



Church of St. John the Evangelist

*Elora, Ontario
Diocese of Niagara*

*February 25, 2024
11:00 am*

Second Sunday of Lent

11:00 am Choral Mattins (BCP)

Welcome to St. John's Elora.

Hearing Assist devices, hymn books and prayer books and children's activity packs are available from the Greeters at the back of the church.

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 Haldimand 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.

Processional Hymn 468 To Abraham and Sarah

Thornbury

1. To Abraham and Sarah

the call of God was clear:

"Go forth and I will show you a country rich and fair. You need not fear the journey, for I have pledged my word that you shall be my people and I will be your God."

2. From Abraham and Sarah arose a pilgrim race,

dependent for their journey on God's abundant grace; and in their heart was written by God this saving word, "That you shall be my people and I will be your God."

3. We of this generation on whom God's hand is laid can journey to the future secure and unafraid, rejoicing in God's goodness and trusting in this word, "That you shall be my people and I will be your God."

"I do not glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

- Galatians 6:14

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.**

(please stand)

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

(remain standing)

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.

Lesson 1 Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Psalm 22.23-31

(Congregation remain seated)

O praise the Lord, ye that fear him:

magnify him, all ye of the seed of Jacob, and stand in awe of him, all ye seed of Israel.

For he hath no despised nor abhorred the low estate of the poor;

he hath not hid his face from him; but when he called unto him he heard him.

Of thee cometh my praise in the great congregation;

my vows will I perform in the sight of them that fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; they that seek after the Lord shall praise him;

may your heart live for ever.

All the ends of the world shall remember, and be turned unto the Lord;

and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before him.

For the kingdom is the Lord's, and he is the Governor among the nations.

Surely to him shall all the proud of the earth bow down;

and before him shall kneel all that go down into the dust, and he that cannot keep his soul alive.

Their posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord unto a generation yet to come.

And men shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done it.

Lesson II Mark 8.31-38

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Canticle Jubilate

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

*O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands;
serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God:
it is he that hath made us and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise.
be thankful unto him and speak good of his name.
For the Lord is gracious, His mercy is everlasting;
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.*

(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 King;

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 Second Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect for Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and does 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.**

Anthem Crux fidelis

attr. John of Portugal

Faithful cross, above all other,

One and only noble tree:

None in foliage, none in blossom,

None in fruit thy peer may be.

Sweetest wood and sweetest iron,

Sweetest weight is hung on thee!

Homily Canon Paul Walker

Offertory Hymn 431 Take Up Your Cross, the Saviour Said

Breslau

An offering plate will be passed during this hymn. Your donation to support St. John's is most welcome.

1. Take up your cross, the Saviour said,
if you would my disciple be;
deny yourself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.

3. Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
and let your foolish pride be still;
your Lord for you endured to die
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

2. Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill your weak soul with vain alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.

4. Take up your cross, then, in his strength,
and calmly every danger brave:
'twill guide you to a better home
and lead to victory o'er the grave.

5. Take up your cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Closing Prayers for the church, the community, and the world, and those in need.
(you may kneel or sit)

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 537 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Cross of Jesus

1. In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

3. When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more lustre to the day.

2. When the woes of life o'er take me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me:
lo, it glows with peace and joy.

4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.

5. In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

POSTLUDE Arioso

J.S. Bach

Coffee, tea, and sweets are served in Thompson Hall.

Quartet Kate Wright, Emily Burnett, Sharang Sharma, Alan Macdonald
Greeters Peter Barr, Wendy Donohue
Readers Patricia Reimer, David Campbell

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
Director of Music:	Dr. Patrick Murray	music.stjohnselora@gmail.com
Organist:	Jurgen Petrenko	
Sexton and Caretaker:	Garry Cantlon	sexton.stjohnselora@gmail.com
Administration:	Thomas Littlewood	parish.stjohnselora@gmail.com
Honorary Assistants:	Rev'd John Lockyer, Rev'd Judy Steers	

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Follow St. John's Elora on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube

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Welcome to St. John's Elora

Learn More

To learn more about St. John's through the Pastoral Letter sent from the Rector every Saturday, send an email to rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com

Vestry Meeting

Thank you for your participation and prayers for the annual meeting of Vestry yesterday. We gathered to give thanks for all that was offered to the glory of God last year and committed ourselves to new ministry in the coming year. Copies of the annual report are available at the back of the church.

Evensong - Today, 4:00

The St John's Parish Choir offers a special service of Choral Evensong on TODAY at 4:00 p.m.

Lent Book Study

"Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life" by Rowan Williams. Join the Rector to reflect on this book together. Copies of the book are available to purchase. To accommodate the time of the World Day of Prayer we meet this **Friday at 3:30** in the Parish Centre.

World Day of Prayer - Friday March 1, 2:00 p.m.

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Fergus is hosting the regional World Day of Prayer service this year. The service was written by the women of Palestine. All are welcome to this annual ecumenical event.

Bible Study - Mondays at 2:00 p.m.

Join Rev'd John Lockyer and others who are exploring themes in the gospel of Mark.

Song Circle - Friday at 10:30 a.m.

Join Stan Litch as he leads an informal time of singing some old tunes on Fridays at 10:30. It's a fun and informal time together of singing and stories. All are welcome.

Elora Children's Choir - Sunday March 3, 11:00 a.m.

Come to hear the liturgical debut of the Elora Children's Choir on Sunday March 3 at the 11:00 a.m. service.

Compline Service - Tuesday March 5

The choir rehearses at 6:30 on the day of the service. The service begins at 8:00 p.m. and is offered on March 5, April 9, May 7 and June 4.

Men's Dinner - Wednesday March 6, 6:30 p.m.

Our speaker will be Wayne Simpson, a professional photographer and author who is based in Elora. Wayne's talk is titled "Portraits in Resilience" which is based on his current book. His book will be available for sale at the end of the evening - price \$65 - either cash or by e-transfer.

Please let Ian Hornsby know by Thursday February 29th if you plan to attend. ihornsby0@gmail.com

Washrooms

Washrooms are located at the west entrance of the church, downstairs in Thompson Hall, and an accessible washroom is located at the Parish Centre (yellow house east of the church)

Events This Week at St. John's

TODAY

4:00 Evensong

Monday

2:00 Bible Study (Parish Centre)

6:00 Children's Choir (Parish Centre)

7:00 Bible Study (Portage)

Tuesday

5:30 Volunteer Choir

Wednesday

9:30 Knitters and Quilters

10:00 Holy Communion

Thursday

7:00 Parish Choir

Friday

10:30 Song Circle

2:00 World Day of Prayer (St. Andrew's Fergus)

3:30 Lent Book Study (Parish Centre)

Sunday March 3 - Third Sunday in Lent

8:00 Holy Communion (BCP)

9:00 Holy Eucharist

11:00 Choral Communion with Parish Choir and Elora Children's Choir

Thinking About Baptism

If you or someone you know may be thinking about baptism, there is a booklet available in the Narthex called "Thinking about Baptism". Help yourself to a copy of the booklet and contact the clergy if you are interested in preparing for baptism. Baptism will be celebrated at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.