



A Parish of the
Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church
of Canada



Parish e-News

St Thomas' Anglican Church

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Photo: Paul Chantler

Public Worship at St Thomas' Remains Cancelled Due to Covid-19

The Priest-in-Charge will continue to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word on behalf of the whole congregation in our church every Sunday at 10.30 am.

The Order of Service is found below for those who wish to use it at home.

Here are some links to other deanery and diocesan online liturgies:

- **St John's, Peterborough:** <http://stjohnspeterborough.ca/>
- **All Saints', Peterborough:** <https://www.allsaaintspeterborough.org/at-home-resources>
- **St James' Cathedral & other parishes throughout the diocese:** <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/2020/03/13/covid-19-updates/#worship>

Contacting the Parish Office - Telephone contact with the parish secretary (who is working from home) is possible from 9.30 am to 11.30 am, Tuesday to Thursday. **Please leave a message on the parish office voicemail and Gail will return your call as soon as possible.** In a pastoral emergency, please call the Priest-in-Charge.

Community Care is offering grocery delivery and prescription pick up and delivery to people who not able to get out. Please call the Millbrook office at 705-932-2011 for more information.

Some of our parishioners are busy sewing cloth masks which can be used as an added protective measure (in addition to frequent hand-washing, physical distancing, etc) to minimize possible transmission to others of the virus responsible for covid-19. *If you would like a mask for yourself or another person, please call or email the Priest-in-Charge.*

A Note from the Priest-in-Charge -

"When I was signing the vestry book last Sunday after reciting the Liturgy of the Word in the church, I could not believe that it had actually been *two months* since we had last gathered together for worship! The pandemic that we are living through continues to wreak havoc in our province, our country, and throughout the world. Until it is basically under control, we must continue to keep physically separated for the good of everyone. As many have found, this can be very isolating and demoralizing. Yet, in many ways, despite the requirement for physical separation, we have never been so close as human beings. Every day I read and hear of acts of kindness, self-sacrifice, and heroism in the face of the incredible difficulties and challenges of dealing with this pandemic. In our parish, I know that people have made a special point of keeping in touch with each other by telephone, email, and 'safe' visits. Our financial supporters have been incredibly faithful during this time. And our Bishop and diocese have moved heaven and earth to find ways to reduce the financial burden to parishes during this time of economic recession. There are still many difficulties to overcome. We have not yet entirely won the war. But we have won some significant battles and (to mix metaphors!) we may finally be starting to see some light at the end of the tunnel.

I am eagerly looking forward to the time when we will be able to gather once again in our church as a worshipping community--perhaps, at first, in a carefully structured way. In the meantime, I ask you to keep praying--for the front-line workers, for the sick, for all who suffer, and for the departed. We may be physically separated, but we are still one body. Through our baptism, we are members of the Body of Christ and nothing, not even covid-19, can break that living bond. As our parish motto puts it: 'Together we are one.' Keep safe! Keep well! And keep praying! Until we meet again!"

The Churchwardens continue to be incredibly grateful to parishioners who are making a continued effort to keep up their regular Sunday offerings in the face of the restrictions caused by the covid-19 pandemic!

On-going weekly or monthly offerings can be made in the following ways:

- ***By regular mail*** - to St Thomas' Anglican Church, P. O. Box 187, Millbrook, Ontario, L0A 1G0. Cheques only please--made out to St Thomas' Church. Post-dated cheques, for future contribution periods, would be welcome and very much appreciated.
- ***By e-transfer from your bank account.*** Please call Gail at the parish office to arrange.
- ***By pre-arranged 'drop off' at the home of the Priest-in-Charge, 7 Prince Street, Millbrook.*** Please use side entrance and leave envelope on the door-mat in the enclosed porch. Please call 705-932-1231 in advance to arrange a mutually convenient time.
- ***By pick-up from your home if you can't get out*** - please call 705-932-1231 to arrange pick-up. In this case, all public health protocols ('physical distancing,' etc) must be strictly followed.
- ***By Pre-Authorized Remittance:*** If you wish to enroll in PAR, please call the parish office during office hours. An authorization form will be mailed (or emailed) to you.
- ***By using the secure online donations link on our parish website.*** Here is the link: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/119202950RR0001-st-thomas-church/>



Liturgy of the Word
Fifth Sunday of Easter
(Mothers' Day)
May 10th, 2020

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!
May his grace and peace be with us.
May he fill our hearts with joy!

**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.**

Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confess our sins with a sincere and true heart. (*Silence for reflection*)

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins. Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

**May the God of love and compassion
forgive us and free us from all our sins,
heal and strengthen us in the Holy Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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.**

Collect of the Day

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.**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (7:55-80)

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Holy Word; Holy Wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 31 (selected verses)

In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.

Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me, take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.

My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

**Glory to God: Source of all being, eternal Word, and life-giving Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever.**

Amen.

A reading from the 1st Letter of Peter (2.2-10)

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation- if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Holy Word: Holy Wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father but by me. **Alleluia!**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (14:1-14)
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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

Reflection on Scripture

“John 14.6 is often understood as expressing that Jesus is the only means to salvation, via the words, “I am the way and the truth and the life” followed by “No one comes to the Father except through me.” I understand why one would read this verse primarily as an indicator of the exclusiveness of salvation through Christ, but I want to posit that something else is at stake in these words. In v.4, Jesus uses the perfect tense to say, “Where I am going, you have known the way.” In v.5, Thomas disputes Jesus to say that they have not known where he is going, and asks, “How are we able to have known the way?” It is clear that Thomas is speaking of “the way” as a plan, a route, something plot-able and in *that* sense knowable. Against that understanding of “the way,” Jesus argues that “the way” is not something knowable like a *map*, but something knowable like a *person*. ‘The way,’ along with ‘the truth, and the life’ are *incarnational*, not conceptual or propositional...

It is *possible* to read John 14.6 as a statement of the exclusivity of Christianity. The irony is that such readings usually address doctrines *about* Jesus as opposed to the *incarnational reality* of Jesus Christ. In this text, ‘the way and the truth and the life’ are incarnational and *not* propositional. Therefore, to embrace the way, the truth and the life in Christ calls for an epistemology [knowledge] that is relational, not conceptual.”

Excerpt from D. Mark Davis “Left Behind and Loving It”

<https://leftbehindandlovingit.blogspot.com/2014/05/incarnational-truth-v-propositional.html>

Prayers of the Faithful

In confidence, let us pray to the Father, who is the source of all life.

We pray for the Church, remembering especially Andrew our Bishop, Riscylla our Area Bishop, Anne our Metropolitan, and Linda our Primate, and all other church leaders. We pray for all Christians throughout the world, and for all people of good will, as we together face unprecedeted challenges. (*silence*)

Gracious God, may your Spirit give strength to all your people as they work and witness in your world.

God of compassion:

hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations of the world, especially where there is war or famine. We pray for all refugees, that they may find a place of welcome and friendship in our country and elsewhere. We pray for the prime minister, the premiers, and all leaders throughout the world, that they may put aside political ideology or self-interest and make decisions for the good of all. (*silence*)

God our friend, help everyone to share all the good gifts that you have given to us. May those who lead the nations of the world be given wisdom and compassion.

God of compassion:

hear our prayer.

We pray for our local communities, for all who live and work in this village, township, and county, remembering especially the staff at Centennial Place and the Millbrook Manor. Let us give thanks for our life-giving, yet threatened and fragile planet earth, and commit ourselves every day to making small but crucial steps in our own lives to repair and sustain God's creation. (*silence*)

God our creator, give us an awareness of the urgent need to conserve and sustain the gifts of your creation; and grant that we may always help each other, just as you love and help us.

God of compassion:

hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need, for those in hospital or long-term care, for the families, friends, and colleagues of our recently deceased air force and naval personnel, for those who suffer in any way. We pray especially for those near and dear to us [especially...] and for all in need of strength or comfort to face the challenges in their lives. (*silence*)

God of compassion:

hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have died and for all who mourn. We pray for those who have died as a result of covid-19 and for all victims of hatred and violence. We remember today especially the members of the Canadian Armed Forces who have lost their lives serving their country: Abbigail Cowbrough, Brenden Ian MacDonald, Kevin Hagen, Maxime Miron-Moran, Matthew Pyke, and Matthew Cousins. (*silence*)

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.

We will remember them."

God our hope, we believe that not even death can separate us from you or each other. Grant that the faithful departed may know your never-ending love.

God of compassion:

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all the blessings of this life, remembering especially today all mothers throughout the world, and all who care for and nurture children. (*silence*)

God of compassion:

hear our prayer.

Gathering all our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Act of Spiritual Communion

Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer

O God, your Son Jesus Christ has given us a meal of bread and wine as an outward sign of his living presence. May we, who at this time cannot celebrate the holy mysteries of his Body and Blood, receive him spiritually in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving; that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. 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.**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of God's Son Jesus Christ our Lord:
and the blessing of God almighty,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier,
be among us and remain with us now and always. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

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