



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 the church, every Sunday at 10.30 am.
The *Order of Service* is found below for those who wish to follow along at home.

Here are some links to Deanery and Diocesan Sunday liturgies:

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

As a simple act of daily or weekly worship, you may wish to make use of the virtual *Light a Candle* prayer resource from the Church of England website:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/light-candle>

Forward Day-By-Day - daily Bible readings & other resources for prayer and study - available online at: <https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/>

From the Priest-in-Charge:

“Last week, the Bishops of our province made the difficult decision to maintain the closure of all Anglican church buildings in Ontario until September at the earliest. This decision is conveyed in a pastoral letter from the Metropolitan, Archbishop Anne Germond. Here is a link to her pastoral letter: https://9ef5c27f-7387-4dd8-862b-ad696f6d1746.filesusr.com/ugd/5893ce_e234a54c90c94353a47f333926aa9930.pdf
What this means for us, as Anglicans, is that--no matter what the government allows in its phased-in 'reopening' of the province--we will not be able to resume Sunday services in our churches for some time yet. I am seeking clarification from the Bishop to see if we might be permitted to have small, *outdoor* gatherings of some kind during the summer months. In the meantime: keep safe; keep well; and keep praying!” RR

From the Trustees of St Paul's Cemetery:

“We regret that, in view of the current COVID-19 situation, there are no plans for a Decoration Day Service or any kind of formal gathering at St. Paul's Cemetery, 1304 Zion Line, on Fathers' Day, June 21st. The cemetery remains open to the public, and for those who are planning to pay their respects on June 21st, trustees will be present from 2 pm until 3.30 pm. Free-will offerings will be accepted with gratitude (tax receipts issued for gifts of \$20 or more). We ask that those who choose to visit the cemetery respect physical distancing. We trust that you will stay safe and well. With thanks! Trustees: Bev Hilditch, Sherry-Lynne McMahon, Ruth Roberts, Jill Stocker”

The Diocese of Toronto has produced a new document entitled “Policy on Marriage” which outlines some important changes in our pastoral practice.

The document, along with a short video presentation by the Bishop of Toronto, can be found at the following link:

<https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/parish-life/marriage/>

Contacting the Parish Office - Telephone contact with the parish secretary 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.** For an urgent matter, please call the Priest-in-Charge at home at 705-932-1231.

Peterborough Public Health is offering a 'drive-through' Covid-19 testing clinic for those without symptoms this Friday, June 12th, from 10 am to 4.30 pm at the new Cavan Monaghan Community Centre, County Road 10, in Millbrook. If you wish to be tested at this clinic, be sure to bring your Ontario Health Card. For more information see: <https://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/for-professionals/health-professionals/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-professionals/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-testing/#tested>

Community Care Millbrook is offering grocery delivery and prescription pick up and delivery to people who not able to get out. Please call 705-932-2011 for more information. Volunteers from the parish are also available to offer assistance.

Some of our parishioners are making cloth face masks which may be helpful in reducing possible transmission of the Covid-19 virus from the wearer to others, especially in situations where physical distancing is very difficult to maintain. To obtain a mask, please contact the Priest-in-Charge. There is no charge (donations accepted).

The Churchwardens continue to be extremely grateful to those parishioners and friends of St Thomas' Church who are making a concerted effort to keep up their regular offerings, especially as we face an extended 'sabbatical' from regular church services this summer! Thank you so much for your on-going support!

Weekly or monthly offerings (for those who are not on PAR) 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 at 705-932-2233 (leave message) or email her at cavmanparish@nexicom.net to arrange.
- **By pre-arranged 'drop off' at the home of the Priest-in-Charge.** Please call 705-932-1231 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 a mutually convenient time. All public health protocols ('physical distancing,' etc) will 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
2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 11, Year A
June 14th, 2020

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
and blessed be God's kingdom now and for ever. Amen.

**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.**

Come, Holy Spirit of God,
and search our hearts with the light of Christ.

(silence for reflection)

**Almighty God,
long-suffering and of great goodness:
I confess to you,
I confess with my whole heart
my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments,
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;
the hurts I have done to others,
and the good I have left undone.
O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;
and raise me to newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, 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.**

Collect of the Day

Almighty God,
without you we are not able to please you.
Mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit
may in all things direct and rule our hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from Genesis (18:1-15; 21.1-7)

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on--since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh." The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

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

Psalm 116.1-2, 12-19

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD, I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones.

O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.

You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD.

I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

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 Letter of Paul to the Romans (5.1-8)

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

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

Alleluia, alleluia! The kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.
Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (9.35-10.8-23)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John;

Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

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

Reflection on Scripture

"St. Matthew provides one more insight into who Christ is: he is the one who sends his followers out, like laborers are sent out into the harvest. In other words, there is work to be done, and what are these laborers to do? Like Christ — like a reflection of Christ — they are (we are) to proclaim the good news: "The kingdom of heaven has come near." They are (we are) to cure the sick. They are (we are) to raise the dead. They are (we are) to cleanse lepers. They are (we are) to cast out demons. The world in which we live — even this pandemic restricted world — is the place in which we carry out the work of Christ; the place in which we live as a reflection of who he is, and what he values, and what he wants for every neighbor we meet from day to day.

I recently read an article about how churches are adapting to the reality of this pandemic. Reflecting on how hard many of us have worked to create meaningful and inspirational online opportunities to be stirred by God's word, and stay connected to one another, the author wrote: "What the world needs now is not churches that have become more adept in worshipping online, but churches that have become more adept in loving their neighbor."

In a time when it is easy to focus on ourselves, Christ sends us as laborers of the Gospel into the field. There is a harvest to gather. It is a harvest that means a great deal to our God. It is a harvest that you and I have been equipped to gather. As we share the good news of Christ with others, as we care for those who struggle with illness and disease, as we call others into patterns of living that give life instead of taking it, as we work against everything that opposes God's will, we know that the Spirit will take our efforts, multiply them, and work through them to extend the kingdom of God in this world. We are sent into God's world as a reflection of Christ. May God bless and inspire ourselves as we commit to this work."

--David J. Risendal, "One Little Word,"

<https://www.onelittleword.org/blog/devotional-2020-pentecost-6a>

Prayers of the Faithful

For the peace of the whole world and for the unity of all people; we pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

For Andrew and Riscylla our bishops. For all Christians throughout the world, especially in places where there is religious persecution, and for all people of good will especially in this time of pandemic and conflict, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of this country and the world, that they may work for the good of all people, but especially the poor, the oppressed, and those who suffer due to racial prejudice; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For this Township of Cavan Monaghan, and for every municipality throughout our province and our country, especially in this time of pandemic; that we may all welcome diversity and seek creative ways to build strong, inclusive, and prosperous communities; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it; we remember all farmers as they deal with the reality of rapid climate change; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the aged and infirm, for the sick and the shut-in, and for those who suffer in any way (remembering especially...): that they may be granted patience, strength, and healing; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, for all refugees, and for all who remember and care for them; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need, remembering especially those who are living and working in areas of armed conflict throughout the world; we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For this parish, for its leaders, and for all those whom we seek to serve in Christ's name in this village and beyond, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection (remembering...), and for all the departed, that they may rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory, we pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

In union with St Thomas our patron and all the saints, we commit ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you said to your apostles,
"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you."
Look not our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and give to us the peace and unity
which is according to your will,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

As our Jesus, our Lord and brother taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

“The Blessing - Canada”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSuwIEaQi54>

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

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