

Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> 2026  
Second 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

## **Call to Worship:** *(standing)*

Into life's challenges and questions comes the Mystery of God,  
**and God's truth opens our eyes.**

Into our routines and rituals walks the presence of Christ.  
**and God's love brings healing and hope.**

Into our traditions and conclusions blows the wind of the Spirit,  
**and God's people are born from above.**

We gather in Jesus' name to encounter God's grace and glory.  
**Let us worship God with open hearts and minds. 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: Old Abram Was Blest**

("O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!")

**Old Abram was blest and Sarai was, too,  
When God called their names and said, "I choose you!"  
I'll give you descendants like stars up above —  
Too many to count, and a sign of my love."**

**That old couple laughed at what God might do.  
Was what they had heard impossibly true?  
For they had no children to carry their name —  
Yet God promised nations would rise out of them.**

**God promised to them a life that was new:  
A new set of names, a new future, too.  
They faithfully trusted — that husband and wife;  
Soon Sarah and Abraham found a new life.**

**O God, in your love, a whole nation grew;  
You called them to be a blessing for you.  
You sent them, you send us, to be this world's light.  
Your promise still shines like the stars in the night.**

## **The Collect:**

Holy God: whose Spirit's breath prompts our seeking: transform the night-time of our fear into a welcoming womb for us and all the world; through Jesus Christ, in whom we are born anew. **Amen.**

## **Prayer for Illumination:**

Gracious God: like Nicodemus, we come to the word with many questions. Like the Pharisees, we can be captivated by correctness, intent on right answers. As we turn to your word, Spirit of God, do not let our desire for information dominate the contemplation of our hearts. Let us hear the word and be moved to greater faith and transformation. Amen.

## **Proclamation of the Word:**

**The First Reading:** A Reading from the Book of Genesis (12:1-4a):

*(After the reading)*

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

## **The Psalm:** (121)

I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

**My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

He will not let your foot be moved, and he who watches over you will never slumber.

**Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

**So that the sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul.

**The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore. Amen**

## **The Gospel:**

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

The Holy Gospel of Jesus the Christ according to John (3:1-17):

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*(After the reading)*

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

## **Sermon:**

### **Affirmation of Faith:**

We believe in God: **in whom is power and compassion.**

**We believe in the Creator who gave birth to the universe, set solar systems dancing in space, shaped molecules and mountains, and conceived beauty beyond our imagining.**

**God's power topples tyrants, and brings down walls of separation;**

**God's love embodies the tenderness of a perfect parent, encouraging and caring for each of us.**

**We believe in Jesus, born in obscurity in an occupied land;**

**a human being, vulnerable to hunger, thirst, persecution and grief.**

He understood the power of love and confronted the powers of evil, spoke the truth with courage and clarity, forgave his enemies and changed lives. In his living, dying and rising again, he showed love strong enough to save the world.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who sustains, comforts and empowers us, opens the scriptures, opens our minds, and illuminates earth's darkness. 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. With each petition, we respond to 'In you, O Lord'... with ... 'we put our trust.'*

### **Confession & Absolution:**

#### **Trisagion (Ortega's Version)**

Holy God; Holy and Mighty; Holy, Immortal One;  
Have Mercy, Have Mercy On Us (X3)

#### **Confession:**

God of mystery and mercy, we confess that we often prefer answers and certainty to questioning and seeking for deeper understanding. We settle for what we know, ignoring our doubts and questions. Forgive us when our faith falters because what we think no longer satisfies. Open our eyes to the truth you hold out to us in Christ, and give us courage to rethink what we have assumed about you and your love for the world.

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.

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

## ***Offertory Hymn: Breathe on Me, Breath of God***

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love, And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Until my heart is pure,  
Until with Thee I will one will, To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am wholly Thine,  
Until this earthly part of me; Glows with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I never die,  
But live with Thee the perfect life; Of Thine eternity.

## ***Prayer over the Gifts:***

**Generous God, you shower us with gifts, including the greatest gift of all, your own Son, Jesus Christ. In thanksgiving and praise, we offer you our time, our money, our very selves. In these actions, we proclaim our intention to be a blessing in your world. 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. But 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 hosts; Heaven and earth are full of your glory; Glory be to thee o Lord most high. Blessed is he that cometh 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 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.**

We break this bread:

**Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.

**If we have died with him, we shall live with him;**

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

**O tender God have mercy, for you are for us**

**O living Christ have mercy, for you will heal us**

**O tender God have mercy, for you are for us – for you are for us. (repeat)**

## **Music at 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:**

Standing, let us return our thanks to God: God of tender care, in this eucharist we celebrate your love for us and for all people. May we show your love in our lives and know its fulfilment in your presence. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ, our pattern and our purpose.

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:**

As we continue our Lenten journey, remember the promise of the Psalmist: "The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forever more." So go now, trusting that your help comes from God. And may God's presence strengthen you, the light of Christ guide you, And may the wind of the Spirit bring you energy to serve with love. Amen

## **Closing Hymn: O God our help in Ages Past**

**O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home.**

**Under the shadow of Thy throne; Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defence is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in Thy sight; Are like an evening gone;  
Short as the watch that ends the night; Before the rising sun.**

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Bears all its sons away;  
They fly forgotten, as a dream; Dies at the opening day.**

**O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,  
Be Thou our guard while life shall last, And our eternal home.**

## **Dismissal:**

Let us go out as lights in our dark world, and let us serve God by serving others.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# **Parish Notices and Announcements**

## **What Do We Need to Know?**

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Ex 17:1-7; Ps 95; Rom 5:1-11; Jn 4:5-42

## **Events This Week:**

**Wednesdays, during Lent:** *Book study on Hope* --Christ Church @7:00pm.

**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

- **Choir Practice:** Our next practice will be Thu 5<sup>th</sup> Mar, 7pm @ Christ Church

- **Men's Guild:** Next meeting will be on Sat March 7, 10am @ St. George's.

- **Saturday Music Jam:** The next jam will be on Mar 7<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm at Christ Church

## **- Prayer Ministry - Prayer Chain**

If you, or someone you know would like to be put on the prayer list, please send information to carolyn.mcnally@ns.sympatico.ca

## **Read Your Bible:**

Mon- Numbers 21:1-9

Tue- John 3:1-17

Wed- Psalm 128

Thu- 1 Chron 17:1-15

Fri- Exodus 16:9-21

Sat- Exodus 16:22-35

Sun- Exodus 17

## **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:**

**World:** *The Nippon Sei Ko Kai*

**Diocese:** *-St. Alban's, Sydney, Nova Scotia*

*-The Collieries Parish in the County of Cape Breton*

*All Saints - New Waterford*

*Good Shepherd – Dominion*

*St. Mary's - Glace Bay*

*St. Paul - Port Morien*

## **Contact Information**

**Parish Phone:** (902) 883-2898

**[jane.magrath@gmail.com](mailto:jane.magrath@gmail.com)**

For pastoral emergencies, please contact Rev. Jane, directly:

**Facebook:** Anglican Parish of Lantz

**Website:** [www.parishoflantz.ca](http://www.parishoflantz.ca)