

A Penitential Service for Ash Wednesday Prayers for the Peace of Ukraine

Wednesday March 2, 2022
7:30 p.m.



Church of St. John the Evangelist, Elora
Diocese of Niagara

**Welcome back to a liturgy at St. John's in-person.
It is good to have you participating in-person or online.**

In-person, following diocesan Guidelines for Ministry (March 1),
please wear a face mask at all times,
and keep your physical distance from members of other households.

Congregational singing is permitted quietly.

Today, we join with Christians in churches around the world
to fast and pray for peace in Ukraine.

The Lord's Prayer will be offered in Latvian,
a language of one of the Baltic states,
as an act of prayer with and for
the Ukrainian people and their land.

Today marks the beginning of the season of Lent
to prepare us for the Paschal Feast.



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.

The liturgy comes from the Book of Common Prayer,
A Penitential Service for use on Ash Wednesday.
Hymn texts from "Common Praise: Anglican Church of Canada" (1998)

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Sentences

Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel of God and saying, the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye and believe the Gospel.
- *St Mark 1. 14, 15.*

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and ye that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.
- *St John 6. 37.*

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.
- *St Matthew 11. 28–30.*

Hymn: Giver of the Perfect Gift (180, vv 1, 2, 3)

Giver of the perfect gift,
only hope of earthy race,
hear the prayer our hearts uplift,
trembling at thy throne of grace.

Though the accusing voice within
speaks of many a wrong to thee,
thou canst cleanse from every sin;
thou canst set the conscience free.

Who can save us, Lord, but thou?
Let thy mercy show thy power.
Lo, we plead thy promise now,
now in this the accepted hour.

Exhortation

Beloved in Christ, in the early Church it was the custom to observe with great devotion the days of our Lord's Passion and Resurrection, and to prepare for the same by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided also a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for holy Baptism. It was also a time when such persons as had, by reason of sin, been separated from the body of the faithful, were reconciled and restored to the fellowship of the Church by penitence and forgiveness. Thereby the whole Congregation was put in mind of

the message of pardon and absolution contained in the Gospel of our Saviour, and of the need which all Christians continually have, of a renewal of their repentance and faith. Today, we are invited to join Christians around the world to offer ourselves in prayer and fasting for the people and land of Ukraine. I therefore invite you, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting, and self-denial, and by reading and meditation upon God's holy Word.

Let us pray.

Kyrie *(sung by choir)*

- Darke in E

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

First Lesson - Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—
a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
 rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the Lord, your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
 and relents from punishing.
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
 and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain-offering and a drink-offering
 for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sanctify a fast;

call a solemn assembly;
gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.
Let them say, 'Spare your people, O Lord,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
"Where is their God?" '

Psalm 103:8-12 (*chanted*) (Congregation may remain seated during Psalm)

Praise the LORD, O my soul:
and all that is within me praise his holy Name.
Praise the LORD, O my soul:
and forget not all his benefits;
Who forgiveth all thy sin,
and healeth all thine infirmities;
Who saveth thy life from destruction,
and crowneth thee with mercy and loving-kindness;
Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things,
making thee young and lusty as an eagle.
THE LORD executeth righteousness and judgment
for all them that are oppressed with wrong.
He showed his ways unto Moses,
his works unto the children of Israel.
The LORD is full of compassion and gracious,
long-suffering, and of great goodness.
He will not always be chiding:
neither keepeth he his anger for ever.
He hath not dealt with us after our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses.
For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth,
so great is his mercy also toward them that fear him.
Look how wide also the east is from the west,
so far hath he set our sins from us.

Lord's Prayer

Offered in Latvian by Laura Adlers, as we pray in solidarity with and for the people of Ukraine.

Minister. Let us pray.

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.

Responses

Minister. O Lord, save thy servants;

People. **That put their trust in thee.**

Minister. Send unto them help from above;

People. **And evermore mightily defend them.**

Minister. Help us, O God our Saviour;

People. **And for the glory of thy Name deliver us;
be merciful unto us sinners, for thy Name's sake.**

Minister. O Lord, hear our prayer;

People. **And let our cry come unto thee.**

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.**

Prayers for Peace in Ukraine

ALMIGHTY God and merciful Father, who wouldest have the kingdoms of the world become the kingdom of thy Son Jesus Christ: Bestow thy blessing, we beseech thee, upon all who labour for peace and righteousness among the people and land of Ukraine; that the day may be hastened when war shall be no more, and thy will only shall govern the nations upon earth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O LORD of hosts, stretch forth, we pray thee, thine almighty arm to strengthen and protect the people of Ukraine in every peril; shelter them in the day of battle, and ever keep them safe from all evil; endue them with loyalty and courage; and grant that in all things they may serve as seeing thee who art invisible; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers

Priest: O LORD, we beseech thee, mercifully hear our prayers, and spare all those who confess their sins unto thee; that they, whose consciences by sin are accused, by thy merciful pardon may be absolved; through Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

All: **Turn thou us, O good Lord, and so shall we be turned.
Be favourable, O Lord, be favourable to thy people, who turn to thee in weeping, fasting, and praying. For thou art a merciful God, full of compassion, long-suffering, and of great pity. Thou sparest when we deserve punishment, and in thy wrath thinkest upon mercy.
Spare thy people, good Lord, spare them, and let not thine heritage be brought to confusion.
Hear us, O Lord, for thy mercy is great, and according to the multitude of thy mercies look upon us; through the merits and mediation of thy blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn

O God of Bethel (555, vv1, 2, 4)

O God of Bethel, by whose hand
thy people still are fed,
who though this earthy pilgrimage
thy multitudes have led:

our vows, our prayers, we now present
before thy throne of grace.
God of our forebears be the God
of their succeeding race.

O spread thy covering wings around
till all our wanderings cease
and in the city of our God
our souls arrive in peace.

Lesson - Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The second lesson is written in the 6th chapter of the gospel of St. Matthew, beginning at the 1st verse.

'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Here ends the second Lesson.

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Responses

Priest. Let us pray.
Lord,

All. **for thy tender mercies' sake, lay not our sins to our charge; but forgive all that is past, and give us grace to amend our lives; to decline from sin, and incline to virtue; that we may walk with a perfect heart before thee, now and evermore.**

Priest. Remember, that dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

People. **Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Priest. Lord, hear our prayer;

People. **And let our cry come unto thee.**

Prayer

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who forgave the people of Nineveh when they repented in sackcloth and ashes: Mercifully grant that we, truly repenting of our sins, may obtain of thee perfect pardon and release; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

The clergy will come to members of the congregation for the administration of the imposition of ashes, a symbol of repentance and a symbol of our mortality.

If you do not wish to receive the imposition of ashes on your forehead, please fold your arms across your chest to indicate to the priest that you wish a blessing.

Anthem (*sung during imposition of ashes*)

Wash Me Thoroughly - Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Closing Prayers

LORD of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Look down, O Lord, from thy heavenly throne, illuminate all the darkness of this world and of this night with thy celestial brightness, and from the children of light banish completely all the deeds of darkness, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We will lay us down in peace and take our rest; for it is thou, Lord, only, that makest us dwell in safety.

Thou, O Lord, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy name. Leave us not, O Lord our God.

Preserve us, O Lord, waking, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

Amen.

Dismissal

THE LORD bless us, and keep us. The LORD make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us. The LORD lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace, both now and evermore.

Amen.



Technician: Rod Murray
Readers: Guinevere Kern, Peter Barr

Singers: Kate Wright, Lesley Bouza,
Emily Petrenko, Autumn Debassige,
Jerome Chang, Jeffrey Smith,
Alan MacDonald, Matt Oxley

Organist: Jurgen Petrenko
Director of Music: Patrick Murray
Assistant Curate: Rev'd Judy Steers
Rector: Canon Paul Walker



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

LENTEN BOOK CLUB

Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom

"I Thought He Was Dead: A Spiritual Memoir"

By Ralph Benmurgui

Available at Magic Pebble Book Shop, Elora

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday March 6

9:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist (BAS)

11:00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist (BCP) with Octet - also live-streamed on YouTube.

To attend in-person please pre-register online or call the Parish Office.



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