

A Pastoral Letter for Passiontide and Easter 2021

“Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” (St. Luke 23. 34)

There are real effects to be experienced from Jesus’ Resurrection – benefits that will impact how you and I live. One of them is forgiveness: being forgiven ourselves and forgiving others. We say this every Sunday: *“I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins”*.

‘Remission’ means ‘relief’. It describes the disappearance of symptoms. It is a good word in medical circles because it says the power of the disease has been broken. In the Nicene Creed, we are saying a similar thing: *“I acknowledge one Baptism for the breaking of the power of sin”*.



On the first Easter morning, when Christ rose from the dead, God defeated the powers of sin and hell. He broke Satan’s hold on us and on this world. It is now possible, by God’s help, for us to live differently, without the symptoms of sin and selfishness. It is possible, by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit for us to love sacrificially and to be hopeful without being in control. It is possible for us to let go of our guilt, as well as the hurts of others, so that the Lord’s deep and perfect healing may come.

These are the real effects of Jesus’ Death and Resurrection. These may come to you and me through His precious Blood shed on the Cross. He did not suffer and die for nothing. He wants to give us new life – everlasting Life – including the remission of sins. Forgiveness is possible and so is the reconciliation of enemies. These are just some of the effects of Christ’s victory. The ball is in our court.

Mark MacDonald, our national Indigenous Archbishop, has described reconciliation as “the presence of the world to come in our midst”. He says, “It is resurrection now”. Sadly, despite the possibilities, we often choose to stay with our old, destructive ways.

As the Body of Christ, the Church is meant to be an instrument of God’s Peace and Healing. To help us all think about our calling, a series of five talks on Forgiveness will be presented on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm: April 19th and 26th; May 3rd, 10th and 17th. These will be available via ZOOM in your own home, or by coming to St. George’s. The presenters will be Archbishop David Edwards and Archbishop Mark MacDonald. Please plan on tuning in, for the remission of sins.

May the Peace of Christ rule our hearts.

Yours in Him Who died and rose again for us,

Handwritten signature of Chris VanBuskirk +

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Holy Week and Eastertide

The Daily Offices of **Morning and Evening Prayer** will be prayed at **8:30 A.M.** and **5:00 P.M.** Monday – Thursday, respectively. For Good Friday see below. All services are in person and will be live-streamed.

Holy Monday, March 29

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Holy Tuesday, March 30

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Holy Wednesday, March 31

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday, April 1

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Removal of Sacrament to Altar of Repose and Stripping of Altar,

9:00 p.m. The Watch begins in the Chapel

Good Friday April 2

9:15 a.m. Way of the Cross leaving from City Hall and proceeding to Saint George's
(Volunteers needed both adults and children to carry the cross.)

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer, Litany and Ante-Communion

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Holy Saturday, April 3

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

8:00 p.m. The Easter Vigil

Easter Day, April 4

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

9:15 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. Procession and Holy Eucharist

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

Easter Monday, April 5

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

5:00 p.m. Evening Prayer

