

On the traditional land of the Semiahmoo

the Parish of St. Mark

O C E A N  P A R K

March 30, 2025

Lent 4



Welcome!

*We are so glad you have come to St. Mark's today!
In this place we do two primary things: we give thanks to God and pray
for the world. If there is something on your heart you need to share with
God, this is the right place to share it.
You are God's Beloved Child, and you belong **here**.*

This morning in worship...

This Lent we will be wondering about the cross, what it looks like and how we can direct our hearts to Jesus through it. If we were to imagine the base of the cross growing feet, the arms of the cross growing hands and the top of the cross growing a head, the cross would look like **a person offering a hug**. The cross is God's hug for humanity!

Today's Scripture

Joshua 5:9-12 After the Exodus event the wandering Hebrews move from a desert economy to an agricultural economy in the promised land on the eve of their attack on Jericho, a town held by the Canaanites.

2Corinthians 5:16-21 Paul is at pains to show the reconciling ministry of Christ to those 'en Christo' i.e. in Christ or garmented with Christ.

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 Jesus tells the parable of the lost or prodigal son.

Next Week: April 6

Lent 5: Wonder Sunday

John 12:1-8

The Reverend David Taylor facilitates the sermon & presides.

For Children

Children will gather after the opening songs for a commissioning and then return for communion. All of our staff and volunteers have had a criminal record check and have been approved for ministry with vulnerable people.

For Youth

Following the opening songs, the youth will gather for a spiritual conversation in the hall.

Coffee Hour

Please gather in the hall for coffee and refreshment following the service.



the Gathering of the Community

At the bell, please stand as the choir and altar party process.

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.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures forever.

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.

A reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

**Kyrie Elieson.
Christe Elieson.
Kyrie Elieson.**

Almighty 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.

**Kyrie Elieson.
Christe Elieson.
Kyrie Elieson.**

The Absolution

God of love,
passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ, Mary's child. Amen.

Arms of Love
Craig Musseau

**I sing a simple song of love
to my Saviour, to my Jesus.
I'm grateful for the things you've done,
my loving Saviour, oh precious Jesus.
My heart is glad
that you've called me your own.
There's no place I'd rather be**

***than in your arms of love.
In your arms of love.
Holding me still, holding me near
in your arms of love.***

Commissioning of the Children

We have a wonderful program for your child this morning. They will return for Communion. Please note that all our children's workers have had a criminal record check and are approved by the Diocese of New Westminster to work with vulnerable people.



the Proclamation of the Word

We have large-print versions of the Scripture available for those who need one. Please ask a greeter for one.

The Book of Joshua (5:9-12).

Listen for God's Word.

Our hearts are open.

My Vision, My Shepherd

A choir anthem incorporating "Be Thou My Vision" and "The King of Love My Shepherd Is". Arranged by Philip Kern



Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (5:16-21).

Listen for God's Word.

Our hearts are open

Common Praise 620

**How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!**

**It soothes our sorrows,
heals our wounds,
and drives away our fear.**

**It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary rest.**

**Dear name! The rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding-place,
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace.**

**Jesus, my shepherd, brother, friend,
my prophet, priest and king,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
accept the praise I bring.**

**Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

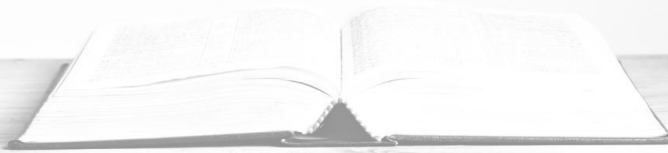
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Sermon Notes



The Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. Who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Who suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. Who descended to the dead. Who, on the third day, rose again. Who ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. Who 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.

The Prayers of the People

While we have chiefly come to give thanks to God, our second purpose for gathering is to intercede for the world. We know that "the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

the Celebration of the Eucharist

*We collect our tithes and offerings and present them to the Lord. We give thanks to God for your generosity to the ministry of this community. You can give using an envelope, by signing up to our Pre-Authorized Debit program, or by using the terminal in the foyer. **Today we use Eucharistic Prayer 1 from the BAS.***

Common Praise 608

**Come, you sinners, poor and needy,
weak and wounded, sick and sore.
Jesus, Son of God, will save you,
full of pity, love and power.**

*I will arise and go to Jesus,
he will embrace me in his arms;
in the arms of my dear Saviour,
O there are ten thousand charms.*

**Come, you thirsty, come, and welcome,
God's free bounty glorify;
true belief and true repentance,
every grace that brings you nigh.**

**Come, you weary, heavy laden,
lost and ruined by the fall;
if you tarry till you're better,
you will never come at all.**

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 our thanks and praise.

The priest continues in prayer.

Sanctus

**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.**

The priest continues in prayer.

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. 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.**

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.**

The gifts of God for the Children of God.

Thanks be to God.

All are invited to receive Communion.

If you would like to learn more about baptism, please connect with the minister.

Prayer for healing is offered during communion on the right side of the sanctuary.

Father I Have Sinned

Eugene O'Reilly

**Father, I have sinned,
help me find my way;
remember not my sin,
just let me hear you say.**

*"I forgive you, I love you,
you are mine, take my hand;
go in peace sin no more, beloved one.*

**Father I have turned
my back and walked away;
depended on my strength
and lived life my own way.**

**Father I have loved -
if love's the word to use -
I've played so many games;
they've left me so confused**

**Father I have closed
my heart to those in need;
thought only of myself,
a victim of my greed**

**Father I've returned,
I'm home with you to stay;
standing by your door,
knowing that you'll say.**

Bind Us Together

Bob Gillman

***Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together with cords
that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together, Lord,
bind us together with love.***

**There is only one God,
there is only one King;
there is only one body,
that is why we can sing.**

**Made for the glory of God;
purchased by his precious Son.
Born with the right to be clean;
for Jesus the vict'ry has won.**

**You are the fam'ly of God;
you are the promise divine.
You are God's chosen desire;
you are the glorious new wine.**

Common Praise 184

**My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me;
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?**

**He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow;
but all made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know:
but O my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!**

**Sometimes they strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King;
then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.**

**Why, what has my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.**

**Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine!
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.**

Announcements

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

Common Praise 378

**Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own!**

**Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save.**

**His glories now we sing
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.**

**Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise.**

**His reign shall know no end;
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.**

**Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.**

Take up your cross and follow Jesus.
In his name we go.

*Lyrics are printed with permission through:
CCLI 445657, OneLicense A-727134*



Financial Support

We are grateful for your stewardship of this place through your tithes and offerings. They ensure that St. Mark – Ocean Park will be a centre and a light to the community for generations to come.

If you would like to become a regular steward of the ministry of this place, please fill out a welcome card and give it to the usher, or the priest.

Donations can be made
by **cash** or **cheque**

(made out to the Parish of St. Mark – Ocean Park),

by **Pre-Authorized Debit** (PAD),
at the **Electronic Donation Station** (EDS) in
the foyer (please ask the usher for assistance),
by **e-Transfer** at

stmark.op.treasurer@gmail.com, or
through **CanadaHelps** on our website.

If you would like donation **envelopes**, please
connect with the office.

All donations will receive a tax-receipt in
February of the following year.



The Pulse

This week at the Parish

Wednesday Holy Communion, 10 am
Lent Study Series 10:40am
7pm on zoom
Saavy Seniors 1 pm
Thursday Contemplative Prayer 7 pm
Choir Practice 7:30 pm
Friday Sr. Youth Group 7:00 pm
Saturday Family Night 4pm

Daily Gospel Readings

John 6:1-15	Monday
John 6:16-27	Tuesday
John 6:27-40	Wednesday
John 6:41-51	Thursday
John 6:52-59	Friday
John 6:60-71	Saturday



Children Youth & Family Ministry

Did you know!

The Youth will be hosting a palm cross activity after church during coffee hour on **April 6th!** We hope that you will be able to come and join us for making some palm crosses and connecting with our amazing young people!

Sunday Junior Church Program
Come and explore the Gospel with us!

Group 1: Grades K to 7

Group 2: Grades 8-12

***A sensory space is available for all
those who would like to use it.***



Youth Group Fridays
Grades 8 - 12, 7 - 9 pm
Welcome Back!

**April 4th We explore
Temptations!!**

All are welcome!

email
yministryrsvp@gmail.com
with any inquiries.

The Journey to joy

a Lenten Bible study

Do you feel overwhelmed by your emotions from time to time? This Lent we will use the Wheel of Emotions as a lens to see how God supports us in our emotions and ensures we don't get stuck.

Wednesdays following the 10am service and online at 7pm

Alongside Hope issues urgent appeal for partners hurt by aid cuts

In the wake of massive cuts to international development assistance by the U.S. Government and some European governments, Alongside Hope partners are reporting that progress is being undone, programs are being forced to shut down, and families and communities are living in uncertainty about their futures.



This Wednesday: **Moving from surprise to joy.**

Surprise can connect us to the feeling of awe. But it can also lead us to the feeling of distraction.

What will we do with our emotion of surprise, and can it lead us to joy?

Go to
stmarkbc.org

to find the Zoom link.
Meeting ID: 822 7090 2265
Passcode: 721293

Were you previously receiving our weekly email and now you are not?

Go to our website: stmarkbc.org

On the Home page Scroll down to near the bottom

Where it says sign up for our newsletter Enter your email

click on **Subscribe**

You should start receiving our weekly newsletter. It usually goes out Friday morning.

Lunch Baskets for Hungry Children

The Lunch Basket for Hungry Children is provided this week by Brian and Marsha Klinger. Keeping in our prayers all the children who struggle with food security and life circumstances. Brian and Marsha hold especially in their hearts Isabella, J.J., Jonathan, and Maya. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world. James 1:27



Prayer Chain & Sunday Intercessions

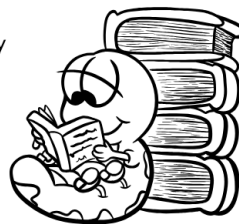
If you, or someone you know is in need of prayer, please connect with **Lynne** at lynnehl@telus.net. She will share your request with a community of faithful intercessors!

To have a name mentioned in the Sunday Intercessions, please write their name on the sheet at the back of the sanctuary, connect with **Michael** at michael@klaverrealtor.ca, or contact the office.

Library News

Rectors Picks

Look on the cart outside the Library for books kindly donated to the Library by David. Lots of good titles and interesting subjects to choose from.



News & Events

LENTEN LUNCHES **Thursdays 12pm-1pm**

by donation

April 10 – Parish of St. Mark Ocean Park
April 17 – St. John's Presbyterian Church with
Peninsula United Church & St. George Anglican
Church

Brahms: A German Requiem

A concert with the Richmond Orchestra and Chorus Association and the Vivaldi Chamber Choir.

Saturday, April 5 at 7:30pm

at Fraserview Mennonite Church at
11295 Mellis Dr, Richmond.

\$25 at the door (or purchase your tickets in advance for \$23 General and \$20 Seniors and Students)

Adventures in Theatre:

The Knitting Pilgrim

April 4 & 5, 7:30pm at Studio Theatre at the Surrey Arts Centre

Tickets: \$39. Call 604-501-5566

The Knitting Pilgrim is the story of Kirk Dunn, an ordinary guy, who happens to be an extraordinary knitter – with a lot of questions. On his quest to find answers, Kirk knits three huge tapestries...which take him 15 years to finish. In this one-man show explore the complex connection among the Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Holy Week Services

Holy Week begins on Sunday, April 13th. This is the holiest week of the Christian Calendar as followers of Jesus around the world remember the last week of Jesus' life as he went to the cross. Please consider participating in these services as a way to enrich your spirit and give you courage in your faith.

Sunday, April 13, 8& 10am

Palm Sunday

We will reenact Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem when the crowds shouted 'Hosanna'. We have a special guest – Ophelia the Donkey – who will lead our procession.

Thursday, April 17, 7pm

Maundy Thursday

The anniversary of the institution of the Lord's Supper. In imitation of Jesus, we will wash each other's feet and ceremoniously empty the church as a sign of his arrest.

Friday, April 18, 10am

Good Friday

We recall the crucifixion and death of Jesus. We will spend some time before the cross and share communion.

Saturday, April 19, 7pm

Holy Saturday Vigil

This is the first service of Easter. We will listen to several stories from Scripture describing God's saving love for his children. We will celebrate a baptism and Holy Eucharist.

the Prayer Corner

Did you know God loves this world? Did you know God loves you? God's love is not just a nice feeling or sentiment. God's love comes with action. God loves this world and so is always at work helping and healing it. God loves you and is always at work helping and healing you.

Because God is love.

The cross can look like a person extending their arms out in an embrace. Like the embrace of the father in the story of the prodigal son. The wayward son walked helplessly toward his father. "But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him." (Luke 15:20)

This is a parable about our relationship with God. We do not need to cower before him. We just need to move toward him and he will meet us where we are at. It is God's nature to love just as it is in our nature to be loved.

This is a great image of the cross. It is God's arms extending to the whole creation in love saying, "I will take your pain and suffering from you and put it on myself. I will give my life for your well-being because I love you."



detail from Bartolome Esteban Murillo (1667-1670)

I wonder how it feels to imagine being embraced by God.

I wonder how the cross is like God's embrace.

I wonder how the cross can inspire us to keep our arms open to the people around us.



the Parish of St. Mark - *Ocean Park*
STMARKBC.ORG

Office Hours:

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