan and Margaret; the parish of Three Harbours, Rev Sue Channen and Bob MacMillan.

Local Ministerial: Pray for the Congregation of St. John's Anglican Church and Archdeacon Michael Mitchell and Holly.

Fisheries: *Adams & Knickle - Cachalot I; Clearwater - Atlantic Guardian; Tall Ship - Picton Castle; Scientific Research Vessel - Joides Resolution.*

Parish Contacts

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SECRETARY Mary Wagner • **PARISH OFFICE:** 634-4994 •

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PRIEST ASSISTANT Rev. Louis Quennelle • 527-0122

HONORARY ASSOCIATES Rev. Capt. Reg MacDonald • 634-4657,
Rev. Linda Macdonald • 634-9473; Rev. Oliver Osmond • 634-8589

Rev. Alvin Westgate • 640-2484

PARISH WARDENS

Wayne Dodge 634-4885 • Bruce Holdbrook 634-3510

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/

ORGANIST Barbara Butler 624-0506

HAND BELLS Sharon Hill 634-8781

HONORARY ORGANIST

James Aulenbach

CHIMER Peter Allen 634-4668

TREASURER

Cammy Tibbo 530-6034

ALTAR GUILD

Joyce Creaser 634-4635

PASTORAL VISITATION

PRAYER & HEALING MINISTRY

Holly Mitchell 634-8477

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Louis Quennelle 527-0122

HERITAGE Roger Demone 543-5753

MUSIC Jane Ritcey Moore 275-4834

PROPERTY

LADIES' GUILD

Susan MacMillan 634-3019

ACW Barbara Nowe 634-4473

ACW CATERING

Patty Tanner 543-3474

LAY READERS

Roger Demone 543-5753

SERVERS Sheila Morris 634-3713

SUNDAY SCHOOL & NURSERY

Jennifer Green-Heisler 640-2088

TOUR PROGRAM

Peter Allen 634-4668

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mary Meisner 634-8429

FOOD BANK

Laura Roblee 521-4823

MEALS ON WHEELS

Hazel Oliver 634-3236

PLANNED GIVING

Jim Eisenhower 634-4713

PWRDF Katherine Owen 273-2279

REGIONAL COUNCIL

Velvet Eliuk, Mary Meisner,

Betty Lou Olivier

SYNOD DELEGATES

Robert MacMillan, Mike Lee,
Katharine Owen

CHURCH SEXTON

Ryan Francis 521-5595

HALL CUSTODIAN

Bruce Holdbrook 634-3510

NEWSLETTER

Janice & Brian Kenefick 764-2145

WEBSITE Grant Dixon 640-2897

Have a blessed week and we look forward to welcoming you back next Sunday.