



Order of Service for February 21, 2021
First Sunday in Lent
Service of Spiritual Communion
9:30 am
Officiating: The Rev'd Fergus Tyson
Preaching: The Rev'd Dr. Norman Knowles



How It Works



In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

2 Corinthians 5:19

The central Christian belief is that Christ's death has somehow put us right with God and given us a fresh start. Theories as to how it did this are another matter. A good many different theories have been held as to how it works; what all Christians are agreed on is that it does work. I will tell you what I think it is like. All sensible people know that if you are tired and hungry, a meal will do you good. But the modern theory of nourishment—all about

vitamins and proteins—is a different thing. People ate their dinners and felt better long before the theory of vitamins was ever heard of; and if the theory of vitamins is some day abandoned, they will go on eating their dinners just the same. Theories about Christ's death are not Christianity: They are explanations of how it works. (C S Lewis)

Father, help me to remember that I need to have faith in you, not to understand everything.

Service of Spiritual Communion

The Gathering of the Community

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Great Litany (screens)

Collect of the Day (screens)

Opening Hymn: *As the Deer* (screens)

The Proclamation of the Word

Psalm 25:1-9 (screens)

The First Reading

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

GENESIS 9:8-17

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Gradual Hymn: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*
(screens)

The Holy Gospel

People: *Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn

apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

MARK 1:9-15

Leader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed (screens)

The Prayers of the People

Prayer in Response to COVID-19 (screens)

Confession and Absolution (screens)

The Peace (screens)

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory *Forty Days and Forty Nights* (instrumental screens)

Prayer over the Gifts (screens)

Eucharistic Prayer (screens)

The Lord's Prayer (screens)

The Breaking of the Bread (screens)

The Communion (screens)

Prayer for Communion (screens)

Prayer after Communion (screens)

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: *Lift High the Cross* (screens)

Dismissal (screens)

Virtual Coffee Time Zoom Link: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87399496922?pwd=eWxvZDdTYUVuNjJZdUZ4MjFHWFdQdzog>

Prayers for This Week

(Bold italics indicate new or special emphasis this week.)

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for *the Church of the Province of Central Africa.*

In the Anglican-Lutheran Prayer Cycle: In the Anglican Church we pray for *the Most Rev. David Edwards, Archbishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Fredericton;* and in the Lutheran Church we pray for *the dean, council, and congregations of the Grand River and Thames Areas of the Eastern Synod.*

In our Diocesan Cycle, we pray for the people of the parish of *St. George, Stettler* and for their clergy *David Holmes and Jack Schulze (Hon.).*

We lift to you our friends, in our Companion Diocese, the Windward Islands.

In our Parish Cycle, *we pray for the safety and well-being of all members of our Parish, and pledge to stay connected with one another and face the challenges of COVID-19 together; we remember our clergy, Fergus, Cyril, Norman, Bob, and their families; and we especially uphold all who are infirm, immune-compromised, or on the front lines in this battle.*

We pray for our foster child *Desta Keweti.*

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health, comfort and strengthen those of our parish who are sick, injured or distressed, and those approaching or recovering from surgery, especially we lift up to you *the family of Joy (Abby's sister); Antony; Judy; Paul; the family of Raymond (uncle of Paul); Dinah; the family of John; Debra, Lori and family of Josie; Crystal (niece of Rosemarie); Bill & Pat; Steve; the family of Bob; the family of Carmen; John; the family of Bonnie; Gerald; Gerald and Louise (Shannon's father and mother); Megan and family, Molly (mother of Sian); the family of Simon; Stephen; Dwight (Dorothy-Ann's cousin); Donna; Jo; the family of Brenda (relative of the Collers); the family of Joan (mother of Richard); Tracy; Roxie and the family of Andy; Harry (friend of Ian and Kathleen); Julia; the Herritt family in their bereavement; Gina; Gael; Verna and her family; Michael; Barb; Jen; the family of Leslie; Patrick, Jordan; the family of Lene; the family of Helen; Eleanor; Jackie K. (sister of Pauline); Dorothy; the family of Mauricia (mother of Ella); Max & Rebecca; Anne; Dozy & Obie & family; Karla; the family of Kathy; Kevin; Richard (friend of Anne); Terry; Jerrod; Melissa and her family (friends of Jenn); Dennis; Mike; Val; Martin; Chinazor; Sheila; Melissa and her family; Adrianna; Peggy; Bob and Joanne; Laura (sister of Kim); the family of Douglas; Michelle; Ian; Pat; Christine; Rick (brother of Sheila); Gwen; Jacquie; Gwen (aunt of Julie), Jackie (cousin of Julie), Ellen; Pauline; Monika (mother of Dennis); Kathy (daughter of Bob & Joanne); Trudy (cousin of Iona); Len; Andrea and Andrew's family; Margaret; Marlene; the family of James (father of Allison); and the Rev'd Tim Webster.*

We pray for containment of the COVID-19 coronavirus worldwide; protection for nurses and all those on the front lines or especially vulnerable to its effects, in particular all who are homeless; and full restoration of health for all those who are ill.

We pray for all struggling economically, and all those affected by fires, floods, storms or other natural disasters. We pray for us all to stand together in hard times.

We pray for peace and justice in our own country and throughout the world. *We remember the USA and Iran. We pray for the people Nigeria, and all whose lives have been torn apart by violence. We pray for safe haven for those whom violence has forced to flee their homes. We pray for an end to racism and discrimination, and all acts of hatred. We stand in solidarity with all whose lives have been devastated by human evil and all seeking to make the world as it ought to be.* We pray for protection and guidance for all in law enforcement or our military in danger at home or overseas. May your Holy Spirit guide world leaders to seek just resolutions to all conflicts, that all people may come to know your peace that passes all understanding and war be no more.

We thank you for your healing touch, which sustains us every day; and for all the many healings that have taken place in our parish; and your unending mercy as you hear our prayers.



The flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God by Kathleen Robinson in loving memory of Betty Campbell and the love she bestowed on St. Paul's in so many ways, but especially her joyous gift of music.