

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH, Metcalfe

APRIL 24, 2022

Easter 2

Father Michael Fleming

Fr. Michael: As we continue on the Easter path, we remember that our sacred space and the places we call home lie on the unceded territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin people.

People: **May we share the land in a spirit of reconciliation and justice for all.**

Fr. Michael: The grace of Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

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

Fr. Michael: We have not seen the risen Christ,

People: **but we see him in the lives of those transformed by grace.**

Fr. Michael: We have not seen Jesus face to face,

People: **but we have seen him in the faces of everyone whose love encourages us.**

Fr. Michael: We have not touched the wounds from the cross,

People: **but we have been called to bring healing to the scarred of the world. Alleluia!**

(from Thom Shum, Lectionary Liturgies 2020)

Fr. Michael: As a community called and gathered, together we pray, Almighty God

People: **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.**

Fr. Michael: And now, with all the saints in heaven and those gathered here on earth, we celebrate our relationship with the Lord as we say, Glory to God in the highest

People: **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.**

Fr. Michael: God, we are in a liminal space, one where chaos and disorder have confused our lives, yet where we also find time to rest and receive your gift of peace. We sit with the disciples behind the locked doors and we wait in fear, and when you appear, we are given a

spirit of peace which only you can give. Hold us in your grace this morning, offering us the same hopeful word you offered those frightened disciples that Easter evening so many years ago. We pray this all in the name of your Son, our risen Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: 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 forever.

**Amen**

Reader: A reading from The Acts of the Apostles (Acts 5: 27-32)

When they had brought the apostles, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority.

The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Our psalm for this new day is Psalm 118 When I am hemmed in by adversity on every side, God cuts me free, When I am encircled by troubles like a swarm of stinging bees, God scatters them.

People: **When I am pushed so hard that I stumble, God raises me up. God is my strength and my song and has become my only salvation.**

Reader: The tent of my soul is ringing with shouts of joy and victory and God has worked wonders within me! The strong and sustaining hand of El Shaddai has brought me to life.

People: **I shall not die but live, proclaiming the Lord's marvellous deeds. Though God has severely chastened me, I have not been handed over to death.**

Reader: The gates of the Lord's generous goodness are open and I will enter them with thanksgiving! All the just and the faithful will enter by my side, and I will thank Eloihim for answering me, for making me whole.

People: **God takes the stone that has been rejected and makes it the cornerstone of her purpose. The transforming acts of the Lord are marvellous in our sight!**

Reader: Today is the today the Lord has made. Let us be glad in it and dance for joy, for the Lord has saved and prospered us!

People: **Blessed are those who come in the name of the Lord. We bless you in the presence of God who has given us light.**

Reader: We bear branches of celebration in festal procession and make our way to the altar of adoration.

People: **We offer God our heartfelt thanks and extol the sacred Name. We praise God's goodness singing, The Love of the Lord has no end! Alleluia!**

Reader: A reading from the Book of Revelation (Revelation 1: 4-8)

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Music of preparation for sharing the Gospel good news: #215 Come ye faithful, raise the strain

Holy Gospel

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Risen Saviour Jesus Christ according to the Blessed St. John ( St. John 20: 19-31)

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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.

Fr. Michael: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## Homily - Easter 2

Like Christmas, there seems always to be a sort of “let-down” after the BIG EVENT is done at Easter. Like Christmas, the decorations are returned to their hiding place until next year, the last of the feast is-consumed, the good dishes stacked in their honoured place until Thanksgiving – when all is said and done, there is this tremendous silence into which creeps the inevitable question, “Now what?”

I have often wondered what it must have been like for those in that room in Jerusalem after Jesus breaks into their darkness and their grief with the offer of his peace, his Father’s Shalom and then his unexpected disappearance from their sight; of how someone like Thomas who was not there at the moment of God’s unveiling dealt with all the uncertainties of rumours.

Into this moment of transition between Easter and Pentecost lingers one question for me: how can I know that what I have been told, that what I have assumed for so long is true?

I want to share with you something I wrote may years ago, at the beginning of my incredible journey in priesthood – amazingly, I find myself today in so many ways where I was almost a half-century ago. I’m not sure what THAT says, but...The beginning always begins the beginning....

In the beginning, God...

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...

When first creation was done, God looked at all he had dreamed,  
sighed, smiled,

and said to Himself,

“This is good.”

To first humanity,, he said,

“Come, dwell in my world...your world...our world

and walk with me in the gloaming time

between sundown and sunset”

and it was so,

and God raised his head

and giggled for joy.

God and his creation,

walking arm in arm at the twilight of the day,

rejoiced in their togetherness and their love,

and it was good...very good.

“I give you my All; dwell in me as I dwell in you,

for I imagined you, created you, birthed you,

breathed in you my image, my heart.

Dwell in me as I live in you”;

and it was good ....very good;

and God twinkled his eyes and crinkled his lips

as the stars leapt in delight.

But darkness came.  
Light fled as God wept  
and shut the gate to his garden  
but never to his heart ,  
promising to give us a new dwelling-place  
in his foreverness.

“Dwell in me”.

God spoke through the generations to those who would listen:  
to Sarah and Abraham, he gave the heart of a covenant  
as Hagar was renewed by the waters at Beer-Sheba;  
Rebecca and Jacob blessed a new land with parents' love  
while Joseph journeyed with Yahweh to a pharaoh's den.  
Miriam, Moses and Aaron watered the faith in a desert place  
so Isaiah would remember the Lord in a city of exile.  
Naomi and Ruth embodied what it meant  
to dwell in the Lord,  
the same wisdom Esther used to save her people...

to old Elizabeth, He gave the news of the indwelling yet to come  
in Annunciation to the daughter of Anna ;  
Mary's "YES" made Incarnation real  
while Martha and Mary nurtured the dwelling-place with Lazarus.  
The Magdalene was called "dulcis amica dei – sweet friend of God"-  
because of her faithfulness and love.  
Tabitha wore her love for the Lord  
and Lydia turned her house of cloth  
into a dwelling for the Faith  
so the words of Prisca and Paul could be heard.

And thus it was good...very good....very, very good  
and generations past and those yet to come  
receive the renewed invitation  
to dwell in God's love  
through the sacrifice of a Son,  
and all he asks is that we RSVP/.

Hearth...heart...he art...  
Fire-given, Flame-moved, Spirit-led...  
I want to dwell with you and in you  
in the openness of your dwelling-place.  
Like Thomas, I cry,  
“Lord, open the door which has no latch  
so I may enter and live for the first time in Your Time,  
to sit with the Peters and James' and Johns and Andrews

and feel your heart burning within us as it did  
with Cleopas so long ago.

“I am”, you say...

“You are”, I whisper in the darkened places  
where shadows fall to keep me from Love.  
Come Lord, open me and let me fly under rainbows  
and drench me in your multi-coloured joy.

Call, and I shall come.

I am filled with uncertainty, trembling and fear,  
for I do not know You or myself  
and dark things still go bump in the dark  
to stop my pilgrimage home.

Home where the heart is...

like the prodigal, I long to find again my Father's place,  
but I am so afraid -

afraid of first steps, afraid of the twisting path,  
afraid of strangers in the ditch  
and of the wind that howls  
its malevolent laughter.

I fear You will not be waiting at the gate or running down the road.

Lord, call me home so I may live in You, with You;  
embrace me as I turn and trace my last steps  
and tell me that I am home among your Beloved.

“Dwell in my love... I never abandoned you even when you walked away;  
I never rejected you even when you refused me;  
I never judged you even when you found me guilty;  
I never stopped loving even when you spat in my face  
and bloodied my head, my hands, my heart.

I loved you then with all my heart;

I long for you, for I need you

as companion on the journey we began so long ago

when gates were open and we strolled arm in arm in the quieting of the day.

Come...

let us dwell together forever as one.

Alleluia!”

Fr. Michael: Faith means betting your life that something is true. We, the living Church, affirm  
our faith as we say, I believe in God, the Father Almighty,

People: **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**

Reader: Rejoicing in the mighty acts of our God who has delivered his people from sin and death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us lift our voices and pray,

People: **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Let us thank God for the multitude of blessings so freely given to us – for our lives and for those whom we love and those who love us, for the beauty of this world which God has created and called us to shared stewardship with him; for our families, friends and all our friendships; let us lift our voices and pray,

People: **Risen Lord, hear our prayer**

Reader: Let us pray for the Church, that she may carry forth the redemptive works of God. In our diocese we remember this day Shane, our Bishop; Anne, our Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate; as well as the diocesan staff and senior staff at Ascension House. We also pray for St. Mark the Evangelist, Ottawa and the Reverend Julian Campbell, The Parish of Pakenham and all those who minister there and we pray particularly for our bishops and the clergy who share ministry with them; for the lay leadership in our parishes and for all those gathered this day in their sacred spaces to offer prayer and worship, let us lift our voices and pray,

People: **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: For the newly baptized or confirmed, that the joy of Easter may ever grow within them and that the Spirit may guide them in lives of active faith; for these persons, let us lift our voices and pray,

People: **Risen Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Let us pray for all the nations of our world, particularly where war and conflict destroy lives of the innocent, especially in Ukraine and Afghanistan, in the Middle East and Africa, in our own cities. Let us pray that the powers that oppress and destroy may be defeated and that your shalom may flood this good earth. For this, let us raise our voices and pray,

People: **Risen Lord, hear our prayer**

Reader: Let us pray for those who are sick or suffering, the lonely, the lost, the abandoned, the victims of domestic violence, for those who have received devastating word this week, that the hope born at Easter may fill them with peace, acceptance and renewal of mind, body and spirit and that they and we may come into closer communion with the God who redeems and restores. We hold in our hearts those who have asked us to pray for them: those in the

silence of our inner being and those who have asked us to hold their names before the community - Sarah, Howard, Irene, Marjorie, Roy, Scott, Jeanette, Zachariah, and Cheryl.  
People: **Risen Lord, accept these our prayers and equip us for service in your name.**

**Amen**

(from Liturgies and Hymns by Stephen Fearing 2021, adapted by RMF)

Fr. Michael: When we keep our faults and our failures locked safely away, we have no need to confess, or so we think! But God comes into our hearts when we least expect so we can be filled with forgiveness, hope and peace. Let us open before the Lord, saying,

People: **God of empty tombs and emptier people: when we hesitate to speak of your hope, forgive us and give us your voice; when we find it difficult to love one another, forgive us and give us a share of fresh compassion; when we want to stand with the high and the mighty, forgive us and give us seats with the poor and the oppressed; when we stay locked behind our fears and doubts, forgive us and send us out to share your grace; when we cannot believe your Word of New Life, forgive us and fill us with your joy.**

Fr. Michael: Christ comes into every shadowed corner of our lives with the light and hope of Easter; Christ comes into the locked rooms of our faults and gifts us with grace and hope. Christ comes to fill us with peace, so that we may proclaim the good news of God's mercy and forgiveness. Know that you are loved, forgiven and cherished today and always. Amen  
May the peace and love of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: God of grace, you have freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom in your Son Jesus Christ. Accept all that we offer you this new day, and strengthen us in the new life you have given us, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord and Risen Saviour. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you**

Fr. Michael: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Fr. Michael: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Fr. Michael: Eternal God, source of all being, we give you thanks and praise for your faithful love. You call us into friendship with you and with one another to be your holy people, a sign of your presence in the world. When those we trust betray us, unfailingly you remain with us. When we injure others, you confront us in your love and call us to the paths of righteousness. You stand with the weak and those who are broken and alone whom you have always welcomed home, making the first last and the last first. Therefore, we raise our voices with angels and archangels, forever praising you and saying,

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory; Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**



Fr. Michael: Blessed are you, O holy One: when Hagar was driven into the wilderness, you followed her and gave her hope. When Joseph was sold into bondage, you turned malice to your people's good. When you called Israel out of slavery, you brought them through the wilderness into the promised land. When your people were taken into exile, you wept with them by the river of Babylon and you carried them home.

People: **Restore us, O God, let your face shine!**

Fr. Michael: At the right time, you sent your Anointed Son to stand with the poor, the outcast and the oppressed. Jesus touched the lepers and the sick, and he healed them. He accepted water from a woman of Samaria and offered her the water of new life. Christ knew the desolation of the cross and opened the way for all humanity into the redemption of your reconciling love. On the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus at supper with his friends took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, gave it to them and said, "Take, eat: this is my Body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper, he took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you; this is my Blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink this, do this for the remembrance of me." Loving and Holy One, recalling Christ's death and resurrection, we offer you these gifts, longing for the bread of tomorrow and the wine of the age to come. Therefore we proclaim our hope,

People: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Fr. Michael: Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts, that through them you may sustain us in our hunger for your peace. We hold before you all those whose lives are marked by suffering, our sisters and brothers. When we are broken and cast aside, embrace us in your love.

People: **Restore us, O God, let your face shine!**

Fr. Michael: Through Christ, and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O Source of all life, now and forevermore. **Amen**

Fr. Michael: And now, as Christ has gifted to his Church, so we pray,

People: **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.**

Fr. Michael: Lord, we died with you on the cross;

People: **now we are raised to new life.**

Fr. Michael: We were buried in your tomb

People: **now we share in your resurrection.**

Fr. Michael: Live in us that we may live in you. The gifts of God for the children of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**WE SHARE THE BREAD OF LIFE AND THE NEW WINE OF THE KINGDOM**

Fr. Michael: Father, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our fingers the bread of life. Strengthen our faith that we may grow in our love for you and for each other; through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord.

**Amen**  
People: **God of the open road, God of the twisting path, God of the narrow and upward way, your people have gathered for worship. In this hour, you have given us provisions for the journey, courage and faith and compassion and endurance to face any hardship. Open our eyes to see you walking beside us, protecting us, encouraging us, loving us; we pray this in the name of Jesus, who moves us. Amen**  
(from re:Worship 2019)

Fr. Michael: In the evening when the disciples met frightened behind locked doors, you come to them with words of peace. For wicked plots have failed, and the cruelty of the world has come to nothing while the betrayal and denial of friends have not prevailed. Life-giving God, we give you thanks for Jesus has risen and He comes to us with words of Shalom. Come to us today; in government rooms where politicians meet; in city and village board rooms where executives plan; in courtrooms where lawyers debate – come with words of peace. In hospital rooms where people are waiting, in prison cells where people are afraid, in homes where folk struggle to make ends meet – come with words of Shalom. Come to us whenever and wherever we are afraid or when we are grieving. Come to us now and help us to pray for those we care for and are worried about. Despite the strong and solid doors we lock to protect ourselves, to shut out the world – come to us with words of peace. This Eastertide, breathe on us again with your Spirit, for you have overcome all evil and wicked plots fail. And when the cruelty of the world comes to nothing and the betrayal and denial of friends do not prevail, - come to us with words of Shalom. Alleluia  
(Susan Miller from Starters for Sunday 2020)

Fr. Michael: Glory to God,  
People: **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**

Fr. Michael: Grace and peace to you.  
People: **from God who was, and is, and is to come.**  
Fr. Michael: Grace and peace to you;  
People: **from the Holy Spirit, who is before God's throne and at work in God's Church.**  
Fr. Michael: Grace and peace to you;  
People: **from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth.**  
Fr. Michael: To him who loves us,  
People: **and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom and ministers to serve his God and Father, to him the power and glory forever and ever.**  
**Amen.**

Fr. Michael: Lord our God, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last who was and is and is to come. Keep us always in your arms and that peace of God which passes all our understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of you; and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Spirit be with us, those we love and those who love us today and always. Amen (from Leading in Worship 2017)

**Worship follows the Holy Eucharist in the Book of Alternative Services.**

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