

## Anglican Parish of Woodstock

St. Luke's Church

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## Ascension Sunday



## Spiritual Communion



Control & Click icons to  
Facebook & YouTube!



On-line Worship from St. Luke's Church

Anglican Parish of Woodstock

This Service was pre-recorded for

**May 24, 2020**

Officiant: Rev. Shirley Noseworthy

Lector & Video: Armin Hackelsperger

## **Order of Service**

### **(Book of Alternative Services)**

The hymns are from Common Praise and may be viewed on YouTube by placing your cursor on the link, then left click. Part of the liturgy is from the Book of Alternative Services.

The service video may be viewed on either the Anglican Parish of Woodstock Facebook Page, or the Anglican Parish of Woodstock NB YouTube channel.

## **Spiritual Communion**

Book of Alternative Services p. 185

### **Hymn**

**Traditional 380: O Worship the King** (Tune Hanover) (vs. 1,2,6)

<https://youtu.be/ul9cDJMsn14>

**or Contemporary: O Worship the King** (Chris Tomlin)

<https://youtu.be/We9aR22C9BI>

**Sentence:** Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord; I am with you always, to the close of the age. Matthew 28:18,20.

### **Easter Greeting**

**p. 185**

**Priest:** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**Priest:** May his grace and peace be with you.

**People: May his fill our hearts with joy!**

### **Collect for Purity**

#### **Glory to God**

**p. 186**

**Collect:** Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven, that he might rule over all things as Lord. Keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of

his peace, and bring the whole of creation to worship at his feet, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Prayer as We Deal with Covid19**

Gracious God, thank you that you are over all, in all, and through all. We lift our world before you as we face this Covid-19 crisis. We pray for those who are suffering its effects, the medical personnel who are caring for them and those who are seeking a vaccine or cure. We are grateful for the lives of people who have died and pray for their families and friends in their bereavement. We ask that you enable us to know your love for all and give us your peace which passes all understanding. In the name of Christ, our Risen Lord! **Amen.**  
(adapted from a prayer by Bishop David Edwards)

## **The Proclamation of the Word**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Acts 1:1-11    The Promise of the Holy Spirit  
& The Ascension of Jesus**

**Mission Statement:** *Together:*

We are a worshipping Anglican Community, nourished by Liturgy, Scripture, Sacraments, Prayer, and Fellowship. We are guided by the Holy Spirit to care for God's creation, so that all may know the peace of Christ and the power of His Resurrection.

**Gospel: Luke 24: 44-53    The Ascension of Jesus**

**Sermon: Jesus is coming Back! In the Meantime,  
We Have Work to Do!**

**The Apostles' Creed** p. 189

**Prayers of the People: Litany #15 Easter** p. 122

**Response: Hear us, Lord of Glory!**

**Confession and Absolution** p. 191

## Hymn

### Traditional 247: Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise

(Tune Alleluia) <https://youtu.be/dGWjFiobOtl>

### Or Contemporary: O Church, Arise (The Gettys)

<https://youtu.be/A98YQHG8tLY>

## Guidance on Spiritual Communion and Coronavirus

*(from the Church of England, authorized for use by Bishop David Edwards)*

On this Ascension Sunday, we share in Spiritual Communion. The term 'Spiritual Communion' has been used historically to describe the means of grace by which a person, prevented for some serious reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ. Spiritual Communion offers Christians an opportunity to give thanks for our communion with Jesus when we would ordinarily be present at the Eucharist.

The Church is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.

## An Act of Spiritual Communion

We pray together: **Lord, have mercy.**  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.' John 6.35 Lord Jesus Christ, we give thanks for your

saving death and resurrection, and we ask You to be with us now.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given us, for all the pains and insults you have borne for us. Since we cannot now receive you sacramentally, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts.

O most merciful redeemer, friend, and brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. **Amen.**

*Adapted from the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester*

Lord, in these days of mercy, make us quiet and prayerful.

In these days of challenge, make us stronger in you.

In these days of emptiness, take possession of us.

In these days of waiting, open our hearts to the mystery of your cross. **Amen.**

*Angela Ashwin*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Parish Vision Statement:** *Together:*

We will become a more caring community of believers who learn together, nurture and support each other, and reach out to the community at large with the love of Christ.

**Blessing**

**Dismissal:** Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

**People:** **Thanks be to God! Alleluia!**

**Hymn**

**Traditional 379: Rejoice the Lord is King! (vs. 1,2,3,5)**

(Tune Darwall) <https://youtu.be/q3pGwIF6vQg>

**Or Contemporary: Rejoice the Lord is King** (Tommy Walker) <https://youtu.be/6by5eux1rMs>

**Our Special Prayers** are requested for: Janet, Kim, Ernest, Mavis, Gordon, Ellen, Karla, Amanda, Jennifer, Randy, Colin, Liam, Sadie, Emma, Scottie, Kate, Gail, Tanya, Terry, Brad, Billy, Lorne, Kent, Doreen, Dick, Susanne, Wesley, Jim, Trevor, Lindsay, Lois, David, Carrie, Barry, Freda, Barbara, Bishop David's mother, Doreen, and his father John.

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. May they prosper who love you.” Psalm 122:6

**Give from the Heart**

Thank you to those who are doing your utmost to continue your offering to the church during these challenging times. It is thanks to your generosity that we will still be here when the lockdown is over.

Here are three options of giving to consider.:

1. **E-offering.** Thank you to those who already give through e-offering! Folks may consider signing up for e-offering even for the short-term. You may always go back to offering envelopes at any time. Contact Ruth at 328-4304 for details.

2. **Mail** your envelopes to St. Luke's Church, 104 Church Street, Woodstock, NB E7M 5Z7.

3. A new option is **e-transfer**. Simply log in on-line to your bank account and select the e-transfer option. Follow the prompts and enter St. Luke's email address: [stlukes@nb.aibn.com](mailto:stlukes@nb.aibn.com).

"For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability." 2 Corinthians 8:3.

## **Celebrating Birthdays & Anniversaries!**

Happy birthday to: Colin Craig, Pat Whitehouse, David Sarchfield, Ethan Fletcher, Glen Fletcher, Barry Scott Sr. and anyone else celebrating their special day.

Sending love and best wishes to Peggy Martin who celebrated her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on Wed. May 20! It was a delight to join in the drive-by parade to wish Peggy a Happy Birthday!

Best wishes to anyone celebrating their wedding anniversary.

## **Caring for One Another**

We are here for you during the Covid-19 crisis. If you would like to speak with someone or need help, please contact Nancy English (328-2295) or Mary-Beth Rideout (325-3476) on our Pastoral Care Team, or Rev. Shirley Noseworthy

(328-9913). Jesus said, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:35

## **Sounds of Hope Continue!**

Listen for Sounds of Hope from our church bells, each Sunday at 12:00 noon for 10 minutes during the Covid-19 lock down, a reminder that we are still here loving our neighbors and serving our God! Thank you to our bell ringers, Jon Tait at St. Luke’s, and Richard Wetmore at Christ Church!

## **Families Helping Families**

Thank you to those from our congregation who are helping Wes Corey & the fine staff at the River deliver meals to seniors and shut-ins who appreciate a dinner delivered each Sunday during Covid-19 lockdown: Nancy & Bobby English, MaryBeth, Jeff & Carson Rideout, Julie & Doug Brown, Pat & Blair Whitehouse, Jill & Colin Craig, and Zoe Frame. God bless you as you participate in this wonderful outreach ministry in our community!

## *Eastertide Blessings!*

To those who are self-isolating at home, in hospitals, nursing homes, or wherever you may be, and for those essential workers who are out there doing your job under stressful conditions, may God bless you and grant you His peace and a safe and Blessed Eastertide!

## **When Will We Have Public Worship? Update**

This week the clergy of our Diocese met, via Zoom, with Bishop David Edwards to discuss the phases of reopening, after the Covid-19 lockdown.

We are in Phase 1 of the phased reopening in New Brunswick. This means 10 or less for public gatherings, appropriately distanced, and following all the other Covid-19 protocols. Given all the restrictions involved and the small number allowed to enter our facility, we have decided to wait for the next phase before opening our doors.

Phase 2, which allows up to 50 people for a public gathering, will begin in 3-4 weeks – perhaps mid-June, depending on the number of active Covid-19 cases at that time. To meet the criteria to reopen, there are certain steps to take. We must prepare a risk assessment and a comprehensive COVID-19 Operational Plan, outlining how we will meet all the guidelines-of physical distancing, cleaning and sanitizing, entering and exiting, how communion may be administered, etc.

Once completed, a copy of this Operational Plan will be emailed to everyone on our Parish mailout list, and a copy must remain on site in the event of an unannounced inspection by health or government authorities. We wish to ensure that everyone will know what to expect once you step inside St. Luke's.

The Rector, the Curate, Wardens and Safe Church Officer are currently working on compiling the required documents in preparation for Phase 2 when we can have up to 50 people gathered for public worship.

Please be aware that once we open, it will not be back to business as usual. Worship will look quite different, with screening taking place as you enter the facility, designated seating with appropriate physical distancing, directional signs, etc.

Further updates will be forthcoming.

## **A Time for Spiritual Spring Cleaning**

Our lives seem to be governed by the seasons, with each season bringing specific events. Spring is the season to clean up accumulated winter debris, prepare soil for planting, clean the cobwebs out, and open the windows to let fresh air in.

This spring - the spring of the virus - we can do the same thing, but on a more personal level. We probably all have unfinished, incomplete feelings of injustices done to us. So why not use this time to right some wrongs, heal some hurts, mend some relationships, and bring harmony back into our lives - essentially clean up accumulated debris.

How about if we clean the cobwebs from our minds, get rid of unhealthy thoughts and make way for new ideas? We all get 'stuck' in the way we think, act, and speak. Can we be more thankful and less critical? More accepting and less restrictive? More open to other ways instead of thinking we know best?

All our minds, hearts and souls can use fresh air to keep the devil from walking around our brains with his dirty feet! We can see the promise instead of the impossible, can share a vision instead of ignoring it. We can live into our purpose, our calling, with renewed enthusiasm.

Try these exercises...

1. Write a personal 'prayer letter' to God. One of the most important blessings is the gift of prayer. After writing your prayer, put it away for a few days - then re-read it. What changes? What stays the same?
2. Make a list of 3 people-people you do not particularly like. Pray for them by name for 1 week. Have your feelings about them changed?

When we strip away the unnecessary, the clutter of our lives, we become God's story of wonder, hope, love, and faith.

Finally, a short prayer - Jesus, walk beside me. Live in me. Help me find you today. Fill my life with everything you know I need, and that will be enough. Amen.

(by The Rev. Deacon Fran Bedell, Regional Dean)

## **Thy Kingdom Come (May 21-31)**

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. You are invited to pray from Ascension (May 21) to Pentecost (May 31) for more people to come to know Jesus.

During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- **Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ.**
- **Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus.**
- **Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit, that we would be effective in our witness.**

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Like them, our reliance on the gift of the Holy Spirit is total – on our own we can do nothing.

Through the centuries Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit. 'Thy Kingdom Come' picks up this tradition. Over the past three and a half years more and more worshipping communities have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray: 'Come Holy Spirit'.

It is our prayer that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and his love for the world will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him. Specifically, we again invite each Christian across the country to pray that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 friends who have not responded with their 'Yes' to God's call.

See Prayers from the Church of England that can be found [here](#).

To download a daily prayer journal, with a reflection, prayer, and action idea for each of the 11 days between Ascension and Pentecost, click [here](#).

## **Bulletin Board**

**All public worship and church activities are suspended until further notice – likely until mid-June.**

It is out of love for our neighbors, that we forego the blessing of being physically together for worship. In so doing we seek to promote health and healing needed at this time.

Please pray for one another and remember to contact your family, friends, and neighbors by phone or social media to ensure everyone is coping well during this difficult time.

### **On-Line Worship**

We will continue to pre-record services for viewing on Facebook and YouTube, until are able to open our doors for public worship. Watch for the pre-recorded service for the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, May 17, 2020 – Morning Prayer!

### **On-Line Sunday School & Children's Talks!**

Watch for children's video postings on our Parish Facebook. Also, Rev. Harold Boomer has set up an on-line Sunday School through Zoom each Sunday at 10:30 am! If you have not already received the Zoom I.D., please email Harold at [wattrboy@rogers.com](mailto:wattrboy@rogers.com) for details.

### **Vestry Meeting via Zoom Sun., May 24, 2:00 pm.**

The info to join the meeting will be e-mailed to vestry members.