

Sunday May 5th 2024

6th Sunday of Easter

Anglican Parish of Lantz



Our Mission

*To be a diverse ministering community
making Christ's presence known in the world around us.*

Sunday Morning Worship

9:30 St. George's Church: 1089 Highway 277, Dutch Settlement

11:00 Christ Church: 14 Church St., Lantz

Parish Clergy

Rev'd Dr. Jane Magrath

Rev'd Patty McKenna

Our Worship Today

We acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq who have been living on these lands since time immemorial. Recognizing this is a small but meaningful step in reconciliation and the continued efforts of building a strong Nation-to-Nation relationship, as we are all Treaty People.

Call to Worship: *(standing)*

Alleluia, Christ is risen! **He is risen, indeed -- Alleluia**

Let the whole earth praise the Lord! Let the mountains and hills proclaim God's handiwork! Let the seas roar and the waves crash in symphonies of praise! Let all creation sing God's new song of love!

Praise be to God who has created and is creating anew!

Praise be to God who re-creates God's love in us each day!

Loving, creative God, we praise and bless you for your mighty acts of creation. As we gather here this day we hear your message of power and love through the witness of Jesus Christ as he prepared his disciples for his departure. He gave to them the words of encouragement about living in your love, and through that love being witnesses to the whole world of your peace and hope. Be with us this day, God. Open our hearts and minds to receive your word. **Amen**

Collect for Purity:

Almighty God: **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Opening Hymn: Sing a New Song Unto the Lord (CP# 312)

**Sing a new song unto the Lord; Let your song be sung from mountains high
Sing a new song unto the Lord; Singing alleluia**

**Yahweh's people dance for joy; O come before the Lord
And play for him on glad tambourines; And let your trumpet sound.
Sing a new song unto the Lord; Let your song be sung from mountains high
Sing a new song unto the Lord; Singing alleluia.**

**Rise, O children, from your sleep; Your Savior now has come
He has turned your sorrow to joy; And filled your soul with song.
Sing a new song unto the Lord; Let your song be sung from mountains high
Sing a new song unto the Lord; Singing alleluia.**

**Glad my soul for I have seen; The glory of the Lord
The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be raised; I know my Savior lives
Sing a new song unto the Lord; Let your song be sung from mountains high
Sing a new song unto the Lord; Singing alleluia. Singing alleluia.**

The Collect:

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you, riches beyond imagination. Pour into our hearts such love toward you, that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Pattern and our Purpose, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Prayer for Illumination:

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. **Amen.**

Proclamation of the Word:

The 1st Reading: A Reading from the Book of Acts (Acts 10:44-48)
(After the reading)

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm: Psalm 98

O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things.

His right hand and his holy arm have gained him victory.

The Lord has made known his victory;

he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn

make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Amen

The Gradual: (3x: quietly and then louder and louder)

Christ has died, Alleluia / Christ is risen, Alleluia

Christ will come again, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Gospel:

God be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of Jesus the Christ according to John (15:9-17)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

(After the reading)

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon

Easter Creed (*Andreas Wagner*):

I believe in the God of Easter morning

Who awakes us from our darkest dreams

And leads us into the light of a new day,

Who meets our pessimism with the stunning hope

Of angelic proclamation.

I believe in the God of Easter Day

Who beats us to the obstacles in our lives

And empties the dark tomb for us;

Who appears in surprising ways when we least expect it;

Walking with us on our detours.

I believe in the God of Easter evening

Who breaks into the prisons of our world and our minds,

Holding us in our fear and bringing peace.

And I believe in the risen Christ who meets us

with wounds on his hands and feet;

Who grants us his spirit,

Sending us out to bring Shalom to the world. Amen.

Prayers of the People:

We pray for the church, the world, our community, and those known to us, remembering especially those in particular need. We respond to each petition saying, 'to love one another'.

Confession & Absolution:

Call to Confession:

Merciful God: we often find it difficult to love others as you command.

We seek our own security before the wellbeing of others. We fulfill our own desires rather than act for the common good. Forgive us.

Redirect our priorities, and renew our commitment to live out your love, even when that demands more of us than we expect.

Confession:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Jesus the Christ. Amen

Celebrations:

We celebrate special occasions in the lives our parish family

O God, our times are in your hand: look with favour, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace; and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Exchanging of the Peace:

May the peace of the risen Christ be with you. And also with you.

Offertory Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (CP# 486)

Love Divine, all love excelling; Joy of heav'n, to earth come down;
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling; All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion; Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation; Enter every trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never; Never more Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing; Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing; Glory in Thy perfect love.

[Musical interlude]

Finish, then, Thy new creation; Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation; Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory; Till with Thee we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee; Lost in wonder, love and praise.

Prayer over the Gifts:

Christ reminds us that lovers of God must be lovers of people. And so, we are invited to show our love as we offer ourselves and our gifts to Christ, to Christ's church, and to one another. May we share freely and generously the love and abundance that God has given us.

Generous God, may the gifts we return to you cause your name to be celebrated among the nations. May the lives that we live cause your name to be celebrated in all generations. May our offerings be signs of our praise to you, forever and ever. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer (ACC: Supplementary Eucharistic Prayer 1)

May God be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**
Let us give thanks to God our Creator.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, Lover of creation, we give you thanks and praise;
for in the ocean of your steadfast love you bear us and place the song of your Spirit in our hearts.

When we turn from your love and defile the earth, you do not abandon us. Your Spirit speaks through Huldah and Micah, through prophets, sages, and saints in every age, to confront our sin and reveal the vision of your new creation. Joining in the song of the universe we proclaim your glory saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Gracious God,
in the fullness of time you sent Jesus the Christ to share our fragile humanity. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection you open the path from brokenness to health, from fear to trust, from pride and conceit to reverence for you. Rejected by a world that could not bear the Gospel of life, Jesus knew death was near. His head anointed for burial by an unknown woman, Jesus gathered together those who loved him.

He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave you thanks, and said "Drink this all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

And now we gather at this table in response to his commandment, to share the bread and cup of Christ's undying love, and to proclaim our faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Breathe your Holy Spirit, the wisdom of the universe, upon these gifts that we bring to you: this bread, this cup, ourselves, our souls and bodies, that we may be signs of your love for all the world and ministers of your transforming purpose.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, Creator of all, and we bless your holy name for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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 those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.**

We died with you on the cross. **Now we are raised to new life.**
We were buried in your tomb. **Now we share in your resurrection.**
Live in us, that we may live in you. **Thanks be to God**

All are welcome to share in the bread and/or the wine. People are invited to sit while awaiting Communion

Music at Communion: *They'll Know We are Christians by our Love*

Announcements:

As Jesus calls us as disciples, God sends us out to serve others in the world. Let us share with one another the events of our parish and community this week.

Closing Prayers: *Standing, let us return our thanks to God.*

Abide with us and within us, O Holy One. Transform us with your love; And send us out to be that love in a world hungry for kindness and compassion. Strengthen us that we may grow into your likeness with courage and conviction. Live in us, that we may live in you, and live as your abiding presence in the world. In faith and trust, we pray. **Amen**

Glory to God

Whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing:

Go in the peace of Christ, to witness to his love in truth and action each day. And may God's resurrecting love open the future for you, empowered by the Spirit, and embraced by the presence of Jesus the Christ. May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with you all, now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: Forth in Thy Name (CP# 47)

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, / my daily labor to pursue,
Thee, only thee, resolved to know / in all I think or speak or do.

The task thy wisdom hath assigned, / O let me cheerfully fulfill;
in all my works thy presence find, / and prove thy good and perfect will.

Thee, may I set at my right hand; / Whose eyes mine in most substance see.
And labor on at thy command / and offer all my works to thee.

For Thee delightfully employ / whate'er thy bounteous grace hath giv'n:
And run my course with even joy / and closely walk with thee to heav'n.

Dismissal:

Let us go out as people open to the way of the Christ -- walking in the footsteps of Jesus. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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