



*Church of St. John the Evangelist
Elora, Ontario*

Sunday, March 27, 2022

11am

Fourth Sunday of Lent - Laetare Sunday

11:00 am Choral Mattins (BCP)

This service is live-streamed from St. John's.

Welcome back to St. John's in-person.

Capacity limits are lifted, but please respect people who wish to voluntarily keep a physical distance.

Please wear a face mask.

Practice good hand and respiratory hygiene.

Thank you for your co-operation and commitment.

St. John's church sits on the traditional unceded territories of the Attawandaron, Mississauga, and Haudenosaunee First Nations. These lands are covered by the Between the Lakes Treaty and the Haldemand land grant. These lands are also part of The Dish With One Spoon Treaty all subsequent newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect. Today this land is home to many diverse Inuit, Metis and First Nations peoples.

Introit Spirit, Fall Fresh on Me

Zachary Lavender

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."

– Psalm 122.1

Minister: Dearly beloved, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace.

(you may kneel or sit for prayer)

Minister: ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father,

All: **We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto humankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful**

Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

Minister: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness, and live, hath given power and commandment to his ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. God pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Responses are sung.

Minister: O LORD, open thou our lips;

All: **And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

Minister: O God, make speed to save us;

All: **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Minister: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

All: **as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.**

Amen.

Minister: Praise ye the Lord;

All: **The Lord's Name be praised.**

Canticle: Venite

(Please stand)

*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.
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.*

FIRST LESSON

Joshua 5.9-12

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so

that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Psalm 32

Blessed is he whose unrighteousness is forgiven,
and whose sin is covered.

Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth no sin,
and in whose spirit there is no guile.

For while I held my tongue,
my bones consumed way through my daily complaining.

For thy hand was heavy upon me day and night,
and my moisture was changed as with the drought of summer.

I acknowledged my sin unto thee;
and mine unrighteousness have I not hid.

I said, 'I will confess my sin unto the Lord';
and so thou forgavest the wickedness of my sin.

For this shall every one that is godly make his prayer unto thee,
in a time when thou mayest be found;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not come nigh him.

Thou art a place to hide me in; thou shalt preserve me from trouble;
thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.

I will inform thee, and teach thee in the way wherein thou shalt go;
and I will guide thee with mine eye upon thee.

Be ye not like to horse and mule, which have no understanding;
whose mouths must be held with bit and bridle, else they will not come nigh thee.

Great plagues remain for the ungodly;
but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord, mercy embraceth him on every side.

Be glad, O ye righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
and be joyful, all ye that are true of heart.

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.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 15.1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' So he set off and went to 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. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe - the best one - and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Canticle **Benedictus**

Orlando Gibbons

(congregation remain seated)

*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel;
for he hath visited, and redeemed his people;
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us,
in the house of his servant David;
As he spake by the mouth of holy prophets,
which have been since the world began;
That we should be saved from our enemies,
and from the hands of all that hate us;
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers,
and to remember his holy covenant;
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham,
that he would grant us*

*That we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies
might serve him without fear,
In holiness and righteousness before him,
all the days of our life.
And thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest:
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people
for the remission of their sins;
Through the tender mercy of our God;
whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us;
To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
as it was at the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

(Please stand)

Minister: I believe in God

All: **the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth: and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Responses are sung.

Minister: The Lord be with you;

All: **And with thy spirit.**

Minister. Let us pray.

(please kneel or sit for prayer)

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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 them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Minister: O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

All: **And grant us thy salvation.**

Minister: O Lord, save the Queen;

All: **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Minister: Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

All: **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

Minister: O Lord, save thy people;

All: **And bless thine inheritance.**

Minister: Give peace in our time, O Lord;
All: **And evermore mightily defend us.**
Minister: O God, make clean our hearts within us;
All: **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

Collect for the Day

Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that we, who need to be delivered from our evil deeds, by the comfort of thy grace may mercifully be relieved and protected; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Collect for Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Second Collect, for Peace.

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Third Collect, for Grace.

O LORD our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn 52 O God, Unseen Yet Ever Near (vv 1,2,4)

*O God, unseen yet ever near,
your presence may we feel;
and thus, inspired with holy fear,
around your table kneel.*

*Here may your faithful people know
the blessings of your love,
the streams that through the desert flow,
the manna from above.*

*O living Bread, enduring Vine,
your words we shall obey,
and go, renewed with strength divine,
rejoicing on our way.*

Homily

Rev'd Judy Steers

Anthem**Beati quorum via**

Charles Villiers Stanford

*Blessed are they whose way is undefiled,
who walk in the law of the Lord.*

Closing Prayers for the church, the community, and the world.

(you may sit for the prayers)

A Prayer of Saint Chrysostom.

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Hymn 434 The Love of Jesus Calls Us (vv 1,3,4)

*The love of Jesus calls us
our joyous praise to sing
our deeply felt thanksgivings
we now together bring,
for all God's many blessings,
unasked yet still received,
and for the generations
who faithfully believed.*

*The love of Jesus calls us
to go where he would go,
to challenge all that limits,
to change, to learn, to grow,
to know that Christ has freed us,
that prisons are no more;
for those who seek his kingdom,
Christ opens every door.*

*The love of Jesus calls us
in swiftly changing days,
to be God's cocreators
in new and wondrous ways;
that God with men and women
may so transform the earth,
that love and peace and justice
may give God's kingdom birth.*

POSTLUDE Aria from the Suite in D

J S Bach

*Flowers today are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Joachim, from his father, Goran.
Joachim died in the peace of Christ on Sunday March 20, 2022 in Sweden;
also in loving memory of Richard Knight, the gift of his mother Betty Knight.*

Greeters	Chris Rynberk, Doug Wilson
Readers	Lesley Bouza, Patricia Reimer
Singers	Audrey Coates, Lesley Bouza, Emily Petrenko, Christina Stelmacovich, Jerome Chang, Quade Nielsen, Alan MacDonald, Matt Oxley
Technician	Gerry Hill

ANNOUNCEMENTS MARCH 27, 2022

Pastoral Care

If you know of someone in need of pastoral care, please contact one of the clergy through the parish office.

Morning Prayer

Thursday at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom. Join us to hear the readings of the day and offer prayers for our world.

Ukraine

PWRDF continues to work with two organizations on the ground to provide food, support, information and relief to refugees.

[Hungarian inter church Aid](#) supporting refugees crossing the border into Hungary.

[HelpAge International](#) working in Moldova, a county of 2.6 million which has already welcomed over 250,000 refugees. It bears the distinction of being the poorest county in Europe and is landlocked by Ukraine and Romania. Many of those arriving in Moldova are seniors.

To make a donation to this relief effort go to [PWRDF.ORG/give-today](https://www.pwrdf.org/give-today) and click on "Response to Ukraine" or call 866-308-7973 or bring a cheque to St. John's marked "UKRAINE".

Will Postma, Director of PWRDF, writes: "In less than one month, well over 1,200 donors have given more than \$280,000 to PWRDF for Ukraine. The war in Ukraine is having a powerful ripple effect on food security in countries where PWRDF partners are working. Ukraine, long-known as the bread basket of Europe, supplies a large amount of wheat to the World Food Programme as it provides emergency food relief in countries hard hit by conflict and climate-related disasters. Outside of these food distribution programs, the economies of 18 African and least developed countries import as much as 50% of their wheat from Ukraine and Russia. We are already hearing from churches in East Africa about shortages and increasing food prices, with wheat as well as corn, barley and sunflower oil unable to be exported from in both countries." Read more at "Our Word is Hurting" at [PWRDF.ORG](https://www.pwrdf.org).

Lent Book Club

Join us on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom as we conclude our Lenten series on *"I Thought He was Dead: A Spiritual Memoir"* by Ralph Benmurgui. The Zoom link is available in the weekly Pastoral Letter. We have had some great conversation on topics like ageing, moving from success to significance, what makes for a "good funeral", personal attachments, growing old and growing up, formative role models for attitude, and what it means to grow into a mature soul.

Whether you have attended the first few weeks or not, please join us for some rich and honest conversation.

Knitters and Quilters

We will meet in-person on Wednesday at 10:30 in the Parish Centre. Please confirm that you are coming with Wendy or Pam.

Wednesday - Holy Communion

Join us on Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. for a simple and short said liturgy of Holy Communion. Face masks and self-assessment for symptoms are required.

New Guidelines for Ministry

New diocesan Guidelines for Ministry came into effect on March 21.

Pre-registration and contact tracing are no longer required.

Self-assess for symptoms before you come to a service of event, wear a face mask on site, and practise good hand and respiratory hygiene.

Capacity limits are lifted. Physical distancing is still encouraged, so please respect people who wish to voluntarily keep a physical distance.

For people who are reading scripture, preaching, or offering intercessions face masks may be temporarily removed.

Our Vaccine Policy remains in effect.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and commitment to keep the most vulnerable in our community safe and healthy.

The Guidelines for Ministry are available at the back of the church.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Rector or one of the Wardens.

Volunteer Choir

Tuesday March 29 at 5:30 p.m

Please let [Jeff Ostic](#) or [Linda Coultes](#) know the date of your booster vaccine and then you can participate in an in-person Volunteer Choir rehearsal on **Tuesday March 29 at 5:30 p.m.**

This will give us time to prepare for the 9:00 a.m. service on Easter Sunday!

Please [contact Jurgen](#) if you are planning to participate.

Ukrainian Easter Eggs

Saturday April 9, 10:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.

Christina Stelmacovich, a member of the Parish Choir, is offering a workshop to learn the traditional techniques and meanings of symbols and designs, and take home your own Ukrainian Easter egg that you have made.

Come for a couple of hours or the whole time. Anyone in the community is welcome. Please let us know you are coming by registering online or calling the office. Simple patterns and design ideas will be provided. No experience necessary. The only artistic skill you need is being able to draw a line.

There is no registration fee, but you are invited to make a donation to support Ukrainian refugees through PWRDF.

St. John's Elora

St. John's Elora is a Christian community within the Anglican tradition with a strong history of liturgical worship and choral music. In a spirit of service, self-giving, and thanksgiving, we offer to the glory of God, ourselves, our souls and bodies, endeavouring to foster a faith in Jesus Christ and facilitate human flourishing. We strive to be a thriving, spiritually nourishing, healthy, welcoming and missional community.

Reaching out and reaching in, community engagement, and partnerships are all critical as we build on our past and present strengths. Our ministry together depends on factors such as spiritual authenticity, intellectual integrity, respectful behaviour, the ability to listen attentively, and community hospitality. We move towards the 2030s in a spirit of love with thanksgiving for what we have been given.

St. John's Four Areas of Ministry

Proclaim the Love of Christ - Engage and Involve - Musical Outreach - Open Doors

Rector: The Rev'd Canon Paul J. Walker rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com
Curate: The Rev'd Judy Steers curate.stjohnselora@gmail.com
Director of Music: Dr. Patrick Murray music.stjohnselora@gmail.com
Organist: Jurgen Petrenko
Sexton and Caretaker: Garry Cantlon sexton.stjohnselora@gmail.com

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