

Holy Trinity Anglican Church
Rev Michael Fleming
Trinity Sunday
May 30

Celebrant: The parishes of the Diocese of Ottawa sit on the unceded territory of the Algonquin peoples.
May we live together in harmony and peace.

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Celebrant: Glorious Trinity, make your presence known in this gathering through our worship, our prayers and the reading of your Word. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, within whose unity lies all that is You, perfect love, justice, peace and power. As we gather on this new day as part of your body, your Church throughout the world, fill our outstretched hearts with your Spirit, encircle us with your love. Make yourself known to us in new ways, exciting ways, challenging ways. Empower us and inspire us, glorious Trinity. Amen

Celebrant: 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.**

The Gloria

Celebrant: Glory to God in the highest
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Celebrant: Father, we praise you: through your Word and Holy Spirit you created all things. You reveal your salvation in all the world by sending to us Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Through your Holy Spirit you give us a share of your life and love. Fill us with your glory, that we may always serve and please you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen

The Proclamation of the Word

The **First Reading** is from the Book of Isaiah, Chapter 6: Verses 1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 28

Celebrant: O Lord, I call to you; my rock, do not be deaf to my cry; lest, if you do not hear me, I become like those who go down to the Pit.

Hear the voice of my prayer when I cry out to you, when I lift up my hands to your holy of holies.

Do not snatch me away with the wicked or with the evildoers, who speak peaceably with their neighbours, while strife is in their hearts.

Repay them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their actions.

According to the work of their hands repay them, and give them their just desserts.

They have no understanding of the Lord’s doings, nor of the works of his hands; therefore he will break them down and not build them up.

Blessed is the Lord! For he has heard the voice of my prayer.

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I have been helped;

Therefore my heart dances for joy, and in my song will I praise him.

The Lord is the strength of his people, a safe refuge for his anointed.

Save your people and bless your inheritance; shepherd them and carry them for ever.

The Second Reading is from the letter of Paul to the Romans, Chapter 8, Verses 12 to 17

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to the blessed St. John - St. John 3: 1-22

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

After this, Jesus and his disciples went out into the Judean countryside, where he spent some time with them, and baptized.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ

The Homily

On May 20 forty-five years ago, I stood with Roger Steinke, George Cooper, Wayne Thomas, Paul Lacharite and Bryan Beveridge before Bishop Bill Robinson at the altar steps of our cathedral here in Ottawa and was ordered a Deacon in Christ's one holy catholic and apostolic church. For me, it was a new beginning, the first steps on a journey into a new life. I did not have a road-map which told me my final destination nor the route I would follow. I looked at a photo of that ordination group the other day and shook my head and smiled at how young we looked, how broad were our grins and how close we seemed to be – today, only three of us are still of this earth and only one is still in a form of full-time ministry how constant is change and change alone.

The church into which I was ordained all those years ago is not the church that I grew up in nor is it the one from which I retired some ten years ago, nor is THAT church the church I now serve on an occasional basis. That is one of the mysteries that we are all called to enter into when we answer, as Isaiah did when God asked, "Whom shall I send to speak for me, to act for me?" and he said, "Here am I; send me." The church is in a constant state of change even though many say that the watchword for the institution is and should be, "as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be." I was reflecting the other day with Father Peddle, who will join you next week as your interim priest, about how the last fifty years has witnessed in the church major shifts and movements such as few generations have seen since perhaps the first century of the life of the newly-birtherd apostolic community known as the ecclesia of the followers of the Way.

As I grew up in the parish of St. George's in Montreal, I was witness to and a participant in many changing moments in my church: the 1959 revision of the Book of Common Prayer in Canada; the revolution that was Vatican 2 in the early 60's with all its attendant repercussions both within the Roman Catholic tradition and our own; the moving of the altar from the back wall of the sanctuary, the priest now celebrating facing his people and speaking in the vernacular tongue of time and place; the singing of new hymns and settings of the traditional worship; the movement towards more contemporary forms of worship with the attendant rise of instruments other than an organ for the playing of hymns; and on and on. When I was deaconed and then priested in 1976, change was still in the wind which many celebrated and many decried. New translations of Holy Scripture based on discoveries on the worlds of archeology and Biblical research opened new doors to how we read the

Word and interpret it for our times; we began to look with seriousness at what it meant to be Church in our modern setting.....

My years as an ordained Christian have seen such movements of the Spirit – some of us fought for and celebrated the ordination of women in our diocese and in our national and international church; we struggled with the issue of sexuality and its attendant crisis over the acceptance and blessing of same sex unions and many of us today wonder what took us so long to honour so many in our church family; we preached and marched against apartheid both in South Africa and in other places where the same segregation existed but under different names; we were blessed with the renewal movement as the wind of the Spirit blew through the structures and institutions of our blessed Mother Church; we struggled with the implications of accepting that Jesus preached and lived a preferential option for the poor and that that would involve us in the claiming of human, civil and economic rights for all God’s children; many of us were gifted with the experience called Cursillo which has fundamentally changed the ministry of ALL God’s people in our congregations and our dioceses; we have seen the empowerment of the laity in our congregations and the opening of many doors in our parish life that once were seen as the particular pervu of the ordained alone. With each change, some in our Anglican community were elated and some were bitterly hurt which caused and continue to cause rifts and fractures in our relationships with other faith communities and within our congregations and sometimes even within our human families. Change is not always a joyful thing but is inevitable and we struggle with how to effect these while honouring and loving those with whom we have from time to time lived such deep divisions of theology and experience. So much has changed and so much more waits to be revealed to us as we move forward in faith and in hope into God’s future.

All of us have lived through the nightmare of this pandemic time and we are uncertain as to what our lives will shake out to be like once things return to normal – whatever normal will be! In spite of the hell through which the world has been put by this microscopic monster called COVID-19, we have been given an opportunity to think with prayerful seriousness about the very future of our faith and how it is lived in the real world. We have the chance to reflect on the question asked by the exiles as they sat on the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers so long ago and wondered, “How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land?” We are now entering a strange world, one whose landscape has been forever altered by the events of a global crisis over the last eighteen months. We can despair or we can anticipate - it is up to each one of us.

Bishop Shane has called us to participate in one such undertaking – to prayerfully and carefully look at ourselves in terms of how we vision and dream – this is the time for the young to see visions and the old to dream dreams and together to recreate ourselves more and more into the likeness and image of God shown to us and lived for us in the life and ministry of Jesus. This is not an invitation to survival – it is a call to revival. We have the skills and the imagination and the vision and the dreams and the hope and the power to become once again the church of the apostles who were celebrated for the generosity of their spirit, the openness of their invitation to all to “come and see”, the wild abandon with which they stepped out in faith and trust to encounter all the darkness and the powers that be that seem to so overwhelm the humanity of us all. I encourage all of you to become engaged in this endeavour - ALL of you, not just the Wardens and Lay Members and other parish poobahs – All of you, for this is YOUR parish, YOUR church and God’s future in YOUR world. We have the opportunity to shape our collective ministry of clergy and laity together, to see visions beyond our present understanding, to dream the great dreams of God’s abiding and living presence as the Creating, Redeeming and Sustaining One, the Holy Trinity of our common faith, stands before us and beckons us into a great and

glorious future, a future in which lions and lambs will lie down together and sheep and goats will graze in pastures green.

Amen

The Apostles' Creed

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

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

We 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.**

**We 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

Celebrant: God (*the greatest lover*) so loved (*to the greatest degree*) the world (*the greatest number*) that God gave (*the greatest act*) his only-begotten Son (*the greatest gift*) that whoever (*the greatest invitation*) believes (*the greatest simplicity*) in Him (*the greatest person*) should not perish (*the greatest deliverance*) but (*the greatest difference*) have (*the greatest certainty*) eternal life (*the greatest grace*).

God of all that is good, we praise you for your humble and mighty acts. Hear us as we offer our praise and adoration for your glorious ways, for your very being in our lives, for the power and splendour of your name, we pray:

God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son that all who believe in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Celebrant: We pray for the world around us, for nations and peoples far away, for their hopes and fears and for those who weep and dance in every part of your world, we pray:

God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son that all who believe in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Celebrant: We give you thanks for the possibilities that come from your imagination, and for the talents and gifts given so freely to us, and pray that we fulfill the vision of ministry and mission that you set before us, we pray:

God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son that all who believe in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Celebrant: We give you thanks for your Son Jesus Christ who came among us how to live in you and how to die to ourselves for you. In this season of Pentecost, we pray for our own paths to the cross, for the sacrifices we must make in your name, for the joy of your eternal salvation, we pray:

God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son that all who believe in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Celebrant: We pray for every church in every place; for every community of faith throughout the world where love is proclaimed as the core of our lives and our living, we pray:

God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son that all who believe in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Celebrant: God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son that all who believe in him shall not perish but have eternal life. We pray for those who suffer, that we may bless with you those in our midst who are hurting and those who trust us to pray for them remembering especially Zachariah, Marjorie, Cheryl, Jeanette, Roy, Emerson, Irene, and their families; we pray for those who, in times of severe illness turn away from you because they do not see or feel your presence and light in the darkness which surrounds them and we pray that they will feel your arms of loving care surrounding them, we pray:

God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son that all who believe in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Celebrant: We pray for those who have died that we may know the presence of the cloud of witnesses around us as we seek to be your people in new and exciting ways. Bless all those who mourn and those who, in their grief, know the sure and certain promise of eternal life in you, we pray:

God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son that all who believe in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Amen

(from Smitha Rajan)

The Confession

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers, let us gather as one in the name of the Holy Trinity and make our confession to God and one another as we pray,

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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 your Son Jesus 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

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: As our Lord and Saviour has gifted to the church, so we pray,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Additional Prayers

O holy God, like the prophet Isaiah, we stand in awe of your glory, feeling tremendously small and polluted by our sin, and the sins of our society. Even so, you touch us with your burning presence and we are made clean and whole. O God our Creator, continue to build this household of faith into what you want us to be. O Christ our Saviour, lead us to do will. O Spirit, O Power, strengthen us for the work of the kingdom, a worship and a service which is ours today as well as tomorrow. O blessed Trinity, fill this place and us with your presence. For yours is the Power and the Salvation. Now and always. Amen

(from re:Worship)

Living God, thank you for the surpassing greatness of your Power to us who believe. Because you came to dwell with us, we have your mighty strength with which you raised Christ from the dead. Strengthen us in our inner being so that we may know the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge and understanding and be filled with all the fullness of God. Amen.

Through your efforts, blessed Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we have been redeemed, created and sanctified. Although we have never understood the fullness of the Trinity. You have granted us new life and have declared us innocent through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. For this we worship you in humble adoration. Keep us in the faith until we join all the elect around your glorious throne. We ask this in your name, you who live and rule ever one God through all eternity. Amen

(the three prayers are by Arnold Ruddat from re:Worship)

Celebrant: Lord God our Father, Creator; we thank you for the gift of this parish of Metcalfe, for those who come seeking you and for those who minister from this place. Inspire us with your wisdom to set our roots deeply and firmly in the faith, that we may be stewards of justice in all your creation. Lord

God Jesus, Saviour and Redeemer; we thank you for your continuing presence in our parish family. Inspire us to seek you in Scripture, the Sacraments and one another, that we may be faithful to your call to evangelism and love. Lord God Holy Spirit, Sustainer and Renewer, we thank you for all the wondrous gifts you have poured upon us. Inspire us to serve you in body and in spirit; help us to share your gifts of time, creativity, energy, talents and finances; open us to your redeeming life-affirming and life-giving power. O God – Father, Son and Spirit; we praise you in the name of Jesus our Redeemer, Friend and Brother. Amen
(Michael Fleming)

Benediction and Blessing

Celebrant: Thanks be to you our Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given us, for all the pain and insults you have borne for us. Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly day by day, now and forevermore.
(Richard of Chichester)

We bind unto ourselves today the strong name of the Trinity. By invocation of the same, the Three in One and One in Three. Of whom all nature has creation; Eternal Father, spirit, Word. Praise to the Lord of our salvation. Salvation is of Christ the Lord.
(St. Patrick)

May peace be within us. May peace be around us. May peace be beside us. May peace be between us. May we walk peacefully with Mother Earth. May peace fill our days and nights. May peace fill the earth.
(Diann L. Neu from The Flowering of the Soul)