

Common Supplications

Church of St. John the Evangelist

Common Supplications



PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY

We were a caravan of pilgrims making our way through the desert, through the wilderness, on our way to Jerusalem to celebrate the passover festival, as was our custom. But our journey was, not unlike other years, accompanied by dangers along the way. There were always challenges on this annual pilgrimage. But our ancestors had faced greater obstacles and made it.

We followed the Jordan River as much as we could. It was a source of life - water. But there came a point when we would leave the fertile Jordan and would have to follow the Jericho Road, which was well known as a place for bandits to hide out in caves. It was a dangerous route, there in the windswept hills of Judea, feeling sometimes like we were plunged into the valley of the shadow of death itself. From here it would all be uphill to Mount Zion.

It's always good to arrive at our destination. A few of the pilgrims incurred some injuries and bruises along the way, but there were no fatalities, so it seemed a successful journey. When we arrived at Jerusalem, we encountered a parade, a band of Galileans, shouting and praising a man riding on a donkey as the Messiah. Perhaps it was another political demonstration against the Roman Empire. Perhaps it was the inevitable revelry that accompanies all religious festivals - those young people. Best to keep our distance. It was, after all, the celebration of the Passover that brought us to the city, the annual reminder of our ancestral story of deliverance from death. That's why we were here; to remember our story.

It all seemed to be going well; until after the Passover, when we encountered another crowd in the streets. At first it appeared to be another parade, but this time it was different. We followed the crowd to a large square outside the Governor's portico. The number of people gathered there was almost at the dangerous tipping point of becoming a riot. Unsure if it was safe to stay, our curiosity pulled us in for a closer look. But not too close. The crowd shouted loudly, "Barabbas! Barabbas! Barabbas!" There was a commotion, and silence came over the crowd as if to await a verdict. It was clear that this was something to do with the Roman Empire, so it was best to keep our distance - if that was possible. Stay under the radar, and maybe they won't see us. Soldiers, horses, drunken revellers. Soon it became apparent what this was. The Empire consistently used the Jewish festivals as an opportunity to remind us who was in charge. Outside the city walls, the roadsides were lined with crucifixes still there from the last time. It was a stark and intentional reminder of what happens if we disobeyed, didn't pay our taxes, or lived our faith too loudly. Condemned to the valley of the shadow of death right into a tomb - if you were wealthy enough to have a tomb - otherwise most of the corpses were thrown into the Kidron Valley. Perhaps that's where this one ended up.

PILGRIMS ON A JOURNEY Cont'd

Three days later some people were heading home to Emmaus and they were reported to have said they saw him, walked with him, ate with him: that one who took Barabbas' place. They said that their hearts burned within them when they recognized him in the breaking of the bread. It was the Passover, our exodus. Could this really be true? They say so.

Do you believe this? This is *our* story. This is *your* story.

At St. John's, we are all pilgrims, on the journey somewhere between Galilee, Jerusalem and Emmaus. We gather together to hear and receive the testimony of those who were there. Come to St. John's this Holy Week to recall this story, to identify yourself in this story, and to be renewed in the hearing of it. It is a story intended for all of us. And, it is true.

God keep you on your journey.

Paul+

OUTREACH - WELLINGTON TERRACE LONG TERM CARE HOME

On the first Thursday of each month, except July and August, we meet at Wellington Terrace to celebrate Eucharist with the residents. We are assisted by the staff, to bring them into the chapel, and enjoy sharing the service with them. The volunteers meet at 10:00 am and the service begins at 10:45 am.

We have a printed program and music. If this an outreach you would like to join, we would be delighted to welcome you. Please contact Father Paul at the office, or Betty Knight at 519-843-1195, or

just join us, you'll be glad you did. Looking forward to reaching out to share this outreach program with our church family. Submitted by, Betty Knight

AN IMPORTANT PASTORAL VISITING QUESTION

Just this past week Father Paul and I were talking about the need to ensure we are reaching parishioners in the community that have a need for a pastoral visit. Our Common Supplications newsletter is a great means to ask that question.

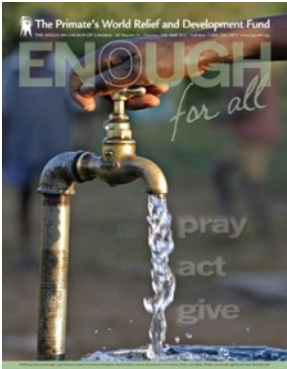
Do you know of anyone that is unable to attend church and would like to receive a pastoral visit and communion? If so please leave a message at the church office for either Father Paul or myself.

Did you know that the communion given during pastoral visits has been consecrated from a recent communion service at church? I think that this is a special way that we share a connection between those of us having communion in church with those of us not able to be in church.

Respectfully submitted as always,
Donna Keating

Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

Life-Giving Water



What are the first things that come to mind when you hear “water”? A cottage at the lake, swimming in a river? The vast expanse of the ocean? Drinking from a waterfall after a long, hot hike? We would hardly think of the water from the taps in our homes which we take it for granted. Do we remember that no individual or community can survive without water, or that water makes up about sixty percent of our bodies and is essential for all of our bodily functions?

Yet the meaning of water goes far beyond its physical function. The World Council of Churches Ecumenical Water Network invites us to reflect on water during the season of lent. Water is one of the most frequently occurring topics in the Bible, from the first page, when “the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters,” (Gen 1: 2), to the last page when in the book of Revelation the angel showed John “the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb,” (Rev 22:1). God gives or withholds water, uses it as a blessing or a punishment. At crucial historic moments water takes a central role:

- Out of the earth-covering flood, the rainbow emerges as a sign of God’s covenant with his creation (Gen. 9:15).
- During the exodus, God led the people of Israel safely through the Red Sea, drowning the pursuing Egyptians, their chariots and horses;
- In their 40 years of wandering in the desert, the Israelites are saved from dehydration when Moses strikes a rock at the command of God and water gushes out (Ex. 17).
- In the New Testament, St. Mark’s gospel and Jesus public ministry open with his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, and God the Father announces him as the beloved son (Mk. 1:8).
- In the meeting with the Samaritan woman, Jesus proclaimed that the water he will give “will become (in them) a spring of water gushing up to eternal life” (John 4:14).

Water in today’s world is a blessing for some that makes fertile land offer food for life. For others raging floods swallow fields, homes and lives.

A particular contemporary concern is “water grabbing”: mainly transnational companies in Africa, Asia and Latin America are diverting watersheds or polluting rivers and lakes, thus depriving whole communities from the essentials for living.

PWRDF Cont'd

Limiting or preventing access to water and sanitation is not only a violation of human rights, but an action against God's creation.



Most of PWRDF sponsored programs include the provision of clean, accessible, affordable water:

- In 2019, the Diocese of Masasi in Tanzania drilled 25 boreholes, providing clean water to 33,150 people. Access to clean water has contributed to the reduction of waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, typhoid, dysentery and conjunctivitis.



- Not all homes in rural Cuba have running water and not all water is safe. Churches across Cuba make safe water points available to villagers.



- In Pikangikum, NW Ontario, 10 additional houses were fitted with a water tank and indoor plumbing thanks to a PWRDF contribution of \$340,000.



before

and now



This Lent, will you try to become more aware of the water consumption in your home? Will you find new ways of reducing what you use and giving thanks for the gift of safe, affordable and accessible water?

Will you assist others in God's family to enjoy the same gift of life-giving water? Mark your donation "PWRDF / Water".

"When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the Lord will answer them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys" (Is. 41: 17-18).

ST. JOHN'S IN HISTORY—#16

In my last edition, we got the current St. John's Church built and decorated. As a follow up, and remembering the child's hand game:

Here's the Church,

Here's the steeple.

Open the doors,

And there's all the people.

ARCHIVES

Again I'm quoting from the October 8th, 1875 edition of the Elora Observer with the title "The Opening Services".

The new church was formally opened for divine service on Sunday the 3rd Inst., when service was performed in it three times, at each of which the church was literally crammed with people, every seat was occupied, double rows of chairs were placed in the aisles and every available space, and a large number unable to find sitting room, stood. In the evening no service was held in Knox Church in compliment to the congregation of St. John's. Morning service commenced at 10:30. The Rev. Mr. Graham of Erin read the first portion of the prayers, the Rev. Mr. Hooper of Glenallan, the lessons and the prayers following the lessons until the end of the 3rd collect, and the Rev. Mr. Fessenden, of Fergus, the concluding portion of the prayers, after which the Bishop of Niagara confirmed fourteen candidates. The first prayers, the commandments and the gospel in the Communion Service were read by the Bishop, and epistle by the Rev. C. E. Thomson, the incumbent of the Church. The Bishop preached a remarkably clear and impressive sermon from the 13th verse of the 77th Psalm. The afternoon service commenced at three o'clock, the Rev. Mr. Fessenden preaching, and the evening service at 7 o'clock, at which the Rev. C. E. Thomson read the first portion of the prayers, and the Rev. Mr. Fessenden, the lessons and concluding portion of the prayers, the Bishop preaching from Romans, Chap. 12, v. 1. The hymns at each service were well selected, and the tunes such as the congregation could heartily join in. Mr. Cameron, presenter of Trinity College, Toronto, led the choir, which performed its part very accurately, reflecting great credit on his training. The church possesses a good organ, but a new one, the manufacture of Messrs. Bell & Co. of Guelph, and lent by their agent, Mr. Chas. Biggar, of Salem, was used on this occasion and presided at by Miss Chinneck, whose execution showed her to be a thorough musician. Collections were taken up at each service, and a handsome sum realized in aid of the building fund.*

**Rev. Thomas Brock Fuller*

Submitted by,

Susan Edwards

WARDEN'S MESSAGE

The Lenten season is a gift that helps us focus anew in prayer and thanksgiving for refreshment of body, spirit and the church. May we use this time so that we are fully able to embrace Easter and the miracle of God's love.

Father Paul has issued an appeal to raise additional funds to help meet our budgeted expenses for the current year. After five years of no budget increases, the realities of inflation and Parish growth have made this necessary. The Rector's plan is to ask one hundred people to increase their monthly contributions by an average of \$20.00, (or the cost of one latte a week!) If successful, this will cover our increased costs. If you have not already done so, please consider enrolling in Pre-Authorized Giving. Forms are available at the back of the church and in the Parish Centre.

Our gratitude is extended to Elizabeth and Stan Litch for their donation of an electronic keyboard. It is available for use in Thompson Hall.

Significant springtime dates:

The 2019 Patronal Festival is scheduled for Sunday, May 5. Be sure to mark your calendar for this important time of sharing, communal and spiritual growth.



John Wiens, our new Director of Music, will be conducting for the first time on Sunday, May 19. Come out and help welcome John to our parish.

St. John's will become a member of the Anglican Foundation of Canada. This foundation seeks to foster Anglican presence by providing resources for innovative ministry, diverse infrastructure projects and theological formation throughout the Canadian church. We believe this membership will assist us in fund raising, notably for future capital projects.

A committee has been formed to explore our ongoing commitment to the Parish Choir and the Choir Fund. It is hoped that a clear vision of the Choir's role, clearer communication regarding costs and fund raising will ensure solid footing for the future. We are pleased that Director of Music, John Wiens is able to share his vision and insight with the committee. If you have comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the wardens.

In the margin of his Bible Commentary, J. S. Bach wrote,

"Where there is devotional music, God with his grace is always present."

This is a tenet that many parishioners will automatically hold, blessed as we are to meet God in the gift of music. Our renowned Parish Choir leads in prayer and praise through anthems, canticles and psalms. The choir, with inspiring organ accompaniment, also leads our spirited congregational singing. These musical attributes are among the notable hallmarks of St. John's. Please be sure to show your financial support by marking your contributions to the Choir Fund.

Submitted by Marcus Kramer,

On Behalf of the Wardens

SPRING REPORT BUILDING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

While the B & P committee has not yet met this year, two projects which were to be tackled last year are currently in the planning stages for this year. Thanks to the ongoing generosity of the members of this parish in designating some of their givings for the capital repair of the Church building, the required funding is available and the corporation has been able to approve proceeding.

Due to poor weather last fall, no work was done on stained glass restoration in 2018. So, this year Hanscomb Glass will do two year's worth of work starting in the spring. The two side chancel windows, the two entrance quatrefoils and the west entrance and vestry windows

will all be addressed at an approximate cost of \$14,000. This will bring to a conclusion the project begun in 2009 to restore all Church stained glass. We should be in good shape for at least 25 years before another assessment will be in order. Only a very small amount of masonry repair was undertaken last year as I waited too long before attempting to book a mason, and all were booked up! This year, we got in the queue early and have a meeting arranged shortly to get an estimate on repairing mortar lines and replacing some brick in various places in the walls, buttresses and the bell tower. While this will likely be a project that stretches over several years, we

have budgeted about \$4,500 for this year's work.

As in past years, we will hold a "spring cleaning" to vacuum up some of the grit and dust that gets into the nave and chancel seating, the duct work and corners. As well, with the snow disappearing, the Church gardeners will be holding a "garden party" Please keep an eye on the bulletin for dates and times and if able, join in the fun!

Submitted by,
Walter Langford



Memorial Flowers for Easter

If you are interested in making a donation towards Easter flowers in memory of loved ones, please contact the church office 519.846.5911. If you would like flowers for any given Sunday throughout the year, please contact Elaine Dightam through the office, with the names of loved ones. You are invited to make a donation as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Director of Music

We look forward to welcoming John Wiens, our new Director of Music, on May 15.

John comes to us from Winnipeg, where he is artistic director and co-founder of Polycoro Chamber Choir, conductor and co-curator of Camerata Nova, and Director of Music for the Church of St. Michael and All Angels.

Born into a musical family with Mennonite roots in small-town Manitoba, John aspired to be a musician from an early age and found his liturgical and musical home in the Anglican church. He studied violin at the age of four, and sang in choirs throughout his childhood. He holds degrees in Violin, Voice, and Conducting, from CMU, McGill, and the University of Sherbrooke respectively. His conducting career has ranged from Belgium (University Chorus for L'Université Catholique de Louvain) to Morocco (Ensemble Voca Me) to Montreal (St. Matthias Anglican Church in Westmount) and Winnipeg (Polycoro, Camerata Nova).

John is constantly expanding his knowledge of music ancient and modern. An innovative programmer known for his wide repertoire, John's inquisitiveness and love of investigation naturally leads to the performance of new music, or shining a light on compositions at risk of being forgotten. We have found John to be a thoughtful, warm and respectful person of faith, and a gifted musician who is keen to offer those gifts to inspire others in the work of the church and upholding our music programs in the community.

When not conducting, John is in demand as a clinician, guest conductor, and adjudicator. He loves spending his spare time with his wife and sons in the kitchen or outdoors, though he still finds time to be an avid fencer and reader.

We trust that you will be as delighted as we are to welcome John Wiens to St. John's.

Parish Council

Last year, members of council identified five priorities that they felt were important to address in the next two year period: Social Justice and Outreach; Online Presence; Welcoming Newcomers; Children and Youth; Accessibility.

This year, council intends to set up working groups under these five priority areas so that by Vestry next year we can report what we have accomplished together. If you are interested to work on or with any of these five priority areas, please speak to a member of the parish council and become involved in a working group.

Here are the members of Parish Council:

Members at Large: Tez Darnell, Ian Hornsby, Ken Reid, Elizabeth Litch, Stan Litch, Dave Tinker, Colleen Murray, Susan Edwards.

Synod Members: Nancy Scott, Thomas Littlewood, Eileen Cole-Perkins.

Alternate Synod Members: Ian Rice, Lynne Jelokhani.

Christ Church Drayton Member: Paula Richter.

Wardens: Peter Barr, Diana Spearn, Marcus Kramer, Emily Petrenko.

Treasurer: Lorna Kearns.

Givings: Barbara Gow.

Property: Walter Langford

Anglican Journal

If you wish to continue receiving the Anglican Journal and Niagara Anglican newspapers, please contact them to confirm your subscription.

Call: 1-866-333-0959

Online: anglicanjournal.com/yes

Please respond by June 30 to ensure your subscription to the Journal and the Niagara Anglican newspapers continues.

Palm Cross Making

You are invited to learn how to make a palm cross on Saturday April 13 at 10:00am. The palm crosses that we make together will be used for our liturgies on Palm Sunday, April 14.

House Cleaning

In preparation for Holy Week and Easter you are invited to a church house cleaning on Friday April 5 at 10:00am to 12noon. More hands make less work. For more information contact Walter Langford or Pam Gradwell, and please let them know you are able to come.

Prayers for our Church

Bishops, clergy and lay people from the 30 dioceses across Canada gather once every three years at General Synod to set our liturgies, priorities and mission as the Anglican Church in Canada. In preparation for their 42nd meeting this July in Vancouver, the House of Bishops met in the middle of March to prepare a list of nominees for Primate, who will serve as the new Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Canada. Our Primate, Fred Hiltz, who will be retiring in July, asks us to pray for this period of discernment. In July General Synod will gather under the theme of "I have called you by Name" to elect a new Primate and, amongst other things, they will vote on the Marriage Canon, the role of First Nations peoples to self governance as a church, human trafficking, our stewardship of creation, the role of the Anglican Journal, and more. For further information visit www.anglican.ca/news.

Bishop's Company

Monday May 27, 6:00pm

Michelangelo's Event and Conference Centre, Hamilton.

The Bishop's Company provides a community of people across the Diocese of Niagara who support the Bishop's discretionary fund which supports clergy, lay workers and their families in times of crisis, need or transition. The fund was established under Bishop Walter Bagnall in January 1951 and has become an invaluable source of assistance for things outside our diocesan budget or benefits plan.

This year, our Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, is the guest speaker.

The cost is \$75 per person if we are able to secure a table of ten people from St. John's.

If you are interested to attend, please contact Fr. Paul before May 1st.

Water Security

Africa Community Technical Service Society, otherwise known as ACTS, is a Canadian organization based in Vancouver that helps provide fresh water to communities, particularly in Uganda. At St. John's, we have supported this organization for a number of years, and it was a delight to welcome their Executive Director, Jeff Golby, to St. John's last November.

Did you know that last year St. John's was able to provide **89,352 litres** of clean safe water to people who otherwise wouldn't have this?

Thank you for your generosity. For more information visit acts.ca or contact Suzanne Kienapple.

"Water is our love language."

Canadian Bible Society

The Centre Wellington Branch of the Canadian Bible Society is hosting their annual dinner gathering on Friday April 6, 6:30pm at Alma Bible Church, 59 Peel Street East, Alma.

Cost: \$20 (advance only)

Speaker: Rev Lisa Pik (Ontario-Nunavut Regional Director)

For tickets please call John Agar, 519-820-7964.

St. John's Church

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Visit our website:
www.stjohnselora.ca



Regular Sunday Services at St. John's are:
8 a.m. BCP Holy Eucharist (said)
9 a.m. BAS Contemporary Eucharist
11 a.m. BCP Choral Eucharist (1st and 3rd Sundays); BCP Choral
Mattins (2nd and 4th Sundays)
Monday - Friday 8:45–9:15 am Mattins (in church)
Regular mid-week Eucharist on Wednesday at 10:30 am



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St. John's Elora

Lent/Easter at St. John's

The Rev'd Paul Walker
Rector

The Rev'd Canon Robert Hulse
Rector Emeritus

The Rev'd John Lockyer
Honorary Assistant

The Rev'd David Mulholland
Honorary Assistant

Catherine Robertson
Interim Choirmaster

Emily Petrenko
Youth Choir Director

Jurgen Petrenko
Titular Organist and Volunteer Choir Director

April	18	Maundy Thursday	6:30 pm	Choral Eucharist (Men's Voices)
April	19	Good Friday	11 am	Ante-Communion & Reproaches (Parish Choir)
April	21	Easter Sunday	8 am 9 am 11:00 am	Holy Eucharist Contemporary Eucharist Choral Eucharist
May	5	Feast of St. John the Evangelist	11 am	Choral Eucharist Patronal Festival and Lunch
May	12	Easter III	11 am	Lessons and Carols for Eastertide (parish choir)
May	30	Ascension Day (Thursday)	6:30 pm	Choral Evensong
June	2	Sunday	3:00 pm	Coronation Evensong Guest Preacher The Rev'd Rob Mitchell