



St. John the Evangelist Church

3428 Portage Road, Niagara Falls, Ontario Phone: 905-354-1227

Opening for Worship

Our re opening plan has been approved and now we simply have to follow it ! So unless something drastic happens we can expect to gather for worship on the 13th of September for the first time since March – it will be a very good day!

As part of this plan there is a “poster” included in today’s mailing that shows how we propose people receive communion, with thanks to our model and photographer (Judy & Karen).

Good News – it’s worth sharing more than once !

Our investments have pretty much returned to their pre Covid-19 levels. As of our most recent statement our Endowment Fund has a balance of \$111,462.52 and our Rectory Fund has a balance of \$152,969.82. Making a total of \$264,432.34! And while much of the capital is protected and not ever to be spent, the interest earned on these investments greatly supports our annual budget.

We continue to receive support from the Federal Government for our payroll and will do so until November at this point. As part of that we have to maintain a record each month of our revenue and report it to the Diocese. The good news is that from March to July our revenue from parishioners, in the form of your regular donations, in 2020 is \$26,224.00 in 2019 it was \$28,031.

So, year to year we are down only \$1,807.00 or 6.4%. The majority of this decrease was in “Easter” offerings; with no service we didn’t see the usual uptick in giving at Easter. But overall, given that we haven’t been worshipping in Church since March it is very commendable that so many of us have remained faithful in our offerings to support the ministry of St. John’s.

The wardens’ and I thank you very much for your ongoing commitment!

Some Sad News

Bill Cowan has made the decision to retire as our caretaker as of the end of September this year. He has done a wonderful job of maintaining our building and we will miss the signs he has put up over the years very much! We wish Bill all the best in the future.

This does mean that we have a job opening and are accepting applications. If you know anyone looking for a part time job, please let them know. They can apply by e-mail to me at gladding236@gmail.com

MARK+

SUNDAY WORSHIP FOR THE 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Call to Worship

Out of a world of cut-throat competition,
of winners-and-losers,
and too many left behind
we come together.

**The world's ways are not our ways.
The world's ways are not Christ's ways.**

Out of a world of hatred, violence,
individualism, and life-taking power
we gather as *Koinonia*, as God's people.

**God's ways are inclusive, expansive,
and life-giving for all peoples.**

Come and worship the One whose love knows no limits!
Swim and splash in the cleansing waters of divine community!
Resurrect your spirits and souls in worship of the One!

Praise be to the Everlasting One!

~ written by Tim Graves, and posted on *LiturgyBits*.
<https://liturgybits.wordpress.com>

Collect of the Day

God, you are the power of liberation,
calling your servant Moses
to lead your people into freedom,
and giving him the wisdom to proclaim your holy
law.

Be our Passover from the land of injustice,
be the light that leads us to the perfect rule of love,
that we may be citizens of your unfettered reign;
we ask this through Jesus Christ,
the pioneer of our salvation. Amen.



Exodus Chapter 3, Verses: 1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors

has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

Then Israel came to Egypt; Jacob lived as an alien in the land of Ham.

And the LORD made his people very fruitful, and made them stronger than their foes,
whose hearts he then turned to hate his people, to deal craftily with his servants.

He sent his servant Moses, and Aaron whom he had chosen.

Praise the LORD!

Glory be to God our Maker,
to Jesus the Christ,
and to the Holy Spirit who dwells in our midst,
both now and forever. Amen.

Romans Chapter 12, Verses:9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matthew Chapter 16, Verses:21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "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 will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

A Sermon for the 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 3:1-15

So here we have Moses tending the flocks of his father-in-law. A pretty big step down the ladder for a former prince of Egypt; not a one of us has even had a sniff of the power, wealth and authority that Moses once held. This morning we encounter him at a rung of the social ladder roughly equal to the guy who picks up your recycling. Life does that to some folks, throws us a curve ball we never expected. And while maybe lightning doesn't strike twice – God it seems has no such limit!

"The angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush." It's easy to get caught up with the fire and angel and forget that God is simply appearing to Moses in the normal ongoing activities of his life. Too often, it seems, we want to confine God to some religious/spiritual place or time – the record of the bible is that God keeps showing up in the everyday lives of folks the rest of us have given up on as failures – guys like Moses down on their luck.

There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."

Moses does, in this instance, something most of us don't have time for – he turns aside. We busy and important folks we don't have time for that. So often we fail to turn aside, we don't build into our lives moments of beauty, silence, or even prayer. But it's not till he turns aside that the dialogue with God happen for Moses. *When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him.* You can't imagine that God is going to deal with you and me any differently than she did with Moses.

It's always struck me as bit odd that God feels the need to make an introduction to Moses; *"I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."* There is a ton of theology just in that sentence. A quick list; eternity is implied notice the tense is not past; God wasn't the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – God is the God of them present tense, now! God is in a particular relationship with these folks – God's people and as we soon hear in this passage God has been paying attention to them. And God is somehow the God of our pasts, our present and our future. There is no part of our lives that God is cut off from – unless of course we seek to push God to the margins – where God will simply wait till we're ready to, as Moses did, turn aside and notice.

God has some pretty big plans for Moses; God has plans, dreams, for all of us. In George Bernard Shaw's play, Saint Joan, there is a revealing bit of dialogue. Joan is trying to get Charles, the miserable Dauphin of France to take action and show some courage. She says to him, "Charlie, there is one thing you have never learned." He asks in a timid voice, "What's that, Joan?" She says, "Charlie, you have never learned that we are put into this world, not to do our own business, but to do God's business."

And Moses is not so different from you or I, he hears God's plan for him and says you've got to be kidding – God you've got the wrong person. It's so much easier for us to accept the world's opinion of us and not hear God's. And Moses hears from God the simple message that we still find so difficult to accept, *"I will be with you."* That is all. The totality of our Holy Scriptures points to it, one of the great teachings of our faith, is simply God's statement of fact *"I will be with you."* God's divine presence in our lives is sufficient to meet our needs.

A few hundred years ago when theology was the crown jewel of the university, and the largest building on campus was the Church and not the Medical school the president of Harvard reminded us that “we are to be the Lord’s remembrancers.” Our duty, our business in this world is to remember the likes of Moses and the mighty deeds that God did through him and the cast of characters that make up our Holy Books. From Genesis to Revelation the Bible is a story book of men and woman and their relationship with God. The patriarchs, judges, kings and prophets of Israel, the apostles, martyrs, and saints of the New Testament world, the ‘great cloud of witnesses’ that Paul writes of – all living testimonies revealing God’s continuing grace.

A bright Greek philosopher once wrote, “A people are known by the heroes they crown. Tell me whom you admire and I will tell you who you are.” Without question Moses is one of the great heroes of our faith. And he fits a particular even puzzling pattern.

The heroes of our faith, without exception, had in addition to the unique qualities that commended them to their fellows and to God, have about them a participation in struggle, failure, and apparent defeat. Not a single one is exempt from the inner struggles that haunt us all, such as Adam’s hiding from God, Jacob’s questionable ethics, Jonah’s anger, Peter’s thick headedness on display this morning and of course his denial, Paul’s thorn in the flesh, Jesus’ cry of desolation, and of import to this morning Moses’ guilt, fall from grace, and stuttering that we so often choose to ignore. And the list goes on and on.

These folks are human beings, believable, frail and flawed like you and I – and that makes the divine about them bearable. When our forebears spoke of the likes of Moses, they saw him and all their heroes as mirrors of faith in which God could be found and through which God could do God’s work in us. The remembrances of the likes of Moses was a reminder that God has always taken frail flesh and made of it something of his own for his own. And what God has done with our foreparents God can and will do with us, if only we’ll let God in to do it.

Over and over scripture tells us that we are the heirs of the promise, all of us are the heirs of those fruits of the spirit that Paul marvels at in the reading we read from Romans this morning. The true miracle of Moses’ life is what is promised and present in ours.

God has chosen to inject Godself into this world where she is both needed and often not wanted. Such is God’s love for us that he sends himself and gives us dreams to disturb our slumber and dreamers who dared to turn aside and listen to the divine voice and who now disturb our waking hours with dreams of God’s justice.

Surely that is the Good News God has given us to remember and share with the world and one another. Surely our calling is no less than that of our forebear Moses’ - to set ourselves and all of God’s people free to dream God’s dreams. Amen.

A Testimony of Faith

Into the silence of the void the Creator spoke,
and the world came into being.
The Word of God in the vastness brought light from darkness,
matter from nothing,
flesh from dust,
life from lifelessness.

In the quiet of a small town in Palestine
the Word of God came to us.
Even though of one being with the Creator,
Jesus our Christ, taking on human form, was born,
lived and walked among us,
speaking the words of life.
He was crucified, died, and was buried.
He rose from the dead and speaks to us today.
He is the one who saves us from ourselves.

In the stillness of our souls the Spirit of God,
who is one with the Creator and the Christ,
whispers the Word,
and calls us back to the Creator,
back to the Christ,
back to the wholeness of everlasting life
in the unity of the Creator, Christ and Spirit.

*~ from Ash Wednesday (Silence) written by Lisa Frenz for
Mt. Carmel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Portland, Oregon.
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The Prayers of the People

Let us give thanks for the remarkable gifts
of God's creating and redeeming love,
the loving that casts out all fear.

For the love that frees us to ask questions and explore,
to frame doubts and investigate new possibilities,
to build theories and then cross-examine them.
We thank you, God of adventurous love.

For the love that enables us to marvel at our own existence,
to ponder and remember,
recognize our own needs
and affirm our own knowledge and purpose.
We thank you, God of determined love.

For the love that helps us to communicate with one another,
to express trust and respect,
share heartaches and visions,
to convey love and mercy.
We thank you, God of reconciling love.

For the love that inspires us to warmly encourage those around us,
to affirm and build up, comfort and enlighten.

In the **Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for the United Church of South India, The Most Revd Dharmaraj Rasalam - Moderator of CSI & Bishop of South Kerala;

For our **Bishops** Linda our Primate, Mark our National Indigenous Archbishop, Anne our Metropolitan, and Susan our Bishop;

In the **Diocese of Niagara**, we pray for St. John, Rockwood, the Reverend Jody Balint, Priest-in-Charge and the people of that parish;

For all the clergy and people who share in the ministry of St. John's.

Today we pray for the following **people and their families**: Gary & Wendy McIntosh, Venita McLaren, Barbara Menno, Peter Milinkovich, Michael & Ihma Miljus.

And in our **community** we give thanks and pray for those who volunteer and offer leadership to Wellspring Cancer Support Group.

We remember those who are close to us, for **those who are in need of our prayers**: Lucas, Maria, Kelly-Lynne, Michelle + Karen, Jan, Aisling, Helen, Bev, Kathy, Adam, Wendy & Gary, Maryse, Gary, Cassandra & Max, Shirley, Lee, Mary, Barb, Mylee, Betty, Patti, David, the Guerin family the Sorley family, baby Parker, Betty, Margaret, Janice, Pat, Michael, Larry, Liam, and for others who have not named, ...

We thank you, God of nurturing love.

For the love that liberates us to celebrate the world around us
in poetry and song,
to delight in shapes and colours, intricacies and patterns,
awesome forces and deep mysteries.
We thank you God of visionary love.

For the love that encourages us to express something of our faith;
for creeds and prayers, hymns and readings,
discussion groups and sermons.
We thank you, God of creative love.

Above all else we thank you for the love that allows us to admit that we have no words in which to adequately describe the process of faith in Christ, the awesome worship of our God, and the holy wonder of the Spirit. We thank you for that point where our love becomes wordless adoration. Through Christ Jesus, who is the pure glory of your loving. Amen!

*~ written by Bruce Prewer and posted on
Bruce Prewer's Home Page. <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>*

A Prayer of Confession

(inspired by Matthew 16:24-26, Mark 8:31-38)

God, we humble ourselves now in confession:
We want to be followers of Jesus,
but we do not always want to follow Jesus.
We don't even want to listen
when the conversation turns toward darkness and death.
We prefer to indulge ourselves.
We are eager to put down our crosses.
We cling tightly to our lives.
We grasp at worldly rewards.

Holy and loving God,
forgive all of our thoughts and actions
that would protect us from the path of Christ.

*~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on
Spacious Faith. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>*

A Lord's Prayer

Eternal Spirit, Father and Mother of us all,
Holy is your name.

Let justice and mercy fill all Creation and let us recognize
that every thought and thing belongs to you.

Feed us with the bread we need for today.
Forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Stand with us in trial and temptation.
Free us from the grip of all that is evil.

For you alone are creating our universe,
now and forever. **Amen.**

— from the ***Seekers Church***, a Christian community
in the tradition of the Church of the Saviour.

Blessing & Dismissal

Go now as those raised with Christ,
wondering at God's great love
and telling the story of your salvation.
Be on your guard against all kinds of greed
and set your minds on the ways of heaven.

And may God reach out to you and nourish you;
May Christ Jesus renew you in the image of your creator;
And may the Holy Spirit lead you with cords of kindness and love.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

...In the name of Christ. **Amen.**

He Died Fighting in Defence of His Native Land

John Harriman Mewburn (1845-1866)



There is a grave in our Historic St. John's Anglican Church Cemetery that tells a particularly heartbreaking story about a young man named John Harriman Mewburn.

His grave has two separate headstones. One was put in place shortly after his death on June 2, 1866. Over the years the inscription on this first headstone eroded and made it difficult to read.



Consequently, a second headstone made of granite was erected right beside the first one.



Rifleman John Harriman Mewburn served with the volunteer company (No. 9) of University of Toronto students that was part of The Queen's Own Rifles. He had just completed his third year of studies. It was common back in those days for Universities to have their own student militias.

Mewburn was born in 1845, the only son of Emily Sutton and Harrison Chilton Mewburn from Stamford, near Niagara Falls, and had graduated from Upper Canada College in Toronto in 1863. His father had then scraped together nearly \$400 (\$10,680 in 2005 dollars) to put him through a year of school, but his grades were so good that he was expected to win the annual University College Scholarship.

On June 1st 1866, he was called out from his final exams to go to Ridgeway to defend Canada against the Fenian invaders. The members of student militias were never supposed to take part in actual combat. Usually they were posted as guards.

However, for whatever reasons, John Harriman Mewburn became engaged in actual combat at the Battle of Ridgeway.

He sustained a head wound and was left on the field, dying in Fenian custody. The Fenians behaved relatively gallantly everywhere, but in this one case, they treated him rather roughly. He was tied and thrown onto a floor of a cabin where he would eventually die.

A fellow student and soldier, Adam Wright, recalled that Mewburn had a beautiful singing voice and that one of his favourite songs was Dulce et Decorum est pro patria mori ("It is sweet and fitting to die for one's country".)

He was buried at our St John's Anglican Church Cemetery in Stamford, Niagara.

John Harriman Mewburn, who had so much to live for, died at the very young age of 21 years fighting in defence of his native land.



Here is the link join in our coffee hour @ 10:30 a.m. Sunday mornings.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73230056627?pwd=YVZSS05Yck5CZXRWR2FpN1B0M3RsZz09>

Meeting ID: 732 3005 6627 Passcode: St.John

Happy Birthday !



Sarah Laugher – September 1st

