



St. John's Anglican Church

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Rector: Reverend 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 signs of autumn are noticeable now. The nights are cooler, it is darker in the evening and in the early morning, the leaves on the trees are beginning to turn as we approach the first day of autumn and leave behind the long, sunny days of summer.

Today in the Holy Gospel, Jesus talks about forgiveness. If we want God's forgiveness, we must forgive others. Paul, in his writing to the Romans, reminds the early community and you and I that a Christian is for Christ and for others. Matthew, the author of today's Gospel story, tells us that we must be willing to extend to others the generous forgiveness God has extended to us.

Today's Gospel raises the question of sin between brothers and sisters, that is, fellow Christians. Anyone who is forgiven has an obligation to forgive. If we cannot do this ourselves it is an indication that we really have not experienced God's forgiveness. The position of the servant in Jesus' story was absolutely hopeless. He owed the king so much money that, according to the wages in Jesus' day, he would never be able to repay the debt in his lifetime. This is our situation before God. We cannot win God's forgiveness. All we can do is plead for his mercy. Blessed are those who forgive. They shall obtain forgiveness for their own sins.

Alvin

LAY MINISTERS TODAY

Lay Reader: 8:30 am Barbara Eisenhauer
10:30 am Susan MacMillan, Charlene Demone,
Lectors: 8:30 am Maureen Moffatt, Linda Macdonald
10:30 am Kevin Skinner, Heather Hyson
Sidespersons: 10:30 am Denyse Lee, Michael Lee

NEXT SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH

Lay Reader: 8:30 am Barbara Eisenhauer
10:30 am Heather Hyson, Robert MacMillan
Lectors: 8:30 am Ed Jordan, Sandra Jordan
10:30 am Heather Eisenhauer, Lillian Keeping
Sidespersons: 10:30 am Oran Hyson, Heather Hyson

The Holy Eucharist

Communion Setting Proulx

Prelude: O God Thou Faithful God – J. S. Bach

Hymn #525 'The Church's One Foundation'

Please stand for Processional Hymn

Children's Talk

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.

All And also with you.

Celebrant Almighty God,

All 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.

Glory To God

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you
take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For
you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you call your Church to witness that in Christ
we are reconciled to you. Help us so to proclaim the good news of
your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; through 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 EXODUS

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

EXODUS 14:19-31

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM REFRAIN Alleluia!

Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech, Judah became God's sanctuary and Israel his dominion. R

The sea beheld it and fled; Jordan turned and went back. The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like young sheep. R

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you turned back? You mountains, that you skipped like rams? you little hills like young sheep? R

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob. Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water and flint-stone into a flowing spring. R

PSALM 114

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling 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 judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement 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 honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour 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 judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement 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. ROMANS 14:1-12

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Hymn #438 'O Jesus, I Have Promised'

The Gospel

Reader The Lord be with you. People And also with you.
THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO
MATTHEW People Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Then 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."
MATTHEW 18:21-35

Reflection

The Nicene Creed In unity with all Christians, let us confess our faith

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of the Father before all worlds, God, of God; Light, of Light;
very God, of very God; begotten, not made;
being of one substance with the Father; through whom all things were
made: who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and
was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man, was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again
according to the scriptures, and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the
dead: whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets.
And I believe one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.
And I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Please kneel or sit for the prayers. Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Diocesan Cycle: Retired Clergy of Valley Region: Rev. Canon Russell Elliott, Rev. Canon Douglas Hergett and Faye, Rev. Everett Hill, Rev. Karen Hunt and David, Rev. Marilyn Forsyth-Lamb, Rev. Canon Eric MacDonald, Rev. Peter Malton and Anne, Rev. Michael McKeage and Diane, Rev. Canon Cal McMillan and Mary, Rev. Canon Donald Neish and Sarah, Rev. Cathy Pharo and Chris, Rev. Gordon Neish, Rev. Dr. Bruce Pellegrin, Rev. Donald Ruggles and Miriam, Rev. Donald Sharp and June, Rev. James Small and Joan, Rev. Canon Duanne Tanswell and Shirley, Rev. Canon Ed Vaughan and Janet, Rev. Val Rhymes and Fred, Rev. Fred Rhymes and Val, Rev. Canon Ken Vaughan and Barbara. Widows: Elizabeth Ferguson, Ruth Ann Harris, Joanne Hinxman, Elinor Mullen, Edith Tufts.

Local Ministerial: The congregation of St. Norbert's Roman Catholic Church and Fr. James MacDonald, OMI. Please continue to hold Father Michael Mitchell and his wife, Holly in your prayers.

Fisheries: Adams & Knickle - Cachalot I;
Clearwater - Fundy Leader; Tall Ship - Bluenose II

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.

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

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts

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.

Offertory Hymn #214 'The Lamb's High Banquet Called to Share'

The Prayer Over the Gifts

Holy God, accept all we offer you this day. May we who are reconciled at this table bring wholeness to our broken world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer I

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.

It is indeed right that we should praise you, gracious God, for you created all things. You formed us in your own image: male and female you created us. When we turned away from you in sin, you did not cease to care for us, but opened a path of salvation for all people. You made a covenant with Israel, and through your servants Abraham and Sarah gave the promise of a blessing to all nations. Through Moses you led your people from bondage into freedom; through the prophets you renewed your promise of salvation. Therefore we praise you Lord, with all the angels, in their song of joy.

CP #732 Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives you praise. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners; he opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to the poor and to those in need. In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

On the night he freely gave himself to death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Gracious God, his perfect sacrifice destroys the power of sin and death; by raising him to life you give us life for evermore.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith. (Sung)

CP #733 Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection, and looking for his coming again in glory, we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who eat and drink at this table may be one body and one holy people, a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen. (Sung 3x) CP #734

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray for one another and for the world, in Christ's name:

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

"I am the bread which has come down from heaven," says the Lord.

All Give us this bread for ever.

"I am the vine, you are the branches."

All May we dwell in him, as he lives in us.

The Communion

The gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

CP #745

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the 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 Anglican Church of Canada, welcomes to the Lord's table for Holy Communion all who are baptized and who wish to be nourished with the Body and Blood of Christ.

Communion Hymns #59 'Jesus Call Us Here To Meet Him' #60 'I Come with Joy'

Prayer after Communion

God of peace, in this eucharist we have been reconciled to you and to our neighbours. May we who have been nourished by holy things always have the courage to forgive. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the 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

May our generous God lead us this day to share forgiveness and to embrace God's healing as we meet Christ in everyone we meet, and may the blessings of Almighty God, the Father, + the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you this day and forever more. 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: In God, My Faithful God – Hanff

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Interim contribution statements have been prepared for your record of contributions to Saint John's to date. We are so very grateful for your on going support of your Church. Please pick up your envelope this morning at the back of the Church.

MUSIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Musique Royale presents the highly acclaimed Toronto Concert this evening at 7:30 pm here at St. John's. Since its founding in 1972, the Toronto Consort has become internationally recognized for its excellence in the performance of medieval, renaissance and early baroque music. Led by Artistic Director David Fallis, nine of Canada's leading early music specialists have come together to form the Toronto Consort whose members include both singers and instrumentalists (lute, recorder, guitar, flute, early keyboards and percussion). Tickets are \$30 (\$10 students) and are available at the door.

The Chancel Choir potluck and social gathering will be held on Wed., Sept 20 at 5 pm. Choir spouses and partners and anyone interested in joining our chancel choir are warmly invited to attend. The event takes place at Barbara's home at 1199 Oakland Road, Mahone Bay.

CONGRATULATIONS

Did you know? September 11, 2000 was the day upon which Mary Wagner, our office manager, commenced work in the Parish office. She marks 17 years of faithful service to the parish and to those who knock on the office door. Thank you, Mary, on behalf of all your friends in the Church of Saint John.

Guest Presenters/Upcoming Events

With the summer months almost behind us, we have a busy schedule lined up this fall. The following is a list of currently scheduled events and guests coming to share their clerical insights with us:
Sunday, October 1st – Lisa Vaughan; Diocesan Parish Vitality Coordinator
Sunday, October 22nd – Archbishop Fred Hiltz followed by a Congregational Potluck lunch
Sunday, November 5th – Archbishop Ron Cutler followed by a Congregational Potluck lunch.
Sunday, November 5th at 4pm – 300th Celebration of the Vinegar Bible.

SUNDAY'S DUTY SCHEDULE

Nursery....Viola Green....Assistants Laura Eisner, Nikki Saunders
Grade I....Brooke Nodding, Rena Demone
Grade II....Lori Nickerson....Assistant....Alex Payne

Parish Contacts

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Rev. Oliver Osmond • 902-634-8589, Rev. Louis Quennelle • 902-527-0122

PARISH WARDENS

Duncan Crowdis 902-521-9724 • Blake Starratt 902-634-9424
• Robert MacMillan 902-527-0122

CHAIR OF PARISH COUNCIL

Brooke Nodding 902-634-9425
ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR
Barbara Butler 902-624-0506
HAND BELLS Sharon Hill 902-634-8781
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
Linda Macdonald 902-634-9473
SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT
HERITAGE Roger Demone 902-543-5753
MUSIC Jane Ritcey Moore 902-275-4834
PROPERTY Wayne Dodge 902-634-4885
LADIES' GUILD
Susan MacMillan 902-634-3019
ACW Barbara Nowe 902-634-4473

ACW CATERING Patty Tanner 543-3474
LAY READERS Roger Demone 543-5753
SERVERS Sheila Morris 902-634-3713
SUNDAY SCHOOL & NURSERY
Rena Demone 902-634-9644
TOURS Peter Allen 902-634-4668
CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Mary Meisner 902-634-8429
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 David Penney 902-209-1626
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Mary Meisner, Betty Lou Olivier
SAFER CHURCH
Duncan Crowdis 902-640-2214

CHURCH HUMOUR

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, 'Why is the bride dressed in white?' The mother replied, 'Because white is the colour of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life.' The child thought about this for a moment then said, 'So why is the groom wearing black?'

I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then it dawned on me, they were cramming for their finals.