

26 July 2026

10:30 a.m.



Parable of the Mustard Seed, Kelly Latimore (1986-) kellylatimoreicons.com

9th Sunday after Pentecost

St. John's Anglican Church
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Dawna Wall

Director of Music: Donald Russell, ARCO

Celebrant: The Rev. Ross Hammond

Heritage  *Faith*  *Vision*

St. John's ~ A National Historic Site ~ Founded 1753

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Welcome and Announcements

Standing, we sing THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

388 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Austria

OPENING GREETING

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

And also with you.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.

KYRIE

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

THE COLLECT

Holy God, plant a mustard seed in us this day, that we may offer shelter, encouragement and new life to all we encounter. May the leaven of your saving love increase our understanding that nothing can separate us from you, who lives with Christ and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Sitting, we listen to the First Reading

Genesis 29:15-28

Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were weak, but Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel, so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country--giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

For the word of God in scripture

For the word of God among us

For the word of God within us

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 105 Part I Confitemini Domino

Refrain: Let us continually seek the face of God.

1 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon the divine name; * make known the deeds of the Lord among the peoples. Sing to the Lord, sing praises, * and speak of all the marvellous works of the Lord **Refrain**

3 Glory in the holy name; *let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Search for the strength of the Lord; * continually seek the face of God. **Refrain**

Remember the marvels the Lord has done, *the wonders and the judgements of the mouth of the Lord, O offspring of Abraham and Sarah, the servants of God, * O children of Jacob and Leah and Rachel and the chosen of the Lord. **Refrain**

The Lord is our God, * whose judgements prevail in all the world, who has always been mindful of the covenant, * the promise made for a thousand generations: **Refrain**

Sitting, we listen to the Second Reading

Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those

whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

For the word of God in scripture
For the word of God among us
For the word of God within us

Thanks be to God.

Standing, we sing

THE GRADUAL HYMN

451 King of Love, O Christ, We Crown You

Hermon

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Jesus put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of

shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sitting, we listen to: THE SERMON

Standing we say together: THE SHEMAH
(The prayer Jesus recited twice a day)

**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 great commandment.
The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these.**

Sitting for:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of all blessing, we give thanks that you meet us in mustard seed and story, in gardens and growth, in questions, doubts and new insights.. As we find courage to pour out all we hold, we offer our gratitude for prayers heard and answered, and for your gracious and faithful companionship with us. **Gracious God, hear our prayer.**

God of Creation, you are with us in each season and cycle; in life and death, planting and harvest. Accompany us with good humour and wisdom that we may see you at every turn, pointing the way to hope and renewal. **Gracious God, hear our prayer.**

God, our comforter, relieve the suffering of those who struggle in body, mind, or spirit, and bring respite and encouragement for those who care for them. We pray for those we hold in our hearts, and those known to you alone, **Gracious God, hear our prayer.**

God of Peace, we pray for our world, and for an easing of tensions and conflicts in all places. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear of ways we can be a peaceful presence in our daily life and work, and strengthen our hearts to be your peace. **Gracious God, hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the roots of your goodness that run deep in our sacred story. You call your people to faithful living. Guide us in our work of tending and caring for all entrusted to us, encourage us with your living water and help us to trust your wisdom. **Amen.**

CONFESSION

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, 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.

ABSOLUTION

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.

Standing for

THE PEACE

OFFERTORY HYMN

7 New Every Morning Is the Love

Melcombe

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Receive these gifts, O God, and transform us through sharing them, that we may have eyes to see and hearts to understand your call to follow you faithfully all our days. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC 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.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe. At your word the earth was made and spun on its course among the planets. Your hand formed us from the dust of the earth and set us among all your creatures, to love and serve you. When we were unfaithful to you, you kept faith with us; your love remained steadfast. When we were enslaved in Egypt, you broke the bonds of slavery, led us through the sea to freedom, and made a covenant to be our God. By a pillar of fire you led us through the desert to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life. You spoke of love and justice in the prophets, and in the Word made flesh, you lived among us manifesting your glory. He died that we might live, and is risen to raise us to new life. Therefore we praise you, singing with angels and archangels and all the faithful of every time and place, to the glory of your name:

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord whom you sent to save us. He came with healing in his touch, and was wounded for our sins. He came with mercy in his voice, and mocked as one despised. He came with peace in his heart and met violence and death. On the night before he died, Jesus took bread. After

giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to the disciples saying, “Take, eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way he took the cup, giving thanks and saying, “This cup is the new covenant, poured out for the forgiveness of sins, Do this in remembrance of me.”

In remembrance, we take from your creation this bread and this wine, and celebrate his rising to new life, as we await the day of his coming again. With thanksgiving we offer our very selves to you, to be a living, holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that as we share this meal, our eyes will be opened to recognize Christ with us. By your Spirit, make our hearts burn within us, that we may recognize and welcome him as host and anticipate the day when we will feast with him in heaven. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour are yours, almighty God, now and forever, 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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

The gifts of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God

THE COMMUNION

(All are welcome to receive. We share the bread and the common cup. Gluten free, with protocols available, likewise please signal if you'd like a blessing. If you would like communion to be brought to you, please signal an usher.)

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION HYMN

532 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Friendship

Standing, we pray the

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Author of life divine, in the breaking of bread we know the risen Christ. Feed us always in these mysteries, that we may show your glory to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

BLESSING

(followed by the people's Amen.)

RECESSIONAL HYMN

564 Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us

Mannheim

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Quasi Scherzo (Op. 83 No. 15)

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This week in the life of the church:

Family Play Group (Lower Hall)

Tuesday 10:00 a.m.

Music at Noon

Wednesday, 12:00 p.m.

Assisting with the Service today:

8:30 Lector: Margaret Murray

10:30 Lectors: Wendy Dean, Rosemary Smith

Licensed Lay Minister: Jim Shephard

Live Stream Tech: Ron Wall

Greeters: Pam and Duncan Crowdis

Assisting with the Service next week:

8:30 Lector: Susan Foote

10:30 Lectors: Hannah & Andrew Griffin

Licensed Lay Minister: Jim Shephard

Live Stream Tech: Hans van Nie

Greeters: Ron & Annalise Wall

We offer thanks to the St. John's Guild who are hosting coffee hour following today's service.

We welcome the Rev. Ross Hammond who is our summer celebrant while Rev. Dawna is on holiday. Rev. Ross served in the Diocese of Ottawa before moving to NS in retirement with his husband, Albert Klein. Thanks to Ross and Albert for being with us again!