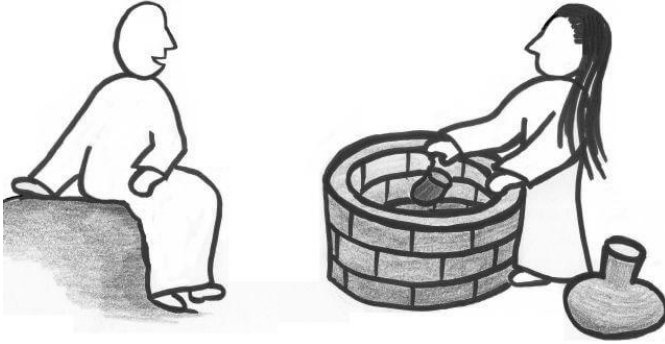


Sunday March 8th 2026
Third Sunday in Lent



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)*

Creator, Christ and Spirit: **you provide what we need to live, from the bounty of creation.**

God of mercy: **you know us through and through, and you love us.**

God of hope: **you have an everlasting purpose for us.**

God of wisdom: **you open our minds and teach and guide us.**

So we come to worship you, Source of Wisdom, Son of Mercy, Spirit of Hope, offering you our prayers and our praise, trusting you to offer us the gifts we need to thrive, and to serve you in the world you love. **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: I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down; Thy head upon My breast."
I came to Jesus as I was -- weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place; And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one, Stoop down, and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank -- Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise, And all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found, In him my Star, my Sun;
And in that Light of life I'll walk, Till trav'ling days are done.

The Collect:

God of the well-spring, source of life and truth: give us the courage of the Samaritan woman, so that we may receive living water, and worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ who quenches our thirst with eternal life. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination:

Gracious God: we turn to you this day to be refreshed by the living Word in the Scriptures. Let the Holy Spirit open our eyes to your truth and shine truth on the way you set before us. Amen.

Proclamation of the Word:

The First Reading: A Reading from the Book of Exodus (17:1-7)

(After the reading): Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm: (95)

Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice: harden not your hearts.

For the Lord is a great God, and a great king above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land.

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice: harden not your hearts.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that to-day you would hearken to his voice!

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice: harden not your hearts.

Harden not your hearts, as your forebears did in the wilderness, at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they tempted me. They put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice: harden not your hearts.

Forty years long I detested that generation and said, "This people are wayward in their hearts; they do not know my ways." So I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter into my rest."

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice: harden not your hearts.

Amen

The Gospel:

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

The Holy Gospel of Jesus the Christ according to John (4:5-42):

Glorify to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(After the reading): The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon:

Statement of Faith

We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life, of sun and moon, of water and earth, of humans in all their glorious diversity.

We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh, born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.

A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, he died alone and forsaken.

He descended into the earth, to the place of death.

On the third day he rose from the tomb.

He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present throughout all ages, and His kingdom will come on earth.

We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit burning with Pentecostal fire, life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness, source of all resurrection and of eternal life. 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 'Living God'... with ... 'satisfy our thirst.'

Confession & Absolution:

Trisagion (Ortega's Version)

Holy God; Holy and Mighty; Holy, Immortal One;

Have Mercy, Have Mercy On Us (X3)

Call to Confession

Patient and ever-faithful God, we come to you this morning confessing that we can be a grumpy and unsatisfied people. When things are not perfect in our eyes, we can murmur and complain, and grumble and doubt.

We sometimes lose hope in the people around us and, even worse, we lose hope in you. We challenge instead of accept. We put you to the test, rather than trust your caring love. Forgive our doubts and complaining. Forgive our loss of hope.

Let your healing, life-giving waters pour over us. Restore our souls. **Amen.**

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:

Our hope and assurance rest in God's unfailing love and forgiveness.

Open your hearts and minds and souls -- that the healing waters of God's never-ending love and forgiveness may flow into and over you.

Know that in this love and forgiveness you have encountered the living God.

Amen

Celebrations:

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: God of Grace and God of Glory

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thy ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.

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 thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to love and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

(diddly and then the tempo S-L-O-W-s)

Save us from weak resignation, to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation, be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

Prayer over the Gifts:

Life-giving God: we offer you ourselves and our resources.

Use us and our gifts, that we may be water bearers
to a world thirsty for love, for meaning, for justice, and for hope.

May all your people encounter fullness of life through the love of Christ,
which lives within us. 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)*

People are invited to sit while awaiting Communion

Music at Communion: *El Shaddai*

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.
God of our pilgrimage, we have found the living water.
Refresh and sustain us as we go forth on our journey,
in the name of 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 have encountered the living God through the love of the living Christ.
We have been refreshed by living water. Go now to live in the hope this encounter
inspires. Be water bearers to a dry and parched world,
knowing that the God of love and hope goes before you and with you always.
Amen.

Closing Hymn: Go Now in Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen**

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: 1 Sam 16:1-13; Ps 23; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

Events This Week and Upcoming:

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

Our Lenten fish chowder take-out continues during Lent. The meal is \$10 and includes a bowl of chowder, biscuit and 2 sweets. Order forms will be left in each church, or you may 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 12th Mar, 7pm @ 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- Exodus 20:1-17

Tue- Psalm 81

Wed- John 4:1-20

Thu- John 4:21-41

Fri- John 4:42-54

Sat- 1 Cor. 10:1-14

Sun- John 9

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

World: *The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East*

Diocese: *-Sydney Mines/ Baddeck*

Trinity Church- Sydney Mines, NS

-Neil's Harbour with Ingonish, Cape Breton

St. Andrew - Neil's Harbour

St. John – Ingonish

Contact Information

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