



St. John's Anglican Church

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Rector: Reverend 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 who ever will worship,
This Church of St. John's opens wide its doors
and in the name of Christ our Lord, says - WELCOME.*

Prelude: Ere Yet the Dawn - Buxtehude

The Service of Light:

Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer.

Let us pray:

Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world. Sanctify this new fire, and inflame us with new hope. Purify our minds by this Easter celebration and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Exsultet:

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour, radiant in the brightness of your King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen Saviour shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

Opening Hymn: #425 'Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee'

Liturgy Of The Word:

Dear friends in Christ, let us now listen attentively to the word of God, recalling how he saved his people throughout history and in the fullness of time, sent his own Son to be our Redeemer.

(Genesis 1.1-2.4a)

In the beginning, nothing made sense. It was chaos! The earth hadn't taken shape yet; darkness was everywhere. But God's Spirit was already there, always moving. God began to set things in order. God made light and saw that it was good! God named the light day and the dark night. God created the sky, and separated the water from the land. Plants and trees popped out of the ground. God filled the sea with all kinds of fish. And God saw that it was good. The sun shone brightly during the day. The moon glowed gently at night. Birds burst into the sky, bugs buzzed through the air, and worms crawled through the dirt. The fields and forests thundered under the feet of all God's creatures. And God saw that it was good. God then created people: male and female. God said "I have placed my image on you. I bless you. All this creation is for you! Eat the plants; tend to the animals; care for creation, and grow!" God looked over all creation; it was very good. And God rested.

Let us pray:

Almighty and eternal God, you created all things in wonderful beauty and order. Help us now to perceive how still more wonderful is the new creation, by which in the fullness of time you redeemed your people through the sacrifice of our Passover, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

(Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20-21)

After releasing the Hebrew people from their oppression, the Pharaoh changed his mind, called his army together, and sent them to chase the Israelites across the desert. The Israelites were camped by the Red Sea, and the rumbling of chariots and horses shook them awake. They panicked, feeling scared and trapped, and yelled at Moses that they would have been safer as slaves in Egypt. But Moses assured them to not be afraid, and to watch what God would do. God told Moses to stretch out his hand; and a large wind blew, and God divided the Red Sea. The Israelites saw dry land in the middle of the water, and they hurried across the sea on that dry land as walls of water towered over them. Pharaoh's army was right behind them. Then God sent a pillar of fire to confuse the soldiers, and clogged their wheels, so that the army was stuck. After the Israelites climbed out of the sea, Moses raised his hand again, and the waters crashed back down, trapping the Egyptian soldiers and horses in the sea. The prophet's sister Miriam recognised how God had saved the Israelites and sang praises.

Let us pray:

God of steadfast love, your wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day. By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Ezekiel 36.24-28)

Speaking to all the faithful, God promised: "I will gather you from all over the earth into a safe place. I will sprinkle clean water on you and cleanse you from all your sins. I will give you a new heart and new spirit, so that you will follow my commandments to love Me and one another. Then you will live in peace with each other; you will be my people and I will be your God."

Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, in the paschal mystery you established the new covenant of reconciliation. Grant that all who are born again in baptism may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith. Grant this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Choir Anthem: 'Grow in Grace' - Archer

Scripture:

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans (6.3-11)

Don't you know that all who share in Christ Jesus by being baptized also share in his death? When we were baptized, we died and were buried with Christ. We were baptized, so that we would live a new life, as Christ was raised to life by the glory of God the Father. If we shared in Jesus' death by being baptized, we will be raised to life with him. We know that the persons we used to be were nailed to the cross with Jesus. This was done, so that our sinful bodies would no longer be the slaves of sin. We know that sin doesn't have power over dead people. As surely as we died with Christ, we believe we will also live with him. We know that death no longer has any power over Christ. He died and was raised to life, never again to die. When Christ died, he died for sin once and for all. But now he is alive, and he lives only for God. In the same way, you must think of yourselves as dead to the power of sin. But Christ Jesus has given life to you, and you live for God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 114:

God brought his people out of Egypt,
that land with a strange language.

He made Judah his holy place
and ruled over Israel.

When the sea looked at God,
it ran away, and the Jordan River flowed upstream.

The mountains and the hills
skipped around like goats.

Ask the sea why it ran away
or ask the Jordan why it flowed upstream.

Ask the mountains and the hills
why they skipped like goats!

Earth, you will tremble,
when the Lord God of Jacob comes near,
because he turns solid rock
into flowing streams and pools of water.

Gospel Acclamation: #715 'Alleluia'

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices that they had prepared. When they found the stone rolled away from the entrance, they went in. But they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus, and they did not know what to think. Suddenly two men in shining white clothes stood beside them. The women were afraid and bowed to the ground. But the men said, "Why are you looking in the place of the dead for someone who is alive? Jesus isn't here! He has been raised from death. Remember that while he was still in Galilee, he told you, 'The Son of Man will be handed over to sinners who will nail him to a cross. But three days later he will rise to life.'" Then they remembered what Jesus had said. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and some other women were the ones who had gone to the tomb. When they returned, they told the eleven apostles and the others what had happened. The apostles thought it was all nonsense, and they would not believe. But Peter ran to the tomb. And when he stooped down and looked in, he saw only the burial clothes. Then he returned, wondering what had happened. The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon the Rev. Laura Marie Piotrowicz

The Baptism:

Together, the parents and godparents gather around the font, and together read:

We present Ingrid, Duncan, Olivia, Norah, Molly, and Eve to receive the sacrament of baptism.

Will you be responsible for seeing that the child you present is nurtured in the faith and life of the Christian community?

We will, with God's help.

Will you by your prayers and witness help this child to grow into the full stature of Christ?

We will, with God's help.

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

We renounce them.

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

We renounce them.

Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

We renounce them.

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Saviour?

We do.

Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

We do.

Do you promise to obey him as your Lord?

We do.

Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the sacrament of new birth.

Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Send them into the world in witness to your love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. Amen.

Thanksgiving Over the Water:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, almighty God and Father, for by the gift of water you nourish and sustain all living things.

Blessed be God for ever.

We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea, you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the promised land.

Blessed be God for ever.

We give you thanks for sending your Son Jesus. For us he was baptized by John in the river Jordan. For us he was anointed as Christ by your Holy Spirit. For us he suffered the baptism of his own death and resurrection, setting us free from the bondage of sin and death, and opening to us the joy and freedom of everlasting life.

Blessed be God for ever.

We give you thanks for your Holy Spirit who teaches us and leads us into all truth, filling us with his gifts so that we might proclaim the gospel to all nations and serve you as a royal priesthood.

Blessed be God for ever.

We give you thanks for you have called Ingrid, Duncan, Olivia, Norah, Molly, and Eve to new life through the waters of baptism. Now sanctify this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin. Anoint them with your Holy Spirit and bring them to new birth in the family of your Church, that they may become inheritors of your glorious kingdom. We give you praise and honour and worship through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

Blessed are you, our strength and song, and our salvation.

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, The Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in God the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

I will, with God's help.

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

I will, with God's help.

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

I will, with God's help.

The Baptism:

Ingrid Alma Boudreau

Duncan Alexander DeVouge

Olivia Minnie Francis

Norah Mary Francis

Molly Rae Moore

Eve Mackenzie Moore

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I sign you with the cross, and mark you as Christ's own forever.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen.

Receive the light of Christ, to show that you have passed from darkness to light.

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

The peace and joy of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn: #35 'Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters'

Prayer Over the Gifts

Let us pray.

All: God of life and health, accept the offering of your holy people, and grant that we who are baptized into Christ may be perfected in your salvation, in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. Amen.

The 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.

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.

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." 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 forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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 Fraction:

Lord, we died with you on the cross.

Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.

Now we share in your resurrection.

Live in us, that we may live in you.

The gifts of God for the family of God.

Thanks be to God!

Agnus Dei

All those seeking Christ in their hearts are welcome to receive the communion.

This is God's meal for all of God's people

Communion Hymn: #73 'One Bread, One Body, One Lord of All'

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

All: Giver of all, we are nourished with your Easter sacraments. Fill us with the Spirit of love, and unite us in faith, that we may be witnesses to the resurrection and show your glory to all the world, in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. Amen.

Doxology and Blessing:

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 Peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

The blessing of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon each of you: and those you love, those you pray for, and those you serve; this day and forevermore. Amen.

Recessional Hymn: #232 'Jesus Is Risen from the Grave'

Dismissal:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude: Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise - Archer

