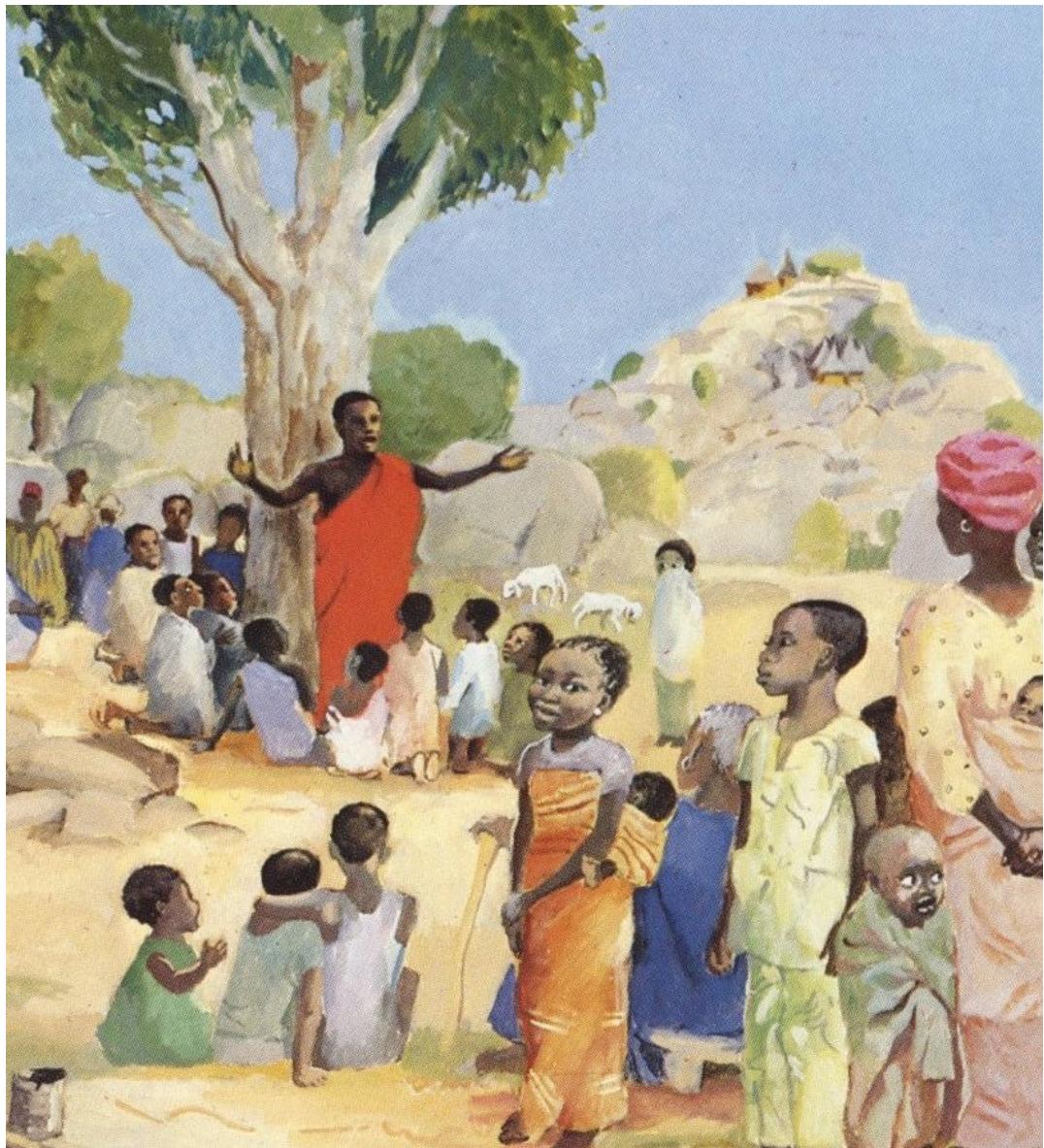


THE VALLEY BULLETIN

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY



February 1st, 2026

WELCOME

If you are visiting, we welcome you into our midst.
Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey in faith, you are welcome.
It is a blessing to have you worship with us today!
The Parish of the Valley respectfully acknowledges that we gather for worship
on traditional Anishinaabe Algonquin territory.

THE PRESENTATION/CANDLEMAS

Tomorrow, February 2nd, the church marks the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, also called Candlemas. The Feast of the Presentation lands 40 days after Jesus' birth at Christmas, on the day when, according to the Gospel of Luke, Jesus and his family would have come to the temple for their ritual purification.

The Gospel reading for Candlemas is Luke 2:22-40, and there we read how Jesus and his family encountered the prophets Simeon and Anna in the temple and hear Simeon's joyous proclamation about that meeting. This joyous proclamation is known as the Song of Simeon, or Nunc Dimittis after its Latin translation, and we often say or sing it at Evening Prayer and funerals:

*Lord, now you let your servant go in peace;
your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.*

February 2nd is at the halfway point of winter. The days are getting longer and slowly the light is returning to the world. In the days when churches and homes relied on candlelight, it was important to have candles. At this halfway point in winter, it was traditional for the church to bless all of the candles to be used for the coming year – both in the church and in the home. What better way to celebrate light than to bless candles on the day that we sing about Jesus being the light of the world!

Many other traditions have come out of this church tradition, including one particular rhyme which may be familiar:

If Candlemas Day be fair and bright, winter will have another fight. If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain, winter won't come again.

This rhyme brings to mind the predictions we typically hear on February 2nd, when we will wait to hear Wiarton Willie's predictions!

But regardless of whether or not the groundhog sees its shadow or if the clouds cover the sun, the Light has come into the world and we are witnesses to that light, which is meant for all nations.

A PRAYER FOR CANDLEMAS

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.

Help us, in whom he has been born, to live his life that has no end.

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.

Help us, who have received the bread of life, to be thankful for your gift.

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple, to trust in your eternal promises.

Here we have greeted the light of the world.

Help us, who bear these candles, never to forsake the light of Christ.

Here we stand near the place of baptism.

Help us, who are marked with the cross, to share the Lord's death and resurrection.

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.

Help us, for whom Lent is near, to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.

Here we bless one another in your name.

Help us, who now go in peace, to shine with your light in the world.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

From the Church of England, Times and Seasons

LET'S PRAY

In the Anglican Communion, we pray for Sarah Mullally, Archbishop-Designate of Canterbury. We pray for the Church of England. We pray for our Companion Diocese of Jerusalem.

In the Anglican Church of Canada, we pray for Shane Parker, our Primate. We pray for Anne Germond, our Metropolitan. We pray for Christopher Harper, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop. We pray for The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

In our Diocese of Ottawa we pray: Almighty God, giver of all good gifts: look on your Church with grace, and guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for our diocese, that we may receive a faithful servant, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. We pray for Michael Bird, our Diocesan Administrator. We pray for our Diocesan Partner: Multifaith Housing Initiative. We pray for our Community Ministries. We pray for Church of the Ascension, Ottawa.

In our Deanery of the Northwest, we pray for: Emmanuel, Arnprior.

In our Parish of the Valley, we pray for Matthew Brown our Incumbent; and for Gillian Hoyer, Nicholas Forte, and Christine Muise our Associate Incumbents. And for the life and members of our Parish of the Valley Community, this week we pray for: Paul & Christine Heath, Shelley Hermitte, Bev Hill, Leslie Hill, Richard & Irene Hill.

For the sick, those who have asked for our prayers, and all others who are on our hearts...

Alice & Petawawa: Ralph, Bill, Issy, Marion, Lynn, Wanda, Rose, Laurie, Lois, Gloria, Trent, Sammy, Michael, Minnie.

Barry's Bay & Whitney: Joyce, Mary Ann, George, Poppy Joe & Penny Jane, Fred, Blake, Cathy, Susan, Patricia, Elspeth, Debra, Mary-Jayne, Fern, Shirley, Marilyn, David, Susie, Sharon, Theresa, Bob, Stuart, Katherine.

Killaloe/Tramore & Eganville: Marg, Joan, James, Hilary, Heather, Jan, Harold, Richard, Dorothy, Betty, Ann, Sheila, Andrea, Sharon, Junior, Peter, Richard, Pauline, Phyllis, Ethel, Anice, Paula, Rosemary.

Pembroke: Diane, Jolene, Loreen, Heather, Tristan, Bill, Bob, Jo, Connie, June, Lawrence, Lomie, Bea.

Stafford/Beachburg/Cobden: Gwen, Elmor, John, Jean, Margaret, Denver, Brian, Ruby, Janice, Susan, Ryan, Haley, Ruth, James, Sharon, Dave, Nicholas, Carolyn, Hillary, Ralph, Thyra, Sandra.

TODAY'S READINGS

FEBRUARY 1, 2026 - The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Micah 6.1-8, Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1.18-31; Matthew 5.1-12

UPCOMING READINGS

February 8, 2026 - The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 58.1-12; Psalm 112.1-10; 1 Corinthians 2.1-16; Matthew 5.13-20

February 15, 2026 - The Last Sunday after the Epiphany
Exodus 24.12-18; Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1.16-21; Matthew 17.1-9

February 18, 2026 - Ash Wednesday
Joel 2.1-2, 12-17; Psalm 103.8-18; 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10; Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

OFFERINGS

We are grateful for your ongoing support of our parish's congregations. Donations can always be placed on the offering plates located at the back of the church, or can be given during the offertory in congregations where an offering plate is passed. To learn more about Pre-Authorized Remittances (PAR), options for e-transfer, or how to donate online with credit card through *Canada Helps* or [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly), please visit our website: www.ValleyAnglicans.ca

Valley Bulletin sponsorship.
Available dates: February 8, 22

Cost is \$40 and payable to Holy Trinity Anglican Church.
Call Gail at the office 613-732-4658 or email office@valleyanglicans.ca

SERVICES IN THE PARISH OF THE VALLEY

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

8 & 10am - Holy Trinity Pembroke
9am - St Stephen's Micksburg
9am - Ascension Killaloe
9:30am -St George's South Alice
11am - St Paul's Cobden
11am - St John's Eganville
11am - Epiphany Barry's Bay (Morning Prayer)
11:15am - All Saints Petawawa

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Thursday, February 5th at 10am - Country Haven, Beachburg
Thursday, February 5th at 10:15am - Valley Manor, Barry's Bay
Thursday, February 19th at 10am - Country Haven, Beachburg
Thursday, February 19th at 2pm - Supples Landing, Pembroke
Thursday, February 26th at 10am (LTC) and 10:30am (RH) - Caressant Care, Cobden

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Killaloe/Tramore Congregational Council - Tuesday, February 3, 2pm at Tom & Julie McMillan's House

SHROVE TUESDAY

Pancake Meals - Tuesday, February 17th

Lunch at Holy Trinity Pembroke - 11am-1pm (freewill donation)
Supper at St. George's South Alice - 4-6pm (freewill donation)
Supper at St. John's Eganville - 4-6:30pm (\$10 for adults, \$5 children age 4-10, under 4 free)

NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

As we prepare for our **Annual Vestry Meetings**, we invite all churchwardens, treasurers, and leaders of other committees, groups and ministries in our congregations to draft your reports to vestry to be included in our annual vestry packages.

Please submit your reports to Gail at the office at Aborn House by **no later than Friday, February 6th at 12pm**. You can email them to her at office@valleyanglicans.ca, drop them off between 9am-noon on weekdays, or mail or deliver them to 68 Renfrew Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5R6.

Thank you for preparing these reports as we look forward to celebrating our collective ministry together and all that we have accomplished with God in 2025!

Special for Barry's Bay Flannel Fest: the **Church of the Epiphany Soup & Sandwich Lunch** is on Friday, February 13th from 11:30am - 1:30pm. For only \$10 enjoy a delicious homemade sandwich, soup, and pie. Eat in, or take out. To order take out, please call 613-635-1600.

Our regular **Wednesday Worship** at 10am at Holy Trinity Pembroke has resumed. All are welcome to join us in the chancel for this quiet said service of Holy Eucharist.

Episcopal Election Update: The Episcopal Election will take place on February 28th. Prior to the election, there will be a series of public meetings across our diocese for everyone to have a chance to hear the candidates' answers to a set of relevant questions and to get to know them in a more informal setting at a following reception. We will be hosting a public meeting on **Friday, February 20th at 7pm at Holy Trinity Pembroke**. This meeting, as well as the other three meetings in our diocese, will also be live-streamed. All are welcome and invited to attend the public meeting.

February 28th is the **Coldest Night of the Year** walk in Pembroke, in support of The Grind. St. Paul's Cobden, through its 2025 Yates Bequest Donations, has generously sponsored a rest-stop on behalf of our Parish of the Valley. Rest-stops will provide warming refreshments for walkers throughout the walk. Volunteers are now being requested to support the Coldest Night of the Year on the day. These positions include a variety of indoor and outdoor positions (greeters and cheerleaders, setup/teardown crew, etc.). You can learn more and register at <https://cnoy.org/volunteer>. In the drop-down location box, scroll down to find and select "Pembroke - The Grind Pembroke" and you will be shown volunteer opportunities for our local event

You can also register to fundraise - with or without walking. If you would like to donate to the Anglican Parish of the Valley team, you can do so at our team page here: <https://secure.e2rm.com/registrant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=1041119&langPref=en-CA>

CLERGY TEAM

Contact Information

The Rev. Matthew Brown (613-732-4658)
The Rev. Gillian Hoyer (613-687-9123)
The Rev. Nicholas Forte (613-629-9498)
The Rev. Christine Muise (613-883-8402)

Cover: *Sermon on the Mount, detail*, JESUS MAFA, Cameroon, 1973.

JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.



Parish of the Valley

Diocese of Ottawa
Anglican Church of Canada

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