



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL OTTAWA

A diverse and vibrant community that glorifies God and welcomes all people

THE CONFESSION OF SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE

Wednesday, January 18th, 2023

12.05 pm Eucharist (Iona Justice and Peace)

GATHERING

Opening Responses

Dear friends, we gather this day on traditional Anishinaabe Algonquin territory.
May we always dwell on this land with respect and peace.

O God, who created the heavens and stretched them out,
we praise you.

You made the earth and all that lives here:
we praise you.

You give breath to all creatures and your Spirit to your people:
we praise and thank you, O God.

That the eyes of the blinded be opened, the poor hear the Good News, the captives be brought into freedom, the wealth of the world serve the good of all,
your kingdom come, O God, your will be done.

Then let us sing God a new song.
With joy let us honour our Maker.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you inspired Simon Peter, first among the apostles, to confess Jesus as Messiah and Son of the living God. Keep your Church steadfast upon the rock of this faith, so that in unity and peace we may proclaim the one truth and follow the one Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

PROCLAIMING

Reading

Acts 4:8-13

A reading from the book of Acts.

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.' Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

You make me lie down in green pastures
and lead me beside still waters.

You revive my soul
and guide me along right pathways for your 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 goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-19

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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 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

Let us pray.

Creator of this world and all its people, we are glad that all things are held in your hands. You have not left us alone. And we celebrate the work of your Spirit encouraging people

the world over to work for justice and peace, to speak for the voiceless and always to anticipate that the best is yet to come.

Blessed be your name.

If, however, we have driven a wedge between piety and peacemaking, erected a wall between prayer and politics, associated the purposes of heaven with only the gentler things of earth – God of justice,

show yourself.

If we have offered to false gods the devotion you alone deserve; if we have dismissed the Gospel as irrelevant to the worlds – God of justice,

show yourself.

If we have dumbed down your Word and domesticated your Spirit because we wanted an easier faith and a tamer dove – God of justice,

show yourself.

Wherever in our nations the poor are endangered, the sick are neglected, war rages unabated, prisoners are refused redemption, and strangers among us are suspected – God of justice,

show yourself.

Wherever in our world the lust for profit undermines the longing for peace; or the greed for power overrides the need for fairness – God of justice,

show yourself.

In the prison visitor and the mediator, in vigils for peace and protests to protect the earth; to all who fear for the future of children, to those who long for a different day – God of justice,

show yourself.

We pray in Jesus' name and in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Peace

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

CELEBRATING

Prayer over the Gifts

Living God, accept the offering of your holy Church. As Peter confessed Jesus, the Messiah and your Son, give us courage to follow him, the Lord who reigns with you for ever. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, for you are the One from whom we came and the One to whom we will return. You conceived the universe, wove the world together, and hold all life in your hand.

You watch us waking or sleeping, you keep every tear that we shed, you hear every prayer we make, you know both our best and our worst, and you will not let us go.

So, with rain, wind and sunshine, with all that moves in time with its Maker, we praise you. With angels and archangels, with the saints from long ago, with our loved ones who are gathered round your heavenly table, we praise you. With the church throughout the world, with all who love Jesus and honour his name, we praise you, singing the hymn of your everlasting glory:

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.

Blessed is he who was born among us incognito; who grew up without privilege or status; who walked the way to heaven through the back streets of this world; who told deepest truths in ordinary language. Blessed is he who touched and healed, blessed and disturbed without fear or favour; who showed inclusive love in all its unconditional glory; who, for all this, was crucified, died and was buried; who, for all this and for all of us, rose again; who, though high in heaven is present with us here and now. Blessed is he in all his love and beauty.

Among friends, gathered round a table, Jesus took bread; and when he had blessed it, he broke it and said, 'Take this and eat it. It is my body. It is given for you. Do this to remember me.'

Then later, during the meal, he took a cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he said, 'In this cup is the new relationship with God, made possible because of my death. Take this, all of you, to remember me.'

God beyond holiness, as we do what Jesus once did, let your Spirit move among us to settle on this bread and this wine, that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ.

And let that same Spirit stir our souls, so that as we share this sacrament, we may recognize our Lord and receive him, that he may be in us, and we in him, for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name; your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil; for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Take this bread; share this wine.

In these, Christ comes to us with love from God.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Communion

To receive a blessing, cross your hands over your chest; for a gluten-free wafer, hold out one hand; for a regular wafer, hold out two hands. Please do not dip the wafer in the wine.

SENDING

Prayer after Communion

Keep us, gracious God, in this fellowship of faith, the Church of your Son Jesus Christ, and help us to confess him as Messiah and Lord in all we say and do. We ask this in his name. **Amen.**

O Brother Jesus, we have been guests at your table; come with us wherever we go and be present in all we share.

Summon out in us, whom you have fed, generosity of spirit to ensure that all the hungry are nourished and earth's barren places are fertile with food, faith, hope and love. Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

May God the Creator bless you, and wrap you round in love and tenderness. May Jesus the Son bless you, and inspire you to ask the questions that lead you to do justice. May the Holy Spirit bless you, and fill your lives with courage and wisdom. May you bravely live in the love of the Trinity all your nights and days. **Amen.**

Go now, in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Liturgy: *A Wee Worship Book – Fourth Incarnation* ©1999 Wild Goose Resource Group; *Iona Abbey Worship Book* ©2016 Wild Goose Publications (permission for use given by the Bishop of Ottawa, September 2020). Psalm: *The Psalter of The Book of Alternative Services Emended for Contemporary Liturgical Use* ©2016. Readings: *New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV) Anglicized Edition* ©1989, 1995 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

THE CONFESSION OF SAINT PETER THE APOSTLE

Today we commemorate the confession of Simon Peter as told in the Gospel according to Matthew. When Jesus asked, “Who do you say that I am?” Simon spoke up and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!” Jesus then responded: “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! It was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church.” In telling this story, the evangelist showed that every confession of Jesus as “the Christ, the Son of the living God,” is always a gift from God. It is not something that human beings can discover by their own powers, nor is it a truth obvious to anyone who looks at the historical Jesus without the help of the Holy Spirit. The natural power of sight needs to be fulfilled by God's merciful gift of insight. Today's feast was instituted by the Episcopal Church of the United States to complement the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul on January twenty-fifth. Together these two feasts provide a suitable beginning and end for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which all Churches now observe at this time of year. As Paul's conversion reminds Christians that they are united in a call to proclaim Jesus among the nations, so Peter's confession reminds Christians that they are united in the basis of this mission, which is the inspired knowledge of Jesus Christ, “the Son of the living God.”

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL DIRECTORY

*Anishinaabe aking ate awaso kikinawadjichigan ~ A place of prayer on Algonquin territory
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