

Service of Ante-Communion – 02 May 2021- Easter 5

Acknowledgement and Thanksgiving for the Land

Creator, you made all people of every land. It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect to those who first occupied this land we live and worship upon. We give thanks to the first people of this land: the Anishinaabe, the Attawandaron, the Haudenosaunee, the Metis and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. We ask for courage as we partner with them to heal the earth, and to end the racism and injustice they endure and work for reconciliation. Amen.

Birthday Pig. This Sunday we say a prayer for all celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month.

Piano Meditation

Karine+: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Response: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Karine+: May His grace and peace be with you.

R: May He fill our hearts with joy.

Hymn: O God, in your love (The Singer and the Song, 307)

O God, in your love, you have made us unique:

In gifts and traditions, in service we seek,

In race and in culture and family design

Diverse are the branches in Jesus the Vine.

Lord Jesus, you came to bring God's love on earth;

You welcomed the outcasts and showed us our worth.

You reached out to people whom others despised

You said all are precious in God's loving eyes.

O Christ, with your welcome your church feels unease:

We stand at closed doors tightly holding the keys.

Yet this is your body, the church that you love

O Lord, do you weep for your church from above?

So may your church welcome in loving accord

All people who want to serve Jesus our Lord.

O Spirit, unite us in Jesus the Son

In mission and ministry, God, make us one.

The Collect for Purity

Karine+: Almighty God,

All: 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.

Glory to God in the highest

and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,

Almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The Proclamation of the Word

Acts 8:26-40 read by Jimmy Munuthi

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles,

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this

chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22:24-30 led by Deacon Nina Page

My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: "May your heart live forever!" All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him. For kingship belongs to the Lord; he rules over the nations. To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him. My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord's forever. They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

Let us Pray: Father, your tortured Son felt abandoned, and cried out in anguish from the cross, yet you delivered him. He overcame the bonds of death and rose in triumph from the grave. Do not hide your face from those who cry out to you: feed the hungry, strengthen the weak, and break the chains of the oppressed, that your people may rejoice in your saving deeds. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

1 John 4:7-21 read by Jimmy Munuthi

A reading from the first letter of John,

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live

through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God.

Sequence: Come, my way, my truth, my life (CP 569)

Cantor sings vs 1, **then all repeat:**

1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:

such a way as gives us breath;

such a truth as ends all strife;

such a life as kill-eth death.

2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:

such a light as shows a feast;

such a feast as mends in length;

such a strength as makes a guest.

3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:

such a joy as none can move:

such a love as none can part;

such a heart as joys in love.

Words: George Herbert (1593-1633)

The Gospel

John 15:1-8 proclaimed by Deacon Nina Page

The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John

R: Glory to your Lord Jesus Christ,

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The Gospel of Christ.

R: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily by The Rev. Karine Snowdon

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: I am the Vine (CW 202)

1. I am the vine, and you are the branches.
 All that is cut will wither and die;
 Abide in my love, and you will bear fruit,
 And whatever you ask, I will give unto you.
 For you are the branches and I am the vine.
 Abide in my love, abide in my love.
 As my father loves me, So shall I love mine;
 You are the branches and I am the vine.

2. Keep my commandments, and stay on the vine.

Follow the Word, and my joy will be thine;
 For if pruned from the tree, You nothing can do,
 Let my life giving Spirit flow always through you.
 For you are the branches and I am the vine.
 Abide in my love, abide in my love.
 As my father loves me, So shall I love mine;
 You are the branches and I am the vine.

3. The fruits of the Spirit are love, peace and joy.
 Be patient and kind, and keep your faith strong.
 Be gentle and good, and temp'rate always,
 Abide in my love, and on my vine stay.
 For you are the branches and I am the vine.
 Abide in my love, abide in my love.
 As my father loves me, So shall I love mine;
 You are the branches and I am the vine.

Words & Music: Susan Johnson & Lois Cherry
 Gift to Women's Cursillo #24 - Waterdown

Intercessions & Thanksgivings led by Beverly Faulknor

Almighty and ever living God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with us as we offer these prayers to you. You know our needs before we ask but we come to you again knowing you are our good shepherd, our protector and our guide watching over us.

In the world-wide Anglican Communion: The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East

In the Niagara Diocese: In the Niagara Diocese: St. Luke, Burlington, the Reverend Canon Stuart Pike, Rector, the Reverend Dr. Leonel Abaroa-Boloña, Pastoral Associate, the Reverend Sheila Plant, Deacon and the people of that parish.

In our Parish Cycle of prayer Sharon, Kelly and Grayson Milroy; Andy, Terry, Annaliese, Sarah and Jack Moens; Barry and Margaret Moloney; Norman and Heather Mowbray; and our family Van Kim, Hoih, Ester, Ruth and Samuel and the Mission of San Pedro, Jobabo, Cuba.

Give thanks for the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for those who do not see may believe

Continue to pray for the Mission of the Church, remembering our outreach work in this parish. Let us never become content with what we have done or become complacent with our **outreach** mission. Guide us to continuously strive to do better as we work for you.

Pray for peace in our troubled world. We pray that wars may cease and people strive to live peacefully with one another.

Pray for the Unity of the Church. Help us to be your disciples, not mere acquaintances of You. Give us the strength and the knowledge to be witnesses of your word, and the ability to carry and communicate them as we strive to lift up each other in Christ.

We ask for your guidance in our mission ministry praying especially for our Bishops who lead us. Pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Linda our Primate, Mark our Indigenous Archbishop,

Anne our Metropolitan and Susan, Bishop of Niagara. Pray for all Ministers in this parish both Ordained and Laity, for all your Church in the service of Christ, that those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love and reveal your glory to the world. Pray that the Church of God may always proclaim the Easter Gospel in all places.

We offer special prayers for the people of St Vincent. As they endure the perils of the volcanic explosions, let us remember our responsibility to help others. Lord, give the people of St Vincent hope for a better day and the faith that you are watching over them.

We continue to pray for relief from Covid 19 and its effect on the world. We especially bring to you in prayer the people of India, Brazil, and other parts of the world where people are in dire straights and suffering due to lack of medicine and proper care. Help to dispel myths and disinformation regarding the vaccines. Lord, help us to help others lessen the hesitancy they may have for whatever reasons. We pray for all frontline workers; doctors, nurses, and other caregivers in hospitals or in homes. We give thanks for the workers who are volunteering to help in this province at this crucial time. Watch over them and their families. Provide us with hope for a brighter future as we work hard and follow the necessary protocols.

Lord at this time we pray for all leaders of all nations. Lay your guiding and healing hands on the lives of Justin, our Prime Minister, Premier Doug Ford, Our Mayor Gord Krantz. We bring before you in prayer the leaders of all the provinces. Watch over them and guide them to make informed decisions for the people and of the people. Help them to surround themselves with honesty, integrity and love for all.

Hear us Lord of Glory as we continue to pray

We pray that you will give us the courage to love one another unconditionally barring race, colour or creed.

Hear us, Lord of glory.

Father, give us the courage to stand up for equality and justice for all people.

Hear us, Lord of glory.

Lord grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, Hear us, Lord of glory!

We ask that you may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter in these trying times, Hear us, Lord of glory!

Father, reveal the light of your presence to the sick and suffering,

Remembering.....; and others known to us, whom we might name in the silence of our hearts.... And we remember the weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and strengthened,

Hear us, Lord of glory!

Pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed and remembering those in memory: In loving memory of parents Cecil & Elizabeth Phillips, William & Elizabeth Charlton, sisters Lily, Gloria & Sonia, given by Betty and Bill. (Loves Last Gift, Remembrance.)

+ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Our Father, we want to thank you for the gift of life. Lord, you say where two or three are gathered in your name, you are in their midst. Thank you for being with us as we gather together through zoom. We remember our brothers and sisters who cannot join us in this

manner. Thank you for our church and for the leaders you've given us especially Rev. Karine, Father Mark Curtis, Father Mark Mac Dermott, Deacon Nina, and Lorette. Thank you for allowing us to come to this place to feed on your word. Let grace and peace be upon our lives even as we depart from this place to our different destinations. Let everything we have learned bear fruit in our lives so that your light can shine upon us, and we glorify you the true living God. In Jesus' name, we believe and pray, Amen.

Taizé chant: O Lord, hear my prayer (Gather 240)

All sing three times: **O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.**

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The Lord's Prayer

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.

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; God welcomes sinners and invites them to this gathering of the body of Christ. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Karine+: Most merciful God,

R: 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.

Karine+: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

Karine+: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

R: And also with you.

Unmute yourselves to share the Peace of Christ with one another.

The Blessing by The Rev. Karine Snowdon

Hymn: They'll know we are Christians by our love (CW 207)

1. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

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The Dismissal by Deacon Nina Page

Let us bless the Lord, Alleluia!

R: Thanks be to God, Alleluia!

Liturgical Leaders

Officiant: The Rev. Karine Snowdon

Gospeller: The Rev. Deacon Nina Page

Homily: The Rev. Karine Snowdon

Reader: Jimmy Munuthi

Intercessor: Beverly Faulknor

Musician: Richard Birney-Smith