



A Parish of the
Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church
of Canada



Parish e-News

St Thomas' Anglican Church

16 Centre Street

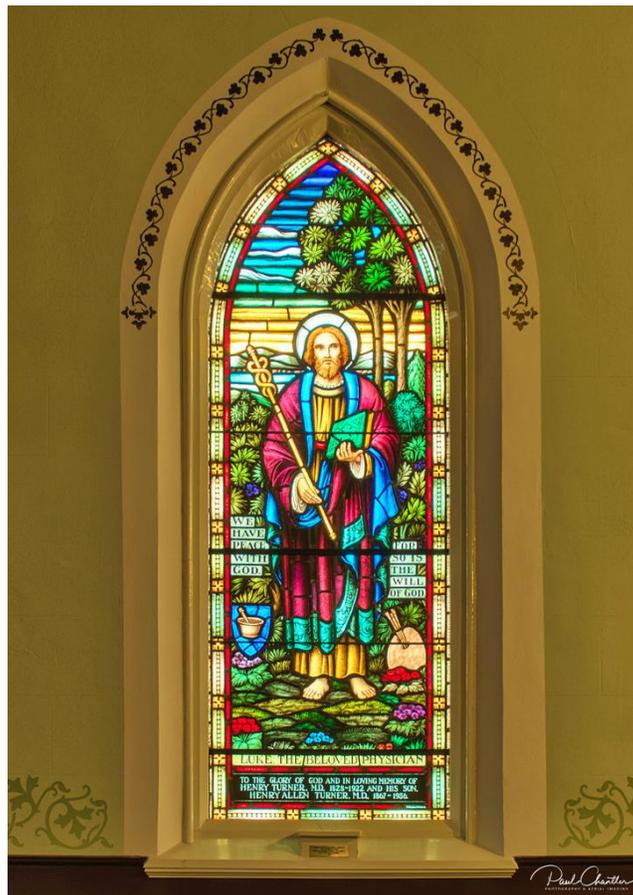
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Service this Sunday

Holy Eucharist, March 13th, at 10.30 am

The Second Sunday in Lent

A note from the Priest-in-Charge:

“Just after writing to you last week that we had heard nothing from the diocese in light of the changes announced by the provincial government on March 1st, a letter from the Bishop’s office arrived the next day! Here is a summary of the important points:

- There are no longer any limits on the number of people allowed in the building for either church services or other events. But good sense and respect for people’s individual needs should prevail.
- Marked-off sections in the church and hall for physical distancing are no longer required. You may sit where ever you want.
- Masks are still mandatory for everyone inside our buildings (with some exceptions).
- Holy Communion is still to be given in the form of the wafer only.
- Congregational singing is allowed, but (for now) masks must be worn while singing.
- Good ventilation should, as much as possible, be maintained.
- Food and drink may be prepared and served in the kitchen/hall, but it must be done “restaurant style” i.e., there can be no “self-serve” tables of food or “beverage stations” where people help themselves. People are also free to bring their own food and beverages, but they must be seated while eating/drinking and there must be no sharing. Masks may be removed when people are seated in order to consume food or drink.
- We were reminded that the pandemic is not yet over, and we should still use common sense methods (which we should by now know off -by-heart) to limit, as much as possible, the transmission of the virus.

There were a number of other points, and the churchwardens and I have had (yet again) to send another checklist to the Regional Dean outlining our up-dated Covid-19 safety plan. No doubt there will be more changes in the coming weeks as the government continues to loosen (for better or worse) pandemic-related restrictions. Pray that things continue to improve” RR

A Palm Sunday luncheon will take place, following the church service, on Sunday, April 10th. The luncheon will be prepared and served according to whatever public health and diocesan regulations are in force at that time. After lunch, there will be a short guided conversation on parishioners’ views of what kinds of outreach and fundraising activities we might be willing and able to resume (or initiate) after two years of Covid-19 restrictions. Please start to give this some thought. Mark your calendars for the lunch. More detailed information will be forthcoming.

The Sisterhood of St John the Divine (SSJD) will host an online meditation group on Sunday evenings starting on January 16th at 7.30 pm. Complete beginners to seasoned contemplatives (with others somewhere in-between) are all welcome. To join, or for more information, please email communications@ssjd.ca with **SSJD Meditation Group** in the subject line. *Please feel free to join at any time.*

"The foreigners residing among you must be treated as native-born. Love them as yourself..."

Leviticus 19.34

Welcoming the Strangers in Our Midst - A Christian Obligation



Bhisham Ramoutar & Yvonne Lai of the New Canadians Centre of Peterborough will share some of their own experiences as newcomers to Canada and also talk about their work at the NCC - to help us better understand, welcome, and love the "strangers" in our midst

Wednesday, March 30th, 7-8.30 pm via Zoom

All welcome. No cost. Please pre-register by emailing: nate@nexicom.net

You will then be sent the link to the Zoom meeting

Sponsored by St Thomas' Journeys Outreach

The Bishop's Committee on Creation Care has published a new resource for Lent 2022, "From Ecological Grief to Creational Hope: A Lent Curriculum for All Ages." Written by New Testament scholar Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat, this six-week resource explores the Biblical themes of creation's groaning and lament as well as its hope for redemption. Each week includes a scripture passage with questions for reflection and discussion, prayers, suggested activities and action ideas, as well as links to explore further. The questions and activities can be adapted for individual or family use. You can find the resource at: <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/diocesan-life/social-justice-advocacy/creation-care/?lang=en> Dr. Keesmaat is also offering a 6 week course on Zoom entitled "Eco-anxiety and Biblical Wisdom: Torn Between Grief and Hope" - Sunday evenings, 7 pm to 9 pm, March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 3, 10. Tuition fee: "pay-what-you can" For more information on this course, please go to: <https://www.bibleremixed.ca/>

“Tending the Soul”

***...a series of honest and hopeful conversations for the Church and its leaders about ministry in this time sponsored by our diocese. What’s changed and what are we learning? Where are we finding abundance in the face of disruption?
What do we imagine for the future?***

Each hour-long session will include a conversation between church leaders, both lay and ordained, on a particular topic, with plenty of time for questions and discussion. Together we’ll share what’s tough in ministry these days, what we’ve discovered about best practices, and how we see the future unfolding.

There will be nine conversations on Thursdays at noon:

March 10: Where are we now? Highlights of what we’ve learned, two years later

March 17: Visioning and planning in transition

March 24: Talking about money

March 31: Reconnecting with our congregations: the art of pastoral visiting & dealing with pandemic grief

April 28: Speaking to the spirit: the church as a safe place for questions about meaning & purpose

May 5: Ministry with children, youth & families

May 12: Digital communications, websites & social media

May 19: Stories of Generosity: the transformative impact of giving

May 26: Adult education in an age of Zoom burn-out

***You can choose to attend any or all of the sessions.
They will be live streamed to the Diocese of Toronto Facebook page.***

The Diocesan ACW will hold its ***annual general meeting*** via Zoom on April 30th from 10 am to noon. This year’s theme is “Renewed for Change.” A registration link will be made available on April 1st. For more information please email: acw@toronto.anglican.ca.

Resources for the on-going work of Truth & Reconciliation - from the the Anglican Church of Canada - for prayer, study, and action : <https://www.anglican.ca/orangeshirtday/>

Resources for understanding issues of Diversity and Race - from our diocese: <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/diocesan-life/diversity-resources/?lang=en>

The parish secretary is now back in the parish office on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the mornings. Please feel free to call and leave a message during these times. For any important matter, please feel free to call the Priest-in-Charge at home at 705-932-1231.

The Churchwardens continue to be extremely thankful for the generosity and faithfulness of parishioners and friends of our parish who are making a concerted effort to keep up their regular offerings.

In addition to making a weekly offering at church on Sundays, donations (for those who are not already 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. *(Please be sure to use the post office box number - not just the street address - when sending items by mail).* 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 (leave message) or email her at cavmanparish@nexicom.net to arrange.
- ***By pre-arranged 'drop off' at the parish office.*** **Note:** Please call in advance to let us know you plan to do this. Please *never* leave cash in the mailbox!
- ***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/>