

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Diocese of Ottawa



ASH WEDNESDAY

February, 14th 2024 at 7.30 pm

You are welcome to participate in smudging as you enter the church to worship. Smudging is a sign of purification and peace offered to anyone who would like to participate. When the weather is too difficult to offer smudging outdoors – and at any time that you are in the church building, dry smudge is available. The sacred medicines – tobacco, sage, sweetgrass, and cedar – are provided at the side chapel. Rub the medicines in your hands and place them in the shell bowl; after use these will be respectfully burned. St John's is grateful to Indigenous members of our community for offering smudging.

PRELUDE

O Man, Thy Grievous Sin Bemoan, BWV 622 (J.S. Bach)

WELCOME

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

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

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

And also with you.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near - a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:1-8



The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.
He will not always accuse us, nor will he keep his anger for ever.
He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us.

As a father cares for his children,
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
For he himself knows whereof we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust.

Our days are like the grass;
we flourish like a flower of the field;
When the wind goes over it, it is gone,
and its place shall know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him,
and his righteousness on children's children;
On those who keep his covenant
and remember his commandments and do them.

THE SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20B-6-10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see - we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Au nom du Christ, nous vous en supplions, laissez-vous réconcilier avec Dieu. Celui qui n'avait pas connu le péché, il l'a, pour nous, identifié au péché, afin que, par lui, nous devenions justice de Dieu.

Puisque nous sommes à l'œuvre avec lui, nous vous exhortons à ne pas laisser sans effet la grâce reçue de Dieu. Car il dit: Au moment favorable, je t'exauce, et au jour du salut, je viens à ton secours. Voici maintenant le moment tout à fait favorable. Voici maintenant le jour du salut.

Nous ne voulons d'aucune façon scandaliser personne, pour que notre ministère soit sans reproche. Au contraire, nous nous recommandons nous-mêmes en tout comme ministres de Dieu par une grande persévérance dans les détresses, les contraintes, les angoisses, les coups, les prisons, les émeutes, les fatigues, les veilles, les jeûnes, par la pureté, la science, la patience, la bonté, par l'Esprit Saint, l'amour sans feinte, la parole de vérité, la puissance de Dieu, par les armes offensives et défensives de la justice, dans la gloire et le mépris, dans la mauvaise et la bonne réputation, tenus pour imposteurs et pourtant véridiques, inconnus et pourtant bien connus, moribonds et pourtant nous vivons, châtiés sans être exécutés, attristés mais toujours joyeux, pauvres, et faisant bien des riches, n'ayant rien, nous qui pourtant possédons tout!

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN 614

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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.

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left

hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

SERMON

LENTEN INVITATION

Dear friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by remembering our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, an ancient sign, speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marking the penitence of the community as a whole.

I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God. Let us kneel before our Creator and Redeemer.

Silence is kept for reflection.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

Please kneel, if possible.

Let us confess our sins.

**Most holy and merciful God, we confess to you, to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault 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, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives.

We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work.
We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done:
for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us.
Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.
Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us.
May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence,
and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Those who desire to receive ashes come forward, and the ashes are applied to the forehead of each person with the following words:

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

After all who desire ashes have received them, the presider leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession, kneeling if possible.

HYMN 611

Our Father, We Have Wandered

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you ✕ all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN 615

Just As I Am

The collection plates are passed through the congregation during the hymn. Financial gifts support the presence and ministries of St John's including Sunday worship and our many community initiatives. Your support is welcome but not required to participate in the life of this community. You may choose to place a gift on the plate or give it to a greeter and the conclusion of the service.

If you already give financial support to St John's by other means – such as monthly Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) or QR Code – you are invited to place a small card on the plate (called a "PAR Chit"). PAR Chits are found at back of the church beside the nametags.



DONATIONS

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Merciful God, turn us from sin to faithfulness. Accept our offering, and prepare us to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you now and for ever.
Amen.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

May God be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to God our creator.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death, and banish the darkness of sin and despair. By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence.

Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav'n and earth are
full of your glo - ry, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

Our Fa - ther in heav'n, hal - lowed be your name, your king - dom come, your
will be done, on earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly
bread, for - give us our sins, as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil, for the
king - dom, the pow'r and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Silence is kept.

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; if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.

COMMUNION

Panis Angelicus – C. Franck

Grayson Nesbitt, tenor

All are welcome to come forward to participate in the Eucharist. Please request a gluten-free wafer if required or a blessing if desired.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DOXOLOGY

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN 606

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Christe, du Lamm Gottes – J.S.Bach

Preacher
Presider
Organist
Crucifer/ Server
Readers
Cantor
Communion Assistants
Sidespeople
Tower Bell
Altar Guild
Audio Tech
Lock up Duty

The Reverend Canon Gary van der Meer
The Reverend Canon Pat Johnston
Barb Hallam-Price
Wendy McCutcheon
Marianne Harkema and Denis Seguin
Grayson Nesbitt
Monica Patten and Peggy Lister
Bill Broughton and Mary Frances Marshall
Mary Frances Marshall
Vicki Milnes and Jill Courtemanche
Sherrie Dagg
Mary Frances Marshall

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