

PARISH OF MISSISSIPPI LAKE

*Christ Church Ashton, St John's Innisville, St James Franktown,
and St James Carleton Place, with St Bede's Nolan's Corners*

Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 22, 2020

Service of the Word

Priest: Rev. Canon Mary Ellen Berry

Lay Preacher: Peter Hicks (St James CP)

Intercessor: Jennifer Bulman (Christ Church)

Musician: Ian Guenette (St James CP)

Tech Support: Rev. Rosemary Parker

We gather this day on the traditional territory of the Algonquin people. May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.

Prelude

'Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart' (Smith/Sanborn)
'O How He Loves You and me' (Kaiser/Elwell)

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

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

People **And also with you.**

Priest Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
People **His mercy endures forever.**

Priest Dear Friends in Christ, as we continue in the apostles'
 teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread,
 and in the prayers, let us make ready our hearts
 to renew the covenant of our baptism.
Let us now come before our Creator and Redeemer.

Silence

Let us ask God to bring to light the things
now hidden in darkness, and to disclose to us
the secret purposes of our hearts,
to know how faithfully we have striven
for justice and peace among all people,
respecting the dignity for every human being.

- Priest Most merciful God,
- All 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 So 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.
- Priest Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
 that you may be cleansed from all your sins,
 and serve You with a quiet mind;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you
 and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
- All Amen.

Hymn of Praise: *Common Praise* #625 "Come Down, O Love Divine"

- Priest The Lord is our light and our life.
People O come, let us worship.

Seek the Lord (Isaiah 55.6-11)

- Priest Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; *

All call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways *
and the evil ones their thoughts;
And let them turn to the Lord, and
he will have compassion, *
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, *
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, *
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens *
and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth, *
seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; *
it will not return to me empty;
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, *
and prosper in that for which I sent it.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16: 1 - 13

A reading from the First Book of Samuel:

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here."

He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23: Said Responsively

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,
and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul,
and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;
**for you are with me; your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.**

You spread a table before me in the presence
of those who trouble me;

**you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.**

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without out end. Amen.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 5: 8 - 14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians:

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: Common Praise #645 "Come Down, O Love Divine"

Proclamation of the Gospel: John 9: 1 - 41

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is

day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.

Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to be-come his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but

he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Musical Meditation

Medley: 'God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending' and 'What Wondrous Love Is This' (Arr. Larkin)

The Apostles' Creed

Priest Let us confess our faith as we say,
All **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**
 creator of heaven and earth.
 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.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Responding to "God of our Salvation," with "**Hear our Prayer.**"

The Peace

Priest We are the body of Christ; in the one Spirit,
 we were all baptized into one body.
 Let us pursue all that makes for peace,
 and builds up our common life.
 The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

General Thanksgiving Prayer

All Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
 we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
 for all your goodness and loving-kindness
 to us and all whom you have made.
 We bless you for our creation, preservation,
 and all the blessings of this life;
 but above all for your immeasurable love in the
 redemption of the world, by our Lord Jesus Christ;
 for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
 And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your
 mercies, that, with truly thankful hearts, we may
 show forth your praise, not only with our lips,
 but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service,
 and by walking before you in holiness and
 righteousness all our days;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
 be honour and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Priest Almighty God, through the waters of baptism,
your Son has made us children of light.
May we ever walk in his light
and show forth your glory in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Priest As our Saviour Christ taught us, let us 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.

Priest May the God of mercy transform you by his grace,
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

People **Amen.**

Priest Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: *Common Praise* #482 "Come and Journey with a Saviour"

*Coffee House continues after the service, in the Comments section.
Join Rev. Rosemary as we gather together as a community, and reflect on our week!
When we're done, perhaps call a parishioner or friend to see how they are doing, too.*