

St. John's Anglican Church

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Rector: Rev. Laura Marie Piotrowicz
 Organist & Choir Director: Barbara Butler

*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.*

In the psalm today, there is a frequent inclusion of the word 'selah', usually written in brackets. The purpose of the selah is a type of verbal punctuation; in practical terms, it was sometimes used as a musical direction (psalms were originally sung prayers) or as a means to prepare the following paragraph.

The selah, however, also holds a more spiritual invitation to engage with the psalm. It encourages a pause for reflection and contemplation. When it is used, it invites the person praying the psalm to stop, take a breath, and think about what was just said. A selah is an intentionally holy pause.

What a wonderful reminder as we continue in Lent, that despite the busyness of the world around us we can inject a selah into our day: a pause, a holy moment, to take a breath and reflect on the presence of God.

Selah!

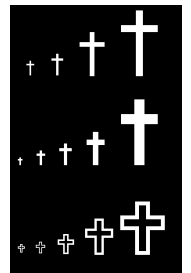
Rev. Laura Marie

LAY MINISTERS TODAY
 Lay Readers: 8:30 am Susan MacMillan
10:30 am Charlene Demone, Stephen Lewis
 Lectors: 8:30 am Linda Macdonald, Carolyn Hogg
10:30am Stephen Lewis, Patsy Perkins
 Sidespersons: Bruce & Louise Holdbrook

NEXT SUNDAY APRIL 7th
 Lay Readers: 8:30 am Charlene Demone; 10:30 am Heather Hyson
 Lectors: 8:30 am Gill Osmond, Ben Smith
10:30am Margaret Shirley, Hazel Oliver

DUTY SCHEDULE

Promised Doves...Chasity Spindler, Laura Eisner
 Rainbow Sunshine...Rena Demone, Jasmine Saunders
 The Giraffes...Christina Pottie
 Golden Dogs...Lori Nickerson
 General Assembly...Rena Demone
 Music Support...Wendell Eisener



The Holy Eucharist

Communion Setting - Schubert/Proulx

Prelude: Adagio – Galuppi

St. John's Ringers: Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho – arr. Thompson

Please Stand and join in singing:
Processional Hymn #606 'There's a Wideness in God's Mercy'

CHILDREN'S TALK

The Gathering of the Community

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 whom 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.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world, evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on

the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year. JOSHUA 5:9-12
The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM REFRAIN:

You surround me with shouts of deliverance, O Lord.

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away! Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile! R

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long. For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer. Selah. R

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin. Selah. R

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them. You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance. Selah. R

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye. Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you." Selah. R

Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord. Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart. Selah. R PSALM 32

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God. 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

Gospel Hymn #434 'The Love of Jesus Calls Us'

Gospel

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



Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout

that country, and he began to be in need.

So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."'

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe - the best one - and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'" LUKE 15:1-3, 11B-32

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

Sermon: The Reverend Laura Marie Piotrowicz

The Nicene Creed Let us confess our faith, as we say,
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father.
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic, and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We 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, have mercy.

Diocesan Cycle: Pray for the Parish of St. George's, New Glasgow, Rev Falen McNulty; Parish of Strait-Chedabucto, Rev Susan Slater, Priest-in-Charge, and Lief; Retired Clergy in Northumbria Region: Rev Cecil Hebb and Mildred, Rev Peter MacRae and Helen, Rev Bill White and Martha, Rev Aidan Kingsbury and Ruth, Rev Art Bourré, and Patricia Bourguignon.
Local Ministerial: The Congregation of Zion Lutheran Church and Rev. Rick Pryce and Deborah.
Fisheries: Adams & Knickle - Cachalot I;
Clearwater - Fundy Leader; Tall Ship - Picton Castle.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

Silence is kept.
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

Celebrant: 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

St. John's Ringers: Rondeau on a Theme of Telemann – arr. Dobrinski

Offertory Hymn #500 'Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant'

Parishioners share in gathering the offering of God's people.
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 mercy and compassion, your Word calls us home to faith
and love. Accept all we offer you this day, in the name of Jesus Christ
the Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer #2

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.

We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved
Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word,
through whom you have created all things. By the power of the Holy
Spirit he took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He
lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of
all. In fulfilment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering, to
bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so he won for
you a holy people. He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give
up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death,
and banish the darkness of sin and despair. By his resurrection he brings
us into the light of your presence. Now with all creation we raise our
voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

All Holy, Holy, Holy Lord #735

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." 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

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:

Celebrant: We break this bread.

All: Communion in Christ's body once broken.

Celebrant: 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 celebrant invites the people to share in communion and may say,
The gifts of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

The Communion #747 'Jesus, Lamb of God'

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.

The Anglican Church of Canada welcomes to Holy Communion,
all who are baptized and who wish to be nourished
with the Body and Blood of Christ.

During Communion, hymns may be sung, silence may be kept.
Communion Hymn #611 'Our Father, We Have Wandered'

Choir Anthem: 'Lord, Make Me to Know' – William Byrd

The Prayer after Communion Read by celebrant

Giver of life, you enlighten all who come into the world. Fill
our hearts with the splendour of your grace, that we may perfectly
love you and worthily praise your holy name, through 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.

The Blessing

Rector: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your
heart and mind in the knowledge and love of God; and of his Son our
Saviour Jesus Christ. The blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be
upon each of you; those you love, those you pray for, and those you
serve; this day and forever more.

All: Amen.

Recessional Hymn #451 'King of Love, O Christ, We Crown You'

The Dismissal

Rector: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude: O God, Thou Faithful God – Streicher

NOTICES

A Celebration of New Ministry for Rev. Laura Marie Piotrowicz
will be held here at St. John's TODAY at 4pm.

BAPTISM will be held on Holy Saturday, April 20th at 4pm. Please
contact the Parish office if you or a child would like to be baptised.

We are getting ready to produce the Lenten/Easter Newsletter. Please
email our editor, Brian Kenefick with your articles cynffig@eastlink.ca no
later than April 8th.

LENTEN FELLOWSHIP Please join us in the parish hall for coffee and
fellowship following the 10.30am services during Lent.

LENTEN CAFÉ, FELLOWSHIP & WORSHIP

The annual Lunenburg Lenten Café will be held once again at Zion
Lutheran Church the Wednesdays in Lent, from 11am - 11:45am.
Each week, various clergy lead a creative worship and reflection.

Offering to the Lunenburg Food Bank
April 3 - Central United
April 10 - St. Barnabas, Blue Rocks

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

- Anyone wanting to join First Communion Classes is welcome. Both
classes this week are at the church today at 1:00pm and Tuesday
evening at 6:00pm for 45 minutes.
- Book Club will meet at Laura Marie's on Tuesday, April 9th at
7:30pm. "Twelve Steps To a Compassionate Life" by Karen
Armstrong.
- Random Act of Kindness Club, Friday April 12th, 6:30-7:30pm, at the
Parish Hall. Everyone welcome.
- First Communion for all new Candidates April 28th at 10:30am
Service.

SEDER

Our Seder will be held at the Parish Hall on Tuesday, April 16th at 6pm.
We will partake of the ancient Passover Meal and hear the story of the
Old Testament leading up to the Messiah. Enjoy a delicious meal of lamb,
chicken or vegetable stew. Bring your own wine or juice. The sign up
sheets are at the back of the church.

We are in search of people to fill in for vacations of the parish custodian and secretary. If you are interested in working part time during illness and vacations please contact the office.

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.

HOME COMMUNION VISITS

Anyone wanting a visit from the rector, please contact the office to make arrangements. We are in the process of preparing a list of names of parishioners who are unable to attend worship.

Music Announcements:

Our featured guest at this week's Music and Meditation on Wednesday, April 3 at noon is Chris Norman, well known to all of us for his exquisite flute playing. All are warmly invited to attend.

OUR HERITAGE

A short history of the Parish of St. John's, Lunenburg (Continued)

The stained glass windows in the nave were given shortly after the end of World War II and were designed and built by McCauslands of Toronto. The same firm designed and built the new West Window in the tower and it was given and dedicated Easter Sunday, 1981. It is the only window in the church relating to the Sea - "I will make you fishers of men."

The manual or key board of the chimes is located near the West Window. These were given by C. Edwinn Kaulbach in 1902 and Bells were cast in Troy, New York. A Two Octave set of Handbells was dedicated in November of 1981 and these were given to St. John's by Wallace and Lottie Daniels. Thus confirming the Church's reputation as being "The Church of Bells". Also in the Balcony are two Plaques, the work of Adolphus Gates who came from Germany in 1819 and died in Lunenburg in 1873. One of the plaques bears the Ten Commandments and the other the Creed and Lord's Prayer.

(To be continued)

By Heritage Ministry

Parish Contacts

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• Raymond Francis 902-521-2997

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CHIMER Peter Allen 902-634-4668

TREASURER Dan Steele

ALTAR GUILD Maureen Moffatt,

Ann Grandy, Barbara Simonds

PASTORAL VISITATION Vacant at this time

PRAYER & HEALING MINISTRY

Linda Macdonald 902-634-9473

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Vacant at this time

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

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Rena Demone 902-634-9644

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CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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FOOD BANK Emmi Fraser

MEALS ON WHEELS Laura Roblee

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