

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Metcalfe
NOVEMBER 26, 2023 THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING
Reverend Michael Fleming

Fr. Michael: As we come together on this, the last Sunday of the old year now passing, we acknowledge that this sacred space and the places in which we live and move and find meaning in our lives lies on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people.

People: **May we leave the old behind and embrace the new in a spirit of hope, reconciliation and peace among all peoples.**

Fr. Michael: O God our Father, we thank you that today you have called us to worship you and to learn from you. You alone know our needs. Satisfy them with your unchanging love. In your presence may we find comfort for our sorrows, guidance in our perplexity, strength to overcome temptation, grace to overcome disobedience and courage to face up to the hostility of this world. Above all else, may we meet Jesus and go from our worship indwelt by the Spirit. We ask this to your glory and in Jesus' name.

All: **Amen.** (Michael Saward, from The Jubilate Group website)

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

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: As family called and gathered in the name of Jesus, we pray

People: **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.**

Fr. Michael: And now with all the saints in heaven and those gathered together on this good earth, together we acclaim,

People: **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.**

Reader: A reading from the prophet Ezekiel (Ezekiel 34:11-24) For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and

in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: You are making all things new: a new heaven and a new earth; a new way of thinking and a new way of being; no more death, no more mourning, no more crying, no more pain. You are making all things new – renew our minds so we may renew your world by living out your commandment to love one another.

All: **Amen** (from Weekly Worship)

Reader: On this the last Sunday of the old year, we share a Shepherd Prayer: I am the Good Shepherd and I know my sheep. My sheep recognize me and listen to my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life and they shall never die.

People: **Lord, you are our Shepherd and we shall not want.**

Reader: In the dark and cloudy days that you were scattered, I sought you out to deliver you from places of chaos, devastation, panic and fear.

People: **Lord, you are our Shepherd and we shall not want. You are our Light and our Salvation. You are the strength of our lives, so of whom shall we be afraid?**

Reader: I am the Good Shepherd. You shall not hunger or thirst, neither shall the heat of the sun strike you down. In mercy will I lead you and by springs of water I will guide you.

People: **He makes us to lie down in green pastures, He leads us beside still waters.**

Reader: I am the Lamb in the midst of the throne. I will tend you, shepherd you, lead you to fountains of living water. And God your Creator will wipe away all tears from your eyes.

People: **Lord, you are our Shepherd and we shall not be in want.**

Reader: There is a pure river of life, clear as a crystal proceeding out of the throne of God. And I say, "You who are thirsting...come!"

People: **And the Bride says, "Come!" Let each of us who hears you say "Come!" Let each of us who thirsts come to the river. Let us take the waters of life freely and deeply into all areas of our lives. Amen.** (Jeanie Rose, Pray the Scriptures website)

Reader: A reading from the letter of Paul to the church in Ephesus (Ephesians 1: 15-23)
I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and

revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: You raise your hand and gently begin the concerto of creation; birds carry the melody while stars keep the beat; mountains dance in merriment and little children clap their hands with joy. Love's Composer, our new songs are lifted up to you. The old song is made new in our hearts. Sing Alleluia!

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Fr. Michael: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ according to the Blessed St. Matthew (Matthew 25: 31-46)

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

Fr. Michael: Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Fr. Michael: This is the very Gospel of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

Fr. Michael: As we leave the old year behind us and prepare to embrace all the possibilities of the new, we affirm the heart and foundation of our faith 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.**

Reader: Creator God, revealed to us in Jesus of Nazareth, present to us now through the gifting of your Spirit, we hear your call to care for the lost, the last, the least that even through us your grace may touch their lives.

People: **Lord, help us to serve you as we serve others.**

Reader: Loving God, friend of the outcast and stranger, prejudiced in favour of those whom others reject, we hear your call to care for those who are on the margins of our world – aboriginal sisters and brothers lost on their own lands, refugees seeking asylum and new hope, those excluded from our communities because of race, colour, creed, political stripe or lifestyle. May our ministries offer dignity and respect to all persons and may we offer a place at our table for the stranger and the outcast.

People: **Lord, help us to serve you as we serve others.**

Reader: Gracious God, relating to us like a generous parent offering yourself in love to every person, we hear your call to offer hope of renewed relationships, where trust and love have been displaced by fear and jealousy, where family has become a place of abuse rather than nurturing, where hurts, real or imagined, remain unforgiven. May our ministries offer others your gifts of reconciliation and grace and hold out the hope of restored and renewed human relationships.

People: **Lord, help us to serve you as we serve others.**

Reader: Living God, known to us in the dance of community we call Trinity, made known to us through our common life as Church, we hear your call to offer new ministries of meaning and hope to those who live in isolation and loneliness, whose lives lack a sense of purpose or direction, to those seeking a safe place to nurture to the journey of the spirit. Today, in our diocesan cycle we remember Shane, our Bishop; Anne, our Metropolitan; Linda, our Primate; Staff at Ascension House, residents, staff, and Chaplains of the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre as well as All Saints', Westboro and The Venerable Kathryn Otley and The Reverend Chung Yan Lam. We pray for our own community, that we may seek your face and listen for your voice calling us to follow you as we serve others, praying especially today for Liesa, Marjorie, Beth, Randy, Howard, Irene, Richard, Deb, Leonard, Louise, Sarah, Jeanette, Cheryl, Zachariah and those who are known to you alone. May our ministries offer the hope

of deep and lasting relationships and a way to find connectedness with those who are with us on the journey of life.

People: **Lord, help us to serve you as we serve others.**

Reader: God beyond all names, whose presence lives in those whom you call by name, whose presence goes before us into the lives of those to whom we offer ministry, we hear your call to serve in a variety of places. We pray that each one of us as we serve you in our own unique ministry may find our relationship with you deepened and renewed. In our calling to shared ministry here at Holy Trinity, may we find our gifts and our call affirmed as we offer them in service and may we grow as a community as a life-giving and life-affirming fellowship of the Spirit.

People: **Lord, hear these are prayers as we offer them in the name of Jesus. Amen**

Fr. Michael: There are promises from God stretching back into the dim recesses of time, yet they are as new as this very moment. When we lose our way, God searches for us until we are found. When we hurt others, God brings healing to all. When we sin, God forgives us. Let us hold these promises close to our hearts as we confess those things that we try to hide:

People: **We stock the food pantries but brush aside those who hunger for friendship. We give our hand-me-downs away, but overlook those whose hopes have been stripped away. We glad-hand those who are just like us but turn a deaf ear to our neighbours who talk or look “funny”. Forgive us, Hope of all the ages. You persistently search for us in the side streets of the world, gathering us up and bringing us home, so that we may be drenched in the waters of your bottomless pool of forgiveness, watched over by your Child, Jesus our Lord and Saviour.**

Fr. Michael: God searches for the lost and finds us; God invites the hungry to the table and feed us; God sends us and frees us from death's prison; God forgives all who sin and heals us with mercy and grace. God does all this in His name and in the name of his Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: And the peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

We Share The Shalom Of God With One Another

Fr. Michael: Eternal God, by your grace you have raised us up and enthroned us with Christ in the heavenly realms. Receive all that we offer you this day and lead us in all those good works for which you have created us; we ask this in the name of Jesus.

All: **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: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord. You exalted him as Lord of all creation so that he might present to you an eternal and universal kingdom; a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace. Therefore, at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow as heaven and earth proclaim the glory of your name.

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Fr. Michael: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is 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 it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, Father, according to his command,

All: we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;

Fr. Michael: and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

All: Amen

Fr. Michael: As Jesus gifted to us his Church, so we pray the prayer which lies at the foundation of our faith,

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: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

People: We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Fr. Michael: the gifts of God for the children of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

WE SHARE THE GIFTS OF NEW HOPE, NEW LIFE WITH ONE ANOTHER

Fr. Michael: Almighty God, you have made us a royal priesthood in the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Make known his victory through us so that all the world may see his light. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Risen Saviour.

All: **Amen**

Fr. Michael: Heavenly Father, on this the Feast of the Reign of God, we remember all those who have been called into service as deacons and priests in your Church Universal. We remember especially today those in the Diocese of Ottawa who have shared their lives and ministry with us through the generations, holding especially Roger Steinke, Bryan Beveridge and in loving memory George Cooper, Wayne Thomas and Paul Lacharite, who share with Fr. Michael this 47th anniversary of their ordination by Bishop Robinson in our Cathedral. May God continue to bless Roger, Bryan and Michael in their service and strengthen them in your Spirit.

All: **Amen**

All: **Glory to God, 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: Father, your Church awaits the day when your Son Jesus will come in his glory, your glory and he will sit on his royal throne. Until that day when we will be received as your blessed children, keep us safe in your care. Make us merciful, serving your Son now as he comes to us in those in need. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. And the blessing of God: Father, Son and Spirit, be with you and yours this week and always.

Alleluia!

Worship follows the Holy Eucharist in the Book of Alternative Services Copyright © 1985 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada and/or Eucharistic Prayers, Services of the Word, and Night Prayer © 2001 by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. All rights reserved. Reproduced under licence from ABC Publishing, Anglican Book Centre, a ministry of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, from Anglican Liturgical Library. Further copying is prohibited.