

ORDER OF SERVICE
Second Sunday of Easter
April 11 2021 10am



Welcome to the Church of St. John the Evangelist. Thank you for worshipping with us. Whether you are a first-time visitor, a faithful parishioner or a returning friend, please know that you always have a place at God's table. As you enter today, may the gathering of this community strengthen you to take God's compassion and peace to a world in need of both.

The Church of St. John the Evangelist
23 Water Street North, Kitchener, Ontario N2H 5A4
www.stjohn316.com 519-743-0228

MORNING PRAYER AT TEN O'CLOCK

Officiant & Preacher	The Rev'd Dr. Preston Parsons
Reader	Deb Sheach
Singer	Mary Neil, Jonathan Malton
Tech Support	Mohan Thomas
Organist	Sarah Cardwell

Prelude Christ lag in Todesbanden - J.S. Bach

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Officiant Alleluia! Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Officiant May his grace and peace be with you.

People **May he fill our hearts with joy.**

Officiant Let us pray.

The community prays silently.

We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together on the Lord's Day to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing.

Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past, and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Hymn 244 We Walk By Faith, and Not By Sight

1. We walk by faith, and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear
from him who spoke as none e'er spoke;
but we believe him near.

2. We may not touch his hands and side,
nor follow where he trod;
but in his promise we rejoice
and cry, "My Lord and God!"
3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
and may our faith abound,
to call on you when you are near,
and seek where you are found:
4. that, when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

Collect of the Day

Officiant Let us pray.

The community prays silently.

Almighty and eternal God,
the strength of those who believe
and the hope of those who doubt,
may we, who have not seen, have faith
and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing,
who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Readings

Reader A Reading from the Book of Acts.
(Acts 4:32-35)

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them,

for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

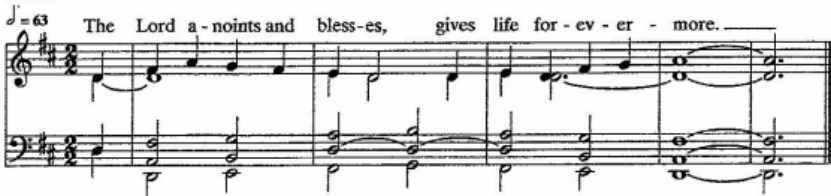
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 133

Hal Hopson

REFRAIN



How good and pleasant it is
when people dwell in unity!

It is like fine oil upon the head,
running down upon the beard. *Refrain*

How good and pleasant it is,
when people dwell in unity!

It is like the oil on Aaron's beard
running down to the collar of his robe. *Refrain*

How good and pleasant it is
when people dwell in unity!

It is like the dew of Hermon
that falls on the hills of Zion. *Refrain*

Reader A reading from the First Letter of John.
(1 John 1:1-2:2)

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us - we declare to you what we

have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Reader A Reading from the Gospel According to John.
 (John 20:19-31)

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails

and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon The Rev'd Dr. Preston Parsons

Silent Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

Officiant Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived
by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again

to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor: The response to each of the petitions is, “Your mercy is great.”

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence

You shower your church with grace, O God. Unite the whole church on earth, so that with one heart it testifies to the resurrection of Jesus Christ with power and love. We give thanks for the leadership of Todd, our Bishop, and for the ministry of Preston, our Rector. Give us a common vision for mission and ministry with others in our neighbourhood, and the commitment to work in cooperation with others.

Reader Hear us, O God.
People **Your mercy is great.**

You proclaim the blessings of life forevermore. Like dew upon the mountains, refresh your creation. Restore waters, cleanse the air, and provide revitalizing moisture to parched land. Give your whole creation the promise of new life.

Reader Hear us, O God.
People **Your mercy is great.**

You direct the nations, O God. Guide all in authority that they may shepherd their peoples in the way of your love. Lead nations of the world away from war, and equip them to be proponents of peace. Bestow the peace of Christ upon those in authority and breathe upon them the Holy Spirit of grace.

Reader Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

You place within the heart of the church a spirit of sharing. Give us the power of your generous Spirit, that we may provide for the needs of others, including those we now name aloud, or remember silently. (A space for silent reflection). Announce your peace to those who are lonely, hurting, suffering, or afraid.

Reader Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

You give us a sense of community with one another in this parish. Shine the light of the risen Christ in our life together, so that we will live in love for one another and our joy will be complete.

Reader Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

You share the gift of eternal life. In thanksgiving and remembrance, we recall the lives and gifts of those who now live in endless joy. Unite us with them in resurrection hope.

Reader Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **AMEN.**

Anthem

Now We Remain

D. Haas

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant Gathering our prayers and praises into one
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

All **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 forever. Amen.**

Hymn 231

That Eastertide with Joy Was Bright

1. That Eastertide with joy was bright;
the sun shone out with fairer light,
alleluia, alleluia!
when, to their longing eyes restored,
the apostles saw their risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
2. He bade them see his hands, his side,
where yet the glorious wounds abide:
alleluia, alleluia!
the tokens true which made it plain
their Lord indeed was risen again.
Alleluia, alleluia...
3. From every weapon death can wield
thine own redeemed forever shield:
alleluia, alleluia!
O Lord of all, with us abide
in this our joyful Eastertide.
Alleluia, alleluia...
4. Jesus the kind of gentleness,
do thou thyself our hearts possess,
alleluia, alleluia!
that we may give thee all our days
the tribute of our grateful praise.
Alleluia, alleluia...

Prayer Intentions for the Week of April 11th 2021

IN THE ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

PRAY for the Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean, for clergy and people of that place, and our common ministry and mission.

PRAY for Todd, our Bishop; Anne, our Archbishop and Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate; Mark, National Indigenous Archbishop; Marinez, Bishop of Amazonia, our companion Diocese; Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Susan, National Bishop, and Michael, Bishop of the Eastern Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

In the Anglican Church of Canada we pray this week for The Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario.

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, we pray for the dean, council, and congregations of the Manitoba Central Area of the Manitoba – Northwestern Ontario Synod.

IN THE DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

PRAY for parishes, people, and clergy in Brant-Norfolk Deanery, and especially this week for The Parish of Long Point Bay which includes St. John's Church, Port Rowan; St. John's Church, Woodhouse; and St. Andrew's-by-the-Lake, Turkey Point.

PRAY for the Diocese of Amazonia, for Bishop Marinez Rosa dos Santos Bassoto, Bishop, and for our common mission and ministry.

FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

WE PRAY this week for Jim Mighty, Peter Mills, Bette Moore, Brent Needham, and their families.

FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHO ARE ILL

Tracy, Marlin, Ron and Anne, Wayne, Ida, Vivian, Margaux, Sylvia, Alexander, Percival and Janet, Jeannie, Valerie, Cedric, Hazel, Al and Ann, St. John's, Margaret and George Strack, Pat, Franco, Janice and Family, John and Jennings family.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

PRAY for Preston, our Rector, the clergy of our Deanery, church leaders everywhere, and members of other faith groups. In this season of Easter, may we continue to be mindful of each other's need for support and encouragement, and quick to practice love and compassion in all our words and actions. Help us continue to find ways to work with others, that we may fulfill our calling to care for all people.

PRAY for the health of people in our community, and throughout the world, as we continue to face challenges in our lives. Be with those who care for the sick and those who serve the public while facing personal health risks. Give thanks for all who are volunteering and working in vaccination clinics in our region and beyond. Pray especially for all who are disadvantaged by hunger, homelessness, mental illness, and unemployment. Give thanks for those in our community who are working to provide food, clothing, medical care and temporary shelter for those who have nowhere to call home, and all who are partnering to provide affordable housing.

Parish Announcements and Events

ENCOUNTERING THE PSALMS: A six-week program on understanding and singing the Psalms will be offered on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. beginning April 13. Our Rector, Preston Parsons, Alicia Batten, Bruce Wheatcroft and Ken Hull will each explore different aspects of the psalms, and a concluding presentation on the Psalms in Anglican Worship will be given by Prof. Lizette Larson-Miller of Huron College. Each week we'll conclude our session by singing a psalm in a different way. To attend please register [here](#). More details about the course can be found [here](#).

Confirmations On Thursday, June 3rd, the bishop will be visiting the deanery for a confirmation service. It will be held outside and observe all COVID protocols that will be in place. If you are interested in confirmation—as an unconfirmed adult who would like to make a fresh profession of faith, or as a young person—be in touch with the Rector, rector@stjohn316.com.

New Weekly Bible Study St John's is starting a weekly online Bible study on Tuesday mornings from 11:00am-noon. If you are interested in participating, please contact Ken Hull at krhull@uwaterloo.ca or 519-579-8335.

Special Thanks to the choristers and guests who participated and contributed to the music on Easter Sunday.

Anthem: Rebecca McKay, Nathalie Nasr, Bill Hutton, Bruce Wheatcroft, Corinne Dutton

Mass Laura Dorice, Deb Sheach, Bill Hutton, Angus Sheach, Corinne Dutton.

Psalm Rebecca McKay, Bill Hutton, Ken Hull

Hymn 203 Rebecca McKay, Elaine Duncanson, Bill Hutton, Bruce Wheatcroft, Corinne Dutton

Hymn 210 Rebecca McKay, Andrea Balfour, Bill Hutton, Bruce Wheatcroft, Corinne Dutton

Donation Options There are many ways you can continue your contributions to St. John's

1. Send weekly envelopes in the mail. You can send post-dated cheques to the office at 23 Water St. North Kitchener ON N2H 5A4
2. Drop off cash donations to the office through the mail slot in the office door. Write your name on the envelope!
3. Have an Errand Buddy pick up your donation.
4. Sign up for, or make changes to your DEFT by contacting the office (519-743-0228 or church@stjohn316.com).
5. Donate Online through Canada Helps by credit card. You can set up recurring, or one time donations. Canada Helps takes 3.75% but also provides the tax receipt directly to you and provides a donation report to us! [Here's the link](#)

If you know of someone who is ill or in hospital, please contact The Rector, Reverend Dr. Preston Parsons rector@stjohn316.com or leave a message with the office at 519-743-0228. In case of emergencies you can contact him at 519-573-7797

Rector

The Reverend Dr Preston Parsons

Assistant Clergy

The Venerable Ken Cardwell

The Reverend Paul Kett

Rector's Warden Marianne Mellinger

People's Warden Debbie Sheach

Deputy Warden Dave Sapelak, Eleanor Brown

Interim Music Director Sarah Cardwell

Parish Administrator Rebecca McKay

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