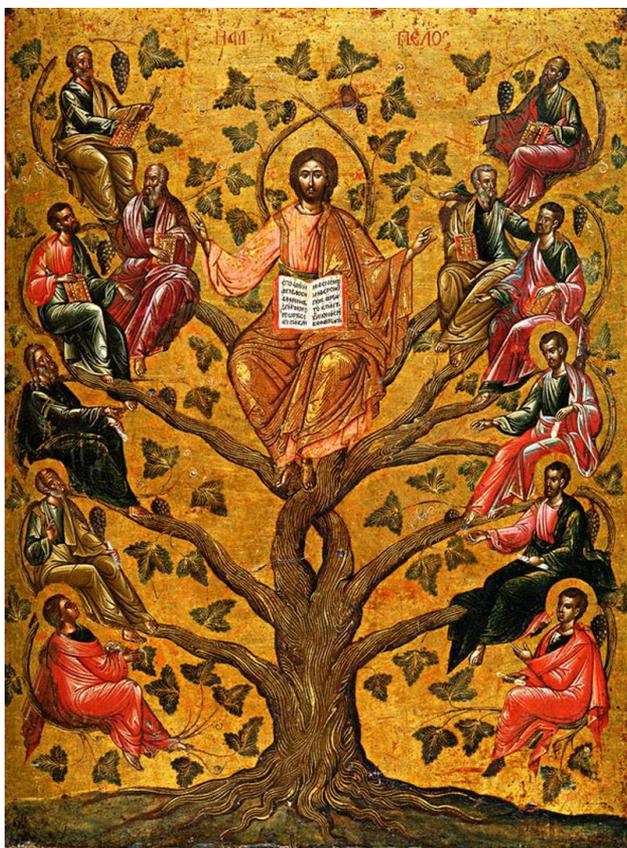


ORDER OF SERVICE
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2nd 2021 10am



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	Sue Doran, Laura Doric, Jocelyn Truscott
Tech Support & Recording	Jonathan Malton
Organist	Sarah Cardwell

Prelude

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

Celebrant 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 482

Come and Journey with a Saviour
tune: Beach Spring

1. Come and journey with a Saviour
who has called us from our birth,
who has washed us in the waters,
and who loved us on the earth.

Refrain

Come and journey, come and journey
with a Saviour who has come.

We are all God's sons and daughters;
in the Spirit we are one.

2. Come and journey, journey inward,
come and seek him deep within,
where he meets us in our living,
in our striving and our sin.

Refrain

Come and journey, come and journey
with a Saviour who has come.

We are all God's sons and daughters;
in the Spirit we are one.

3. Come and journey, journey outward,
telling others of his name,
telling others of his glory,
of his cross and of the shame.

Refrain

Come and journey, come and journey
with a Saviour who has come.

We are all God's sons and daughters;
in the Spirit we are one.

4. Come and journey, journey outward,
where that cross calls us to care,
where injustice and where hunger
and the poor call us to share.

Refrain

Come and journey, come and journey
with a Saviour who has come.

We are all God's sons and daughters;
in the Spirit we are one.

Collect of the Day

Officiant Let us pray.

The community prays silently.

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.

People **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Readings

Reader A Reading from the Book of Acts.

(Acts 8:26-40)

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done. *Refrain*

Reader A reading from the First Letter of John.
(1 John 4:7-21)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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

Reader A Reading from the Gospel According to John.
(John 15:1-8)

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

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

God of all fruitfulness, you abide in your church and your church abides in you. Cleanse us by your Word and give yourself to the whole church on earth so that it will bear fruit and witness to your 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 in our neighbourhood, and the commitment to work in cooperation with others.

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

God, you have created the heavens and the earth. As we wonder at the beauty of creation, may we become more intentional in caring for all that depends on the earth for life.

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

God, you rule the nations with justice and love. Give the leaders of the earth assurance of your abiding presence, that

they lead not by fear, but with love for those they are called to serve.

Reader Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

God, you have loved us so that we can love others. We pray for all in need of your love: those who are poor, lowly, outcast, weak or fearful. Provide for the needs of all, including those we now name aloud, or remember in silence. (A space for silent prayer and reflection).

Reader Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

God, even in difficult times you surprise us with new understanding. Help us to be steadfast in our worship and in our caring, our love, and our respect for each other.

Reader Hear us, O God.

People **Your mercy is great.**

God, you gather us with all the saints by the power of your Spirit. With them, may our hearts live forever in your keeping.

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

I Give You a New Commandment

P. Aston

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 425

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

tune: Hymn to Joy

1. Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.
2. All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father and our Mother,
all who live in love are thine;

teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Announcements

Dismissal

Officiant Glory to God,

All **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.**

Officiant May the God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing
through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Prayer Intentions for the Week of May 2nd 2021

IN THE ANGLICAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

PRAY for the the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East, for its clergy and people, 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 Most Rev. Anne Germond, Bishop and The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, Assisting Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Missionary Area of Moosonee.

In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, we pray this week for the dean, council, and congregations of the Winnipeg South 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 Holy Trinity Church, St. George; Trinity Church, Waterford; Trinity Church, Aylmer; and St. John's Church, Glencoe.

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

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND FOR WHOM FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TODAY

The flowers on the Altar are in loving memory of Richard W. Cockfield and Sheila Cockfield, a gift of Carol Cockfield and Family

FOR MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

WE PRAY this week for Preston Parsons and Karen Sunabacka, Kevin and Maureen Park, Bernice Payne, Marie Peacock, 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, Hazel, Al and Ann, Margaret and George Strack, Pat, Franco.

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

STILL SPOTS AVAILABLE

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](#).

Birthdays and Anniversaries May 2nd is the FIRST Sunday in May, and even though we STILL can't meet in person we will still celebrate the May birthdays and anniversaries of the people of St. John's! We will sing the Blessing song at the beginning of the zoom coffee hour. Please send Karen an email: ksunabacka@gmail.com if you want to be named. Please state whether it is a birthday or anniversary and any other details of the celebration you wish Karen to share. Or simply be prepared to share your birthday and/or anniversary during the zoom coffee hour!

Medical Assessments A note from St. John's parishioner, and Benton Medical Clinic Manager, Melanie Horst:

The Ministry of Health has recently approved telephone assessments to minimize that traffic in a medical facility and reducing exposure. Effective today, my office is now able to offer that. I have spoken with my physicians and they have approved for me to offer this to our church members and community. Many family practice offices are beginning to do this but not all at this time.

If any member of our church or community requires to speak with a physician but would rather not go into a medical facility or leave their home, they may contact me directly and I can register them for a telephone consultation with one of our physicians. Obviously there will be limits to their ability with no physical

examinations but will be attempting to cover all care as best as possible in this current climate. They will be able to prescribe medication for acute issues, order lab work or imaging if needed. If this is something that would help anyone please have them contact me by email (melanieh@bentonmedicalclinic.com) or my cell (519-841-8921).

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

Cover Art: Eastern Orthodox icon of Jesus Christ as the True Vine, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55553> [retrieved April 29, 2021]. Original source: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Christ_the_True_Vine_icon_\(Athens,_16th_century\).jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Christ_the_True_Vine_icon_(Athens,_16th_century).jpg).