



Welcome everyone on this Fourth Sunday in Lent. At our 10:30am service, we welcome our Sunday School community for an intergenerational Family Service. It is always a delight to have our young people with us, taking an active part in our services.

Turning to today's gospel, have you ever noticed how much energy some folk expend in trying to catch someone in the act of doing something wrong? Take the man born blind – he is under the microscope and is blamed for his own blindness, because either he or his parents sinned. The Pharisees challenge the man and then Jesus, for healing on the Sabbath. Jesus puts human need above man-made laws and responds with compassion to this man's suffering. In doing so, he teaches the disciples to do the same. The law of love is supreme.

Today's gospel is a study of blindness, not primarily physical blindness, but spiritual and psychological blindness. The Pharisee and disciples choose judgement, legalism and punishment over love. John presents Jesus as the One who understands the fundamental truth of God's unconditional love. Love cannot be imprisoned by a Sabbath law or a blind spirit of legalism.

The only cure for blindness of spirit is a willingness to be open to God's love in the circumstances of life. It is only then that we truly "live as children of light." Have a great week.
Father Michael+

St. John's Anglican Church

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Rector: The Rev. 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.*

LAY MINISTERS TODAY
 Lay Readers: 8:30 am Barbara Eisenhauer
 10:30 am Holly Mitchell, Susan MacMillan, Sheila Morris
 Lectors: 8:30 am Carolyn Hogg, Sandra Jordan
 10:30 am Peyton Nickerson, Kaylee Fox, Jasmine Saunders
 Collection/Offertory:
 Peyton, Kaylee, Jasmine, Morgan, Libby, Eadie, Nolan, Lydia
 Server: Aisling Curtin
 Sidespersons: 10:30 am Jasmine Saunders, Morgan Nodding

NEXT SUNDAY APRIL 2ND
 Lay Readers: 8:30 am Barbara Eisenhauer
 10:30 am Roger Demone, Robert MacMillan
 Lectors: 8:30 am Laura Roblee, Ed Jordan
 10:30 am Ann Grandy, Rose Conrad; Server: Aisling Curtin
 Sidespersons: 10:30 am Louise & Bruce Holdbrook

Morning Prayer - Family Service

Prelude: O Mensch beweine dein sünde gross – J. S. Bach

Handbells Prelude: Dona Nobis Pacem - Samuel Stoakes

The Gathering of the Community

Processional Hymn “Come In, Come In and Sit Down”

Come in, come in and sit down, you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found, and we are a part of the family.

You know the reason why you came, yet no reason can explain;
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain, for we are a part of the family.
God is with us in this place, like a mother's warm embrace.
We're all forgiven by God's grace, for we are a part of the family. Come in,

Children and elders, middlers and teens, singles and doubles and in-betweens,
strong eighty-fivers and street-wise sixteens, for we are a part of the family.
Greeters and shoppers, long-time and new, nobody here has a claim on a pew;
And whether we're many or whether we're few, we are a part of the family.
Come in,

There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine, but we are a part of the family.
There's rest for the weary and health for us all;
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.
So come in and worship and answer the call, for we are a part of the family.
Come in,

Officiant O Lord, open our lips,
People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.
People O Lord, make haste to help us.

All Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

Youth Our way through Lent has brought us to this day.
People We are on a journey seeking God's way.

Youth We know God's protection and care in life.
People We know that God has a path for us to follow.

Youth We gather to renew our friendship with God and with one another.
People We come to share in God's gifts of love.

The Invitatory - Psalm 95.1-7

All The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God, * and a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his for he made it, *
and his hands have moulded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our maker.
For he is our God, *
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

All The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

The Collect of the Day

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

Almighty God, through the waters of baptism your Son has made us children of light. May we ever walk in his light and show forth your glory in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive 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 SAMUEL

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."

Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature,

because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

I SAMUEL 16:1-13

Refrain: The Lord Is My Shepherd
Suggested Use: Lent, Easter, Baptism, Burial

The musical score consists of three systems of staves. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "The Lord is my shep - herd;". The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment with the lyrics: "there is noth - ing I shall want.". The third system shows the piano accompaniment continuing with a melodic line.

1. **The Lord is my shepherd;***
I shall not want.
2. **He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;***
he leadeth me beside the still waters. *Refrain*
3. **He restoreth my soul;***
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.
4. **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**
I will fear no evil;*
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. *Refrain*
5. **Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;***
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
6. **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,***
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. *Refrain*

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

EPHESIANS 5:8-14

Gospel Hymn #414 "God of the Sparrow"

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

As he walked along, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he."



Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." But

others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided.

So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to be-come his disciples?"

Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the

one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains." The Gospel of Christ. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. JOHN 9:1-41

Reflection, Children's Message and Hymn

1. Open our eyes Lord, We want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him, And say that we love Him.
2. Open our ears Lord And help us to listen,
Open our eyes Lord, we want to see Jesus.
3. Open our eyes Lord, We want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him And say that we love Him.
4. Open our ears Lord And help us to listen,
Open our eyes Lord We want to see Jesus.

The Affirmation of Faith As Children of the light, let us say:
Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.
This is the first and the great commandment.
The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these.

The Prayers of the People

Please kneel or sit for the prayers. Response: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for Mexico - (Mexico) The Rt Revd Carlos Touche-Porter.
Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. George's, New Glasgow, Vacant at time of publication; Strait-Chedabucto, Vacant at time of publication, Rev Evelyn Knorr - On Leave; Retired Clergy in Northumbria Region.
Local Ministerial: The Congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and Rev. Laurence Mawhinney and Marion.
Fisheries: Adams & Knickle - Maude Adams;
Clearwater - Atlantic Leader; Tall Ship - Bluenose II.

Confession and Absolution

YOUTH Loving God, we come to you this day as your children:
trusting, hopeful, wanting to love and to be loved.
We want to join with others in sharing your love and in living your way.
Yet, we so easily forget how precious we are to you and how we belong
to you, for you have carved our names on the palms of your hands.
How easily we put ourselves down and put each other down.
We forget how you call us to trust, to hope and to love.
Yet through it all, you love us, and when we are sorry, you forgive us.
Life is new again and we are reconnected with you, with each other and
all of creation. Let us now confess our sins.

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 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.
And also with you. The assembly greets one another in the name of the
Lord.

Handbells: Praise Unfolding - Sandra Eithun

Offertory Hymn #465 "Here in this Place New Light is Streaming"

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray to our Father in heaven, with Jesus, the light of our lives:

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.

Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land

By Joseph Donnelly, Head of Caritas International

Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, we come to you in the sacredness
of life, conscious of the gift of every human being, created in your image and
likeness. We pray for all your people, for Jews, Christians and Muslims, for
Israelis, Palestinians, Arabs, whose lives are inextricably linked everyday in
the Holy Land they must share.

You are the loving author of life. All rights are God-given, from you to us.
We pray for our sisters and brothers, long-suffering in Jerusalem,
the West Bank, and in Gaza where they are cut off from us.
We pray for the innocent victims of violence.
We pray that all extreme actions will cease.
We pray for new measures of courageous leadership.
We pray for partnerships among peoples and nations that multiply good will
for genuine opportunities to build peace together.

We pray for a peace as real as the ancient olive trees
so that a beautiful landscape will be fruitful once more.
We pray that the will for such a peace grows daily
so that in all hearts we unite rather than divide,
so that we can be sheltering trees in good times and bad.

Indeed, Lord, we pray to walk humbly together,
to love justice as the greatest witness in gratitude to you
for the precious gift of life we treasure -
in the Holy Land and everywhere in the beauty of peace. Amen.

Announcements

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

God has called us through Christ to be children of light. May we bear
witness in everyday life to the light of Christ, in goodness, justice and
truth, And the blessing of God almighty, Father + Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always. Amen.

Go in the light of Christ, to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn #572 "Let There Be Light"

Postlude: Lamb of God, Our Saviour – J. S. Bach

HERITAGE FAITH VISION

Local schoolmaster William Lawson designed a new square tower built in 1840. It was 12 feet x 12 feet at the base and 70 feet high. Handsome pinnacles, in Gothic style, adorned the tower. Much of the tower we have today is in the 1840 style. Timbers for the tower were supplied by John Mullock, Upper Lahave. Our story will continue.

NOTICES

SEDER SUPPER

The Seder Meal will be held at the Parish Hall on Tuesday, April 11th at 5pm. The Sign up Sheets may be found in church or at the Parish Hall. We would appreciate donations of items/food needed for this meal: eggs, radish, celery, horseradish, fruit for salad, parsley. Pots of stew to feed 8 are needed at the Seder (lamb, chicken or beef). Place your name and item for donation on the sign up sheet. If you are able to help set up and clean up, please contact Robert MacMillan.

LARC (Lunenburg Area Refugee Committee)

After a very successful sponsorship of the seven-member Ayash Family, LARC is ready to sponsor a second Syrian Refugee, a family of 3. LARC is looking for a few more members to join the group bringing new energy, perspective and a desire to change the life of another family. If you are interested, please speak with Fr. Michael or contact David Friendly, the coordinator of LARC 902-634-4428. Email: friendly@bellaliant.net. Thank you for your interest and support.

Music and Meditation on Wednesday, March 29 at noon
Mahone Bay's St. John's Lutheran Choir - Jane Kristenson, director

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEAM THIS WEEK:

Nursery - Viola with assistants Nikki Saunders and Laura Eisner



EASTER MEMORIALS

We are accepting Easter Memorials In Memory of Loved Ones. Please call the Parish office to have your memorial placed in the Easter bulletin. Donations may be placed in the Easter Memorial Fund, Rector's Discretionary Fund, Flower Fund, Food Bank or a fund of your choice.

Parish Contacts

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Rev. Oliver Osmond • 634-8589, Rev. Alvin Westgate • 640-2484

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• Robert MacMillan 902-527-0122

CHAIR OF PARISH COUNCIL

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CHIMER Peter Allen 902-634-4668

TREASURER Dan Sargeant 902-237-9728

ALTAR GUILD Maureen Moffatt,

Ann Grandy, Barbara Simonds

PASTORAL VISITATION

PRAYER & HEALING MINISTRY

Holly Mitchell 902-634-8477

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

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MUSIC Jane Ritcey Moore 902-275-4834

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ACW Barbara Nowe 902-634-4473

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LAY READERS Roger Demone 543-5753

SERVERS Sheila Morris 902-634-3713

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CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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FOOD BANK Laura Roblee 902-521-4823

MEALS ON WHEELS Laura Roblee

902-521-4823, Barbara Simonds 902-634-3319

PLANNED GIVING

Jim Eisenhauer 902-634-4713

PWRDF

REGIONAL COUNCIL

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Holly Mitchell, Mary Wagner

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