



MORNING PRAYER
For the Seventh
Sunday of Easter

May 12, 2024
10:00 am

St. John's
Anglican Church
West Toronto

* The Land Acknowledgement is taken from A Liturgy for The National Indigenous Day of Prayer https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/nidp-liturgy.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1oWVCmVyX1tQWadWWfd1e5PoGD14bf_p77nxkedV50uBfilCO4BE2MUa8 Retrieved 2021 March 8.

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Today's Reading: Psalms 66 & 67; Exodus 3:1-12; Hebrews 12:18-29, NRSV

New around here? We're so glad to see you! Welcome to St. John's! We hope you are blessed today as we worship God together.

We invite you to stay for fellowship following our service or join us for education classes. If you have any questions about our congregation or the sermon, feel free to ask a member of the ministry team or to contact us another way. We're so glad you're here and hope to see you again.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

Officiant:	Andrea Rutty
Assistant:	Mother Alexandra Stone
Prayers of People:	Judith Olumbe
Piano:	Dan Gooch
Vocalists:	Alie Rutty
Technical Support:	Chris Rutty & Michael Taylor

PRELUDE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*

Please stand as you are able.

Creator, you made all people of every land. It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect to those who first occupied this land we are upon. We give thanks to the Wendat, the Anishinaabe, the Mississauga of the Credit and the Haudenosaunee, the first people of this land.

We offer our respect to those ancestors who may be interred on this land. We are also thankful for the gifts of the People of the land. Creator let us be of Good Mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and to those who have been displaced.

With thankful and respectful hearts, we pray in Your name, Your son the Peacemaker and the Sacred Spirit. **Amen.**

WELCOME

CONFESSION & PRAYER FOR PARDON AND PEACE

Officiant: Dear friends in Christ, as we turn our hearts and minds to worship almighty God, let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with our neighbour.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Jesus the Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Officiant: Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

OPENING VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

Officiant: O God, open our lips,

All: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.

All: Make haste to help us.

Officiant: Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

**All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen.**

HYMN **All People That on Earth Do Dwell**

CP 349

All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth-tell;
come ye before Him and rejoice!

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid He did us make;
we are His flock, He doth us feed,
and for His sheep He doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise,
approach with joy His courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless His name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

For why, the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

*Words: Psalm 100, Eng. Para. Attrib William Kethe
Music: Tune OLD 100TH, Melody Geneva, 1551*

PSALMS

Please be seated.

The psalms are printed in the bulletin. Let us read responsively.

PSALM 66

Be joyful in God, all you lands be joyful, all the earth.

**sing the glory of the divine name; sing the glory of God's
praise.**

Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you.

All the earth bows down before you, sings to you, sings out your name."

Come now and see the works of God, how wonderful you are, O God, in your doing toward all people.

You turned the sea into dry land, so that they went through the water on foot, and there we rejoiced in you.

In your might you rule for ever; your eyes keep watch over the nations; let no rebel rise up against you.

Bless our God, you peoples; make the voice of God's praise to be heard;

who holds our souls in life, and will not allow our feet to slip.

For you, O God, have proved us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

You brought us into the snare; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows,

which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.

Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what God has done for me,

The One to whom I called out with my mouth and whose praise was on my tongue.

If I had found evil in my heart, the Holy One would not have heard me;

But in truth God has heard me and has attended to the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld steadfast love from me.

PSALM 67

O God, be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of your countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has brought forth its increase; may you, O God our God, bless us.

May you bless us, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of you.

FIRST LESSON

A reading from the book of Exodus.

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

Reader: Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE FIRST CANTICLE

Please stand as you are able

HYMN

The Living God Be Praised

CP 348

The living God be praised! Give honour to God's name,
who was, and is, and is to be, for aye the same;
the one eternal God ere all that now appears,
the First, the Last, beyond all thought God's timeless years!

Without a form is God, nor can we comprehend
the measure of God's love for us without an end.
For God is Lord of all, creation speaks God's praise;
the human race and all that lives God's will obeys.

God's Spirit floweth free, high surging where it will;
in prophet's word God spoke of old and speaketh still.
Established is God's law and changeless it shall stand,
inscribed upon the human heart in every land.

Eternal life hath God implanted in the soul;
God's love shall be our strength and stay while ages roll.
The living one be praised! Give honour to God's name,
who was, and is, and is to be, for aye the same.

*Words: The Yigdal of Daniel ben Judah; tr. Max Landsberg and Newton Mann, alt.
Music: tune LEONI, Melody Yigdal trad.; trsc. Meier Leon and Thomas Olivers*

SECOND LESSON

Please be seated.

A reading from the letter to the Church in Jerusalem.

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

Reader: Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND CANTICLE

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN Rejoice Today with One Accord

CP 318

Rejoice today with one accord,
sing out with exultation;
rejoice and praise our mighty Lord,
whose arm hath brought salvation.
His works of love proclaim
the greatness of his name;
for he is God alone,
who hath his mercy shown:
let all his saints adore him!

When in distress to him we cried
he heard our sad complaining;
O trust in him. what'er betide,
his love is all-sustaining.
Triumphant songs of praise
to him our hearts shall raise:
now every voice shall say,
"O praise our God alway";
let all his saints adore him!

Text: Henry William Baker

Music: tune EIN' FESTE BURG, Melody Martin Luther, alt.; harm. composite of settings by Johann Sebastian Bach, Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1904

DISCUSSION

Please be seated for the discussion.

APOSTLES' CREED

CP 44

Please stand as you are able.

Tune: CP 388

Celebrant: Please stand as you are able and join with me in confessing the faith of our baptism.

**All: I believe in God almighty,
Author of all things that be,
maker of the earth and heavens,
keeper of the sky and sea.**

**I believe in God's Son, Jesus,
now for us both God and Christ,
of the Spirit and of Mary
born to bring abundant life.**

**I believe that Jesus suffered,
scourged and scorned and crucified;
taken from the cross, was buried –
true life there had truly died.**

**I believe that on the third day
Christ was raised up from the grave,
then ascended to God's right hand.
He will come to judge and save.**

**I believe in God's own Spirit,
bonding all the saints within
one church, catholic and holy,
where forgiveness frees from sin;
in the body's resurrection,
for the breaking of death's chain
gives the life that's everlasting:
this the faith that I have claimed.**

*Words: The Apostles' Creed; para. Sylvia G. Dunstan © 1991 G. I. A. Publications, Inc.
Music: AUSTRIA, Franz Joseph Haydn*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: Holy One,

All: Accomplish your purpose in us.

THE COLLECT

Officiant: Almighty God, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven. Mercifully give us faith to know that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

THE SAVIOUR'S PRAYER

Officiant: Being made one by the power of the Spirit and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

All: Abba, Amma, Beloved, your name be hallowed, your reign spread among us, your will be done well, at all times, in all places, on earth as in heaven. Give us the bread we need for today. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Let us not fail in the time of our testing. Spare us from trials too sharp to endure. Free us from the grip of all evil powers. For yours is the reign, the power and the glory, the victory of love, for now and eternity, world without end. Amen and Amen.

Officiant. May the God of peace enable us to do God's will in every kind of goodness, working in us what is pleasing to God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

PRAYER FOR MOTHERS

Officiant: Almighty God, we thank you for the mothers that you have blessed us with. We thank you for their example in the faith, their tender love and nurturing care toward us. We pray for them and ask that you would sustain them in their walk, protect them from evil and bless their efforts. We acknowledge that some may have caused us significant pain, and so we ask for special grace, opportunities to forgive, and discernment in how to live.

We pray for our mothers who do not know you, asking that you would work in their hearts to bring true repentance and lasting faith. We ask that those who long to be mothers would know your grace and comfort too. May you fill the people of our church with the capacity, wisdom and character to act as 'spiritual' mothers in our family at St John's as each is able. We thank you and bless you for them, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All: Amen.

All who are mothers, whether biological, adoptive, or spiritual, are invited to take a flower as a token of thanks for their nurturing care.



COLLECTION

If you are able to make a contribution, we appreciate your generosity. Your offering makes it possible to continue our ministry here at St. John's.

If you would prefer to give online, please visit our website at www.sjw.ca and look for the donate now button.

HYMN

God of Eve and God of Mary

Tune: CP 88

God of Eve and God of Mary,
God of love and mother-earth,
thank you for the ones who with us
shared their life and gave us birth.

As you came to earth in Jesus,
so you come to us today;
you are present in the caring
that prepares us for life's way.

Thank you that the Church, our Mother,
gives us bread and fills our cup,
and the comfort of the Spirit
warms our hearts and lifts us up.

Thank you for belonging, shelter,
bonds of friendship, ties of blood,
and for those who have no children,
yet are parents under God.

God of Eve and God of Mary,
Christ our brother, human Son,
Spirit, caring like a Mother,
take our love and make us one!

Text: Fred Kaan © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

Music: tune STUTTGART, Melody Psalmodia Sacra, Gotha, 1715; harm. William Henry Havergal, alt.

OFFERING PRAYER

Officiant: Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, you are the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers, receive all we offer you this day; turn our sickness into health and our sorrow into joy. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Please be seated.

CELEBRATIONS, NEEDS, REFLECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

CP 672

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Praise God, in Jesus fully known.

Creator, Word and Spirit one.

HYMN

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand:
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Words and Music: Stuart Townend & Keith Getty © 2001 Thankyou Music

DISMISSAL

Officiant: Go into the world and live the good news of Jesus Christ the risen Lord! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

WHAT'S *happening* This Week

Mon, May 13	Drop-In Dance Class (7 – 8:30 pm)
Tues, May 14	Morning Prayer (9:30 – 10 am)
Wed, May 15	Morning Prayer (9:30 – 10 am) Centering Prayer (10 – 10:30 am) Zoom Bible Study (7 pm)
Thu, May 16	Morning Prayer (9:30 – 10 am) Holy Eucharist (12 pm)
Sat, May 18	Food Drop-Off (9:30 – 11:30 am) Coffee, Tea, and Creativity (10 am – 12 pm)
Sun, May 19	Holy Eucharist for Pentecost (10 – 11:30 am)

Building up for God!

The mission of St. John's Church is to build a community of caring believers committed to Christ, to work for justice and service to all in need. We gather to praise God, and to give and receive support to meet the challenges of our daily lives and ministries. We call on everyone to come and join us.

We are an accessible, accepting, diverse community. We are young and old, able-bodied, and disabled, employed and unemployed. We are married, single, divorced, straight, and LGBTQ2S+. We are from all over the world, yet we could live next door. You will find open minds and open hearts at St. John's.

Ministry Team:

The Rev. Alexandra Stone, *Interim Priest-in-Charge*
pastor@sjwt.ca 647-542-1467

The Rev. Evelyn Butler, *Deacon*

The Rev. Bob Shantz, *Honorary Assistant*

Management Team:

Andrea Ruddy, *People's Warden*

Jennifer Jenkins, *Rector's Warden*

Wardens@sjwt.ca