

Sunday March 16th, 2025
2nd Sunday in Lent



Our Mission

*To be a diverse ministering community
making Christ's presence known in the world around us.*

Sunday Morning Worship

9:30 St. George's Church: 1089 Highway 277, Dutch Settlement
11:00 Christ Church: 14 Church St., Lantz

Parish Clergy

Rev'd Dr. Jane Magrath
Rev'd Patty McKenna

Our Worship Today

Call to Worship: *(standing)*

The Lord is our light and our salvation:

Of whom shall we be afraid?

The Lord is the stronghold of our life:

We will wait for the Lord in faithfulness.

Let us seek the Lord's face in this time of worship:

We will honour God's presence in our prayers and our praises!

God, ever creating, ever loving, ever leading: when things around us feel chaotic, you are peace. When so much we hear is not reliable, your word is truth. When we are paralyzed by fear and anxiety, your presence is freedom. When we feel bereft and helpless, your love gives us hope. We bring you our prayers and our praise this day, for you reveal yourself to us in the goodness of creation, in the love and mercy of Christ, your beloved, and through the energy and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. We worship you, Creator, Christ and Spirit, ever Three and ever One, **Amen.**

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.**

Opening Hymn: The God of Abraham Praise (CP# 347)

The God of Abraham praise; who reigns enthroned above;

Ancient of Everlasting Days; and God of Love;

Jehovah, great I AM! by earth and heaven confessed;

I bow and bless the sacred name; forever blest.

The great I AM has sworn; I on this oath depend.

I shall, on eagle wings upborne; to heaven ascend.

I shall behold God's face; I shall God's power adore,

and sing the wonders of God's grace; forevermore.

The God who reigns on high; the great archangels sing,
and "Holy, holy, holy!" cry; "Almighty King!

Who was, and is, the same; and evermore shall be:

Jehovah, Lord, the great I AM; we worship thee!"

The Collect:

Holy one: in giving new names to Abraham and Sarah, you called them into a truth you knew before they were born. Help us to trust you to reveal our truth, so that we might become the people we were designed to be, followers of Jesus the Christ, shining his light in our world. **Amen**

Prayer for Illumination:

Gracious God, send us your Holy Spirit so that we may hear your voice speaking in the scriptures. Lead us to encounter your Living Word, and give us the courage to follow, no matter the cost. Amen.

Proclamation of the Word:

The First Reading:

A Reading from the Book of Genesis (15:1-12, 17-18):

(After the reading):

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm: (27)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid? When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell. **The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

Though an army should encamp against me, yet my heart shall not be afraid; And though war should rise up against me, yet will I put my trust in him.

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

One thing have I asked of the Lord; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; To behold the fair beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. **The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock. Even now he lifts up my head above my enemies round about me.

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; I will sing and make music to the Lord. **The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me. You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." Your face, Lord, will I seek.

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Hide not your face from me, nor turn away your servant in displeasure. You have been my helper; cast me not away; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation. Though my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will sustain me. **The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

Show me your way, O Lord; lead me on a level path, because of my enemies. Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice.

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure; be strong, and he shall comfort your heart; wait patiently for the Lord. **The Lord is my light and my salvation. Amen**

The Gospel:

God be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of Jesus the Christ according to Luke (9:28-36):

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(After the reading)

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

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith:

Together let us confess our faith. Do you believe in God, our creator?

I believe in God, creator of all things, whose heavenly song sent the planets into motion. Even when we go astray, God calls us back, showing us the fullness of life and giving us new songs of praise for each and every day.

Do you believe in Jesus the Christ?

I believe in Jesus the Christ who lived for us and among us, healing the sick, easing the burdens of all people, and teaching us the new song of God's kingdom. He showed His love for all God's children in His death and the hope for eternal life in His resurrection.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the breath of life, who sings God's grace through all time and space. I listen for the Holy Spirit through the history of songs sung by all the communion of saints and through the unwritten songs of all who are to come in the future. I believe that God has a song for my life as well. Amen.

Prayers of the People:

We pray for the church, the world, our community, and those known to us, remembering especially those in particular need. As we make our petitions, we respond to 'You are our God' with 'in you we put our trust'.

Trisagion (Ortega's Version) 3x

Holy God, Holy and Mighty; Holy, Immortal One; have mercy, have mercy on us.

Confession & Absolution:

God of compassion: We are creatures who often seek our own comfort. We confess that we tend to prefer our own plans to your purposes. We shrink from costly discipleship and put our own interests first. Forgive our fleeting commitment and the times we have indulged our own complaints. Have mercy on us.

Inspire us with the energy to do your will and serve our neighbours in the example of Christ, our pattern and our purpose.

Confession:

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 life eternal; through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Celebrations:

We celebrate special occasions in the lives our parish family

O God, our times are in your hand: look with favour, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace; and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Exchanging of the Peace:

May you know the peace which the Spirit brings: a peace rooted in love, patience and self-control, shaped by kindness, generosity and faithfulness, marked by gentleness, and crowned with joy.

Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds (CP# 620)

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds; in a believer's ear!

It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds; and drives away our fear.

**It makes the wounded spirit whole; and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul; and to the weary, rest.**

**Dear name! The rock on which I build; my shield and hiding place
My never-failing treasury filled; with boundless stores of grace.**

**Jesus, my shepherd, guardian, friend; my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End; accept the praise I bring.**

**Weak is the effort of my heart; And cold my warmest thought;
but when I see you as you are; I'll praise you as I ought.**

Prayer over the Gifts:

Holy God, as we journey through Lent, give us a will of repentance, a mind of sacrificial love, and a heart of gratitude. Indeed, you are “gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love...” We offer our gifts and our whole selves, asking that you might strengthen us for the journey, in the name of Christ, our pattern and our purpose. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer for Lent

May the God of the stars and of the soil be with you. **And also with you.**

On this day, let us offer our hearts to God.

We open them so we may be filled with the gifts of Lenten discipleship.

Let us lift glad thanksgiving to our God.

We offer praise to the One who gives us the strength for this journey.

There at the edge of the emptiness of chaos you spoke, God of all graciousness, brightening the shadows with lights in the sky, pouring the waters into rivers and seas, planting seeds to feed all creatures. From the dust of creation, you shaped your children, offering us all the goodness and beauty which overflowed from your heart; but we trampled through your hopes, as we turned from your heart to chase after evil’s false promises. No matter where we went, or how far we sought to flee from you, you continued to meet us in all those places, constantly inviting us to return to you and be filled with your steadfast love.

Therefore, from the shadows of our wilderness journey through Lent, we join with the angels, the saints, and with your beloved people everywhere, to offer you songs of thanksgiving: **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.**

Your constant love is the seal of your holiness, and Jesus is the One who comes to model that Divine love for us. As the powers of domination closed around him, Jesus gathered his friends and followers. A woman anointed him as king and prophet, sacrifice and blessing. He said that whenever his story is told, her act is to be remembered.

On the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, work of human hands, gift of our earth; and he gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, to speak to us of the breaking of his body upon the cross. He gave it to his friends and said: “Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

He took the wine, work of our human hands, gift of our earth; and he gave thanks to God. He poured out the wine to speak to us of the pouring out of his blood. He gave it to his friends saying: “This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me.”

Let us remember the gift of Jesus and his life that flows through our lives. As we take our tentative first steps towards Jerusalem, as we are marked as his companions, we remember that mystery known as faith:

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

God made known in Jesus Christ, hear our prayer. And send your holy spirit upon us and upon this table. May this sacrament remind us of your goodness within us and draw us more closely to each other and to the mission of your Beloved.

Lift our hearts in hope and stir our imaginations to realize the vision of new birth, the fulfillment of the yearning of the earth. *Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all time and possibility are yours in unity with the Maker and the Spirit.*

And now, as Christ taught, we pray

**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.

We break this bread, **Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

The gifts of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God**

People are invited to sit while awaiting Communion

Announcements:

As Jesus calls us as disciples, God sends us out to serve others in the world. Let us share with one another the events of our parish and community this week.

Closing Prayers:

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven.

Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage; may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

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:

We are a people loved by God. We will live as signs of this love.

We are a people blessed with hope. We will live in light of this hope.

May the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the courage of the Spirit, strengthen our faith and set us loose to share God's love with all. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: God of Grace and God of Glory (CP# 577)

God of grace and God of glory; on your people pour your pow'r;
Now fulfill your Church's story; bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage; for the facing of this hour;
for the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us; scorn the Christ, assail his ways.
Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage; for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness; rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage; lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Dismissal:

Let us go out into the world to love and serve God by loving and serving others.
Thanks be to God.

Parish Notices and Announcements

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

World: The Church of the Province of Central Africa

Diocese: - North Sydney, Cape Breton

St. John The Baptist, North Sydney, Nova Scotia

- **Parish of the Resurrection, Cape Breton, NS**

Church of Christ the King- Sydney

St. Bartholomew – Louisbourg

St. George - Sydney

Read Your Bible:

Mon- Exodus 3:1-15

Tue- Isaiah 55

Wed- Luke 2:41-52

Thu- Psalm 63

Fri- Psalm 103

Sat- Luke 13:1-9

Sun- 1 Cor. 10:1-13

Next Sunday's Readings: IS 55:1-9; PS 63:1-8; 1 COR 10:1-13; LK 13:1-9

What's Happening in the Parish- What Do We Need to Know?

- **Choir Practice:** No choir practice 18 March due to Parish Council meeting

- **Wednesdays, during Lent:** *Freeing Jesus:* informal discussion of Diana Butler Bass's book, followed by short service of night prayer. Christ Church @7:00pm.

- **Friday Service at the Magnolia:** 11:00 on the 21st

- **Our Lenten fish chowder take-out** continues on Fridays during Lent. Please call Felicity at 259-2506 or Heather at 883-9755 to order. Meals will be ready for pick up on Fridays at St George's between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm