

A Penitential Service for Ash Wednesday

Wednesday February 22, 2023

7:00 p.m.



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

Welcome to St. John's Elora to being the season of Lent.



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)

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)*

- Mass for 4 voices, William Byrd

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

First Lesson -2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

(please be seated)

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

'At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.'

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Psalm 51:1-17 *(chanted)*

(Congregation may remain seated during Psalm)

Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness; /
according to the multitude
of thy mercies do away mine offences.

Wash me throughly from my wickedness, /
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I acknowledge my faults, /
and my sin is ever before me.
Against thee only have I sinned, and done that which is evil in thy sight; /
that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest,
and clear when thou dost judge.
Behold, I was brought forth in wickedness, /
and in sin hath my mother conceived me.
But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts, /
and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.
Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; /
thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness, /
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.
Turn thy face from my sins, /
and put out all my misdeeds.
Make me a clean heart, O God, /
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence, /
and take not thy holy spirit from me.
O give me the comfort of thy help again, /
and stablish me with a free spirit.
Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked, /
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.
Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my salvation; /
and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.
O Lord, open thou my lips, /
and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.
For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it; /
but thou delightest not in burnt offerings.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit: /
a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.
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.

Lord's Prayer

Minister. The Lord be with you.

All: And with thy Spirit.

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.**

Prayer for Peace in the World

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 and all other areas of conflict and unrest; 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.**

Prayer of Confession

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. **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.

Priest: O GOD, whose nature and property is ever to have mercy and to forgive: Receive our humble petitions; and though we be tied and bound with the chain of our sins, yet let thy pitifulness of thy great mercy loose us; for the honour of Jesus Christ, our Meditor and Advocate. **Amen.**

Hymn O God of Bethel (555, vv1, 2, 4) - tune: Salzburg

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.

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

(please be seated)

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.

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, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Imposition of Ashes

You invited to come forward to receive the sign of the cross on your forehead with ashes, a symbol of our repentance and a sign of our mortality. The ash reminds us that we our part of creation and we place our trust in God as the Creator and Redeemer.

Anthem (sung during the imposition of ashes)

Lord, Let Me Know Mine End

- Maurice Greene

Closing Prayers

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who forgavest 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.

O GOD our Father, who makest thy sun to rise upon the evil and upon the good, and sendest rain upon the just and upon the unjust: Help us to love our enemies, and to forgive those who trespass against us, that we may receive of thee the forgiveness of our sins, and be made thy children in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

O KING all glorious amid thy saintly company, who ever shalt be praised: Thou, O Lord, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy holy Name. Leave us not, O our God; but grant us that with a pure conscience we may duly keep the Paschal Feast, And at the day of judgement be placed in the number of thy Saints and chosen ones, King most blessed.

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.



Readers: Patricia Reimer and David Campbell

Singers: Kate Wright, Emily Burnett,
Jeffrey Smith, Alan MacDonald

Organist: Jurgen Petrenko

Director of Music: Patrick Murray

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



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UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN'S ELORA

COMMUNITY PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

Friday February 24, 12:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's Prayer Garden.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday March 3, 2:00 p.m.

LENTEN BOOK DISCUSSION

Fridays, 3:00 p.m. in-person starting March 10.

"Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call to Unforgetting the Past and Reimagining our Future"

Available at Magic Pebble Book Shop, Elora

A SERVICE OF COMPLINE

Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. on the first full week of the month.

March 14, April 11, May 9.

EVENSONGS

Sundays at 4:00 p.m. on February 26, March 26, April 30, and

May 28 (in thanksgiving for the Coronation of King Charles III, followed by garden tea).

VESTRY

Annual Reports are available at the back of the church.

Vestry meets on Sunday February 26, 1:30 p.m. on Zoom.

2023 MUSIC EVENTS

Admission by donation; no tickets required.

Friday, March 10, 7:30pm

Women In Song: Clara Schumann, Alma Mahler, Amy Beach and others

Rebecca McKay, soprano and Jodie Vander Heide, piano

Sunday, April 16, 3:15pm

Bach Meditations: Christ lag in Todesbanden, BWV 4

Soloists from the Parish Choir and baroque ensemble

Saturday, May 13, 3:00pm

Just Her Cup of Tea: Sweet Songs to Celebrate Mum

Autumn Debassige, mezzo-soprano and Angus Sinclair, piano

Friday, June 23, 7:30pm

"And then I knew it 'twas wind": Music for flute, viola and harp

Laurel Swinden, Elizabeth Reid and Noël Wan