

Morning Prayer, Sunday, March 14th, 2021, 10:00am  
4th Sunday in Lent

## The Gathering of the Community

**“Jesus Wept”  
A Rite to Mark the First Anniversary of the  
Global Coronavirus Pandemic  
Declaration**

*A bell is rung*

Leader I am the light of the world, says the Lord; those who follow me will have the light of life. John 8.12

*A moment of silence*

Leader Out of the depths we cry to you, O God.  
People **Turn your ear to the voice of our supplication.**

Leader With yearning hearts we wait for you, trusting in your promises.  
People **We wait and we hope, more than a sentry waits for the morning light.**

Leader For you, O God, are our strength and hope.  
People **Steadfast is your love, and your power to set free beyond measure.**

Leader Today we mark the first anniversary of the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic by the World Health Organization. Over the past year, many have suffered pain and loss, and all of us have faced hardship or disruption. Yet, we also have experienced God's presence in new and meaningful ways, witnessing the resiliency of God's people when we trust in this presence. Therefore, our testimony is that, in the midst of darkness, uncertainty, and fear, we are not alone. As we look back on both the tragedies and blessings of the past year, we call to mind the story of Jesus visiting the grave of his beloved friend Lazarus.

Though Lazarus had been laid to rest for a period of four days, and death seemed to have the final word, Jesus commanded the stone sealing the tomb be rolled away. He called forth Lazarus into life, and exhorted the people to unbind the once dead man from his grave clothes and set him free. However, we also recall that Jesus was moved in his deepest being and wept at the grave of his friend. A Rite to Mark the First Anniversary of the Global Coronavirus Pandemic Declaration  
As we mark this day, we weep with those who mourn and suffer and serve.

Yet, we also look forward in confidence, trusting God's power to heal and deliver the creation he called into life and continues to love.

Leader Let us pray.

*brief period of silence*

God of tender and fierce consolation, your anointed One wept at the grave of his beloved friend Lazarus.

**All Cry us into love again: break open our hearts to all who are vulnerable and alone, to ourselves in our glorious finitude, and to you, the source of all being, so we may face sickness and fear, despair and death with hope in the resurrection and faith in the One who calls forth life from death, Jesus Christ our Comforter, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## Hymn # 560

**GOD, WHOSE ALMIGHTY WORD** MOSCOW

Leader Let us remember before God our selfish ways, the things we have done wrong, the sorrows we have caused, the love we have not shown.

*Silence for reflection is kept.*

**All Most merciful Father, forgive us our sins against you and against each other. Strengthen us to overcome our weaknesses, that we may live in love as you would have us live, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People Amen.**

Celebrant Cast your burden upon the Lord,

**People And he will sustain you.**

Celebrant Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**People And renew a right spirit within me.**

Celebrant Cast me not away from your presence.

**People And take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

Celebrant Give me the joy of your saving help again

**People And sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Celebrant Blessed be the Lord day by day,

**People The God of our salvation, who bears our burdens.**

## **VENITE**

**O Come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are all the corners of the earth: and the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands prepared the dry land.**

**O Come, let us worship, and fall down, and kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is the Lord our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

**Today, O that ye would hear his voice: 'Harden not your hearts as in the Provocation, and as in the day of Temptation in the wilderness; When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works.**

**Forty years long was I grieved with that generation, and said, "It is a people that do err in their hearts, for they have not known my ways"; Unto whom I swear in my wrath, that they should not enter into my rest.'**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

## **A reading from the book of Numbers**

**Reader:** From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.  
NUMBERS 21:4-9

**Reader:** Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**People:** **Thanks be to God**

## **A reading from Psalm 107**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, and his mercy endures for ever.

**Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**

He gathered them out of the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; they were afflicted because of their sins.**

They abhorred all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

**Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.**

He sent forth his word and healed them and saved them from the grave.

**Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy and the wonders he does for his children.**

Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.

**O God, the divine seeker, you are light to the lost, bread to the hungry, deliverance to the captive, healing to the sick, eternal vision to the dying, and harbour to every soul in peril. Gather the wanderers from every corner of the world into the community of**

**your mercy and grace, that we may eternally praise you for our salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22**

**SEEK THE LORD** *ISAIAH 55.6-11*

**Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; call upon him when he draws near.**

**Let the wicked forsake their ways and the evil ones their thoughts; And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, and to our God, for he will richly pardon.**

**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.**

**For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

**For as rain and snow fall from the heavens and return not again, but water the earth, Bringing forth life and giving growth, seed for sowing and bread for eating,**

**So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; it will not return to me empty; But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, and prosper in that for which I sent it. Amen.**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians**

**Reader:** You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. EPHESIANS 2:1-10

**Reader:** Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**People: Thanks be to God**

## Hymn # 397

### PRAISE THE ONE WHO BREAKS THE DARKNESS NETTLETON

#### A reading from the Gospel of John

**Reader:** Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God." JOHN 3:14-21

**Reader:** Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

**People:** **Thanks be to God**

**Homily** Rev. Mary Bell-Plouffe

#### A Moment for Quiet Reflection

**Anthem** WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE SHARPTHONE

#### Affirmation of Faith

**Celebrant** Let us affirm our faith and renew our baptismal covenant.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

I will continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.

I will persevere in resisting evil and, whenever I fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.

I will proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ.

I will seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbours as myself.

I will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.

I will strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain, and renew the life of the Earth. Amen.

## Prayers

*Intercessor*

Let us pray.

Embraced by God's word, let us intercede for all those in need, saying : Have mercy, O Lord.

For the church, that our lenten hunger may be for justice, and our thirst for deeds of justice, we pray:

**People Have mercy, O Lord.**

*Intercessor*

For the church, that all those to be baptized at Easter may see through the dazzling attractions of sin and rejoice only in God's marvelous gift, we pray:

**People Have mercy, O Lord.**

*Intercessor*

For the community of nations, that the worth of every life may compel us on the way to solidarity and peace, we pray:

**People Have mercy, O Lord.**

*Intercessor*

For exiles and refugees, that all who are homeless because of war or hunger, because of the greed or hatred of others, because of disabilities, may find places of rest and kindness, we pray:

**People** Have mercy, O Lord.

*Intercessor* For those who struggle with addictions, that they may find strength and love for the simple gifts of God, we pray:

**People** Have mercy, O Lord.

*Intercessor* For this assembly, God's handiwork, that our steps be directed in ways of peace that lead us to the side of those the world despises, and that we name these rejected ones our brothers and sisters, we pray:

**People** Have mercy, O Lord.

*Intercessor* Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community, especially **[Names in Parish]** and for all who are in need. Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence. Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness, make broken bodies whole and free downcast spirits. May these special people find lasting health and deliverance, and so join us in thanking you for all your gifts. We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed, let us pray to the Lord, we pray:

**People** Have mercy, O Lord.

*Intercessor* Today in our Anglican Cycle of prayer we pray for San Lorenzo, Dufferin, its community centre and Voces Latinas radio programming, and its annual Caravan of Hope, bringing supplies to the needy in El Salvador; for St. Aidan, Toronto, its weekly community lunches, refugee sponsorship in partnership with the Beach Cares and the East End Refugee Committee, and support of Restorative Justice Housing Ontario; and for St. Andrew-by-the-Lake, its transportation for those with mobility issues, support of those with health and housing concerns, support of Street Health, and funding for community arts and musical programs, we pray:

**People** Have mercy, O Lord.

*Intercessor* In our own Deanery of Peterborough we offer our prayers for Saint Thomas', Millbrook, The Rev. Rob Ross, we pray:

**People** Have mercy, O Lord.

**God, full of goodness and open to weakness, remember all whom we remember, and remind us of all whom we would forget. We ask this through Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen.**

## COVID Prayer this Sunday and others at:

<https://www.miltonanglican.org/prayers-for-the-covid-19-crisis.html>

<https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/covid-19-resources>

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### The Collect

**Reader** Almighty God,  
through the waters of baptism your Son has made us children  
of light. May we ever walk in his light and show forth your glory  
in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

**Celebrant** And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to  
pray,

**All** **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy  
kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our  
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever  
and ever. Amen.**

**~ Dismissal ~**

**Celebrant** Let us bless the Lord.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

### Closing Music Benediction Prayer

**All** The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make His face to shine upon you  
To shine upon you and be gracious  
And be gracious unto you  
The Lord bless you and keep you  
The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you  
And give you peace, and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

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**Today's Readers**

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1st Lesson OT	Piet Goemans
Psalm	Irene Fulton
2nd Lesson	Allan McCracken
Gospel	Sandy Philp
Prayers	Nancy DeKuyper

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**Next Week's Readers March 21st, 2021**

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1st Lesson OT	Neil Fulton
Psalm	June Seaborn
2nd Lesson	Joy Goemans
Gospel	Neil Fulton
Prayers	Nikki Ellwood

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**Next Sunday March 21st, 2021 ~ Rev. Mary Bell Plouffe  
5th Sunday in Lent ~ Morning Prayer**

Readings		
<b>JEREMIAH 31:31-34</b>	<b>PSALM 51:1-13</b>	<b>HEBREWS 5:5-10</b>
	<b>JOHN 12:20-33</b>	

## Holy Week Services

- March 28    **Palm Sunday**  
Liturgy of the Palms  
9:00am Christ Church ~ Holy Communion  
11:00am St. George ~ Holy Communion
- April 1     **Maundy Thursday**  
Washing of the Feet ~ Holy Communion  
7:00pm Christ Church (combined service)
- April 2     **Good Friday**  
Celebration of the Lord's Passion  
10:00am Christ Church (combined service)
- April 4     **Easter Sunday** ~ Holy Communion  
Christ Church 9:00am  
St. George 11:00am

Please join us for our in-church Services.

**Announcements:**

St. George – Hastings

Butter Tart Drive-Thru  
Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 11am – 2pm

Cost \$6.00 for six  
Phyllis 705 696-2451

**Christ Church - Flowers for Easter**

Easter is coming and we will be preparing the church on Saturday April 3rd at 9:30am. Please consider a donation of flowers. They should be delivered to the church during office hours or on Saturday morning.

**Please remember this is a scent free building.**