

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MOTHERING SUNDAY

March 15, 2026



THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

PARISH OF LANCASTER

Diocese of Fredericton
Anglican Church of Canada

Bishop

Archbishop David Edwards

Incumbent

The Rev'd Christopher Ketch

Church Wardens

Paul Desjardins, Chris Titus

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We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) and Mi'kmaq Peoples.

THE GATHERING OF THE CHURCH**Greeting**

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

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise *“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”* CP
397**Invitation, Confession and Prayer of Forgiveness**

Officiant Dear friends in Christ,
while we turn our hearts and minds
to worship almighty God,
let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments
and to live in love and peace with our neighbour.

All **Most merciful God,
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.**

Officiant Merciful God,
grant to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace of Christ

Officiant We are the body of Christ; in the one Spirit we were
all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that
makes for peace and builds up our common life.
The Lord be with you.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We greet one another in the peace of Christ.

Collect of the Day

Officiant Almighty God,
through the waters of baptism
your Son has made us children of light.
May we ever walk in his light
and show forth your glory in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Prayer for Illumination

Officiant Thank you, Father, for making yourself known to us and showing the way of salvation through faith in your Son.

We ask you now to teach and encourage us through your Word, so that we may be ready to serve you; for the glory of the One in whose name we pray, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(from *A Prayer Book for Australia*, Anglican Church of Australia 1999)

First Reading 1 Samuel 16:1-13

A reading from First Samuel.

¹ The Lord said to Samuel, ‘How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.’ ² Samuel said, ‘How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.’ And the Lord said, ‘Take a heifer with you, and say, “I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.”’ ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.’ ⁴ Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, ‘Do you come peaceably?’ ⁵ He said, ‘Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.’ And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.’ ⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.’ ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, ‘Neither has the Lord chosen this one.’ ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, ‘Neither has the Lord chosen this one.’ ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen any of these.’ ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Are all your sons here?’ And he said, ‘There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.’ And Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.’ ¹² He sent

and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah. [NRSV-A]

Hear God's word for God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm *Psalm 23*

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
 I shall not be in want.
- 2 **He makes me lie down in green pastures *
 and leads me beside still waters.**
- 3 He revives my soul *
 and guides me along right pathways for his name's
 sake.
- 4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death, I shall fear no evil; *
 for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those
 who trouble me; *
 you have anointed my head with oil,
 and my cup is running over.
- 6 **Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all
the days of my life, *
 and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for
 ever.**

Second Reading Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from Ephesians.

⁸ For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³ but everything exposed

by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

‘Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.’ [NRSV-A]

Hear God’s word for God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn “Open Our Eyes, Lord” MP 545

- 1 Open our eyes, Lord,
We want to see Jesus,
To reach out and touch Him
And say that we love Him.

- 2 Open our ears, Lord,
And help us to listen;
Open our eyes, Lord,
We want to see Jesus!

*Robert Cull, © 1976 Maranatha! Music Co.
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Gospel John 9:1-41

Hear the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ ³ Jesus answered, ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’ ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, ‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam’ (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, ‘Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?’ ⁹ Some were saying, ‘It is he.’ Others were saying,

‘No, but it is someone like him.’ He kept saying, ‘I am the man.’ ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, ‘Then how were your eyes opened?’ ¹¹ He answered, ‘The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, “Go to Siloam and wash.” Then I went and washed and received my sight.’ ¹² They said to him, ‘Where is he?’ He said, ‘I do not know.’

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, ‘He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.’ ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.’ But others said, ‘How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?’ And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, ‘What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.’ He said, ‘He is a prophet.’

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, ‘Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?’ ²⁰ His parents answered, ‘We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.’ ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, ‘He is of age; ask him.’

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, ‘Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.’ ²⁵ He answered, ‘I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.’ ²⁶ They said to him, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’ ²⁷ He answered them, ‘I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?’ ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, ‘You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.’ ³⁰ The man answered, ‘Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not

from God, he could do nothing.’ ³⁴ They answered him, ‘You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?’ And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ ³⁶ He answered, ‘And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.’ ³⁷ Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.’ ³⁸ He said, ‘Lord, I believe.’ And he worshipped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, ‘I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.’ ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, ‘Surely we are not blind, are we?’ ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, “We see”, your sin remains. [NRSV-A]

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon Paul Desjardins

The Apostles’ Creed

Officiant
All

Let us confess our faith as we say,
**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 MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Prayers of Intercession

Leader Let us join in prayer with God's faithful people throughout the world, saying "God of love: hear our prayer."

We pray for the unity of your church, that our life may reflect the love you have shown us.

God of love.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We ask your grace for *David* our bishop, *Keith* our Interim priest, and for all who minister in word and in action, that we may bear faithful witness to your good news.

God of love.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We seek your peace and justice in our world, our country and our community, that the needy may never be forgotten.

God of love.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We ask your blessing on our homes, our friends and family, and on those who live alone, that we may know your presence ever near us.

God of love.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We name before you all whom you have given us to pray for [*especially....*], knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can ask or imagine.

God of love.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We commend to you all who have died [*especially....*] that our trust in you may deepen as you show us the depth of your mercy.
God of love.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We offer our thanks and praise for all you have done for us, rejoicing in the knowledge that you are with us always.
God of love.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We look for your purposes to be accomplished and ask you to fill us with the strength and vision to further your reign.
God of love.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Offering Hymn “Amazing Grace” CP 352

Officiant Let us pray.

All **Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.**

A Litany of Thanksgiving

Leader Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

Leader For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea.

People ***we thank you, Lord.***

Leader For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

People ***we thank you, Lord.***

Leader For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

People ***we thank you, Lord.***

Leader For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,
People ***we thank you, Lord.***

Leader For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and
play,
People ***we thank you, Lord.***

Leader For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering
and faithful in adversity,
People ***we thank you, Lord.***

Leader For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,
People ***we thank you, Lord.***

Leader For the communion of saints, in all times and places,
People ***we thank you, Lord.***

Leader Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and
promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;
People ***to him be praise and glory, with you, O Father,
and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,
All **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.**

THE CHURCH DEPARTS TO WITNESS AND TO SERVE

Dismissal

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” CP 520

Postlude

Those serving today’s worship and learning:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Bulletin preparation</i> | Lori Maker (Parish Office) |
| <i>Altar Guild</i> | Sherry D. & Marilyn G. |
| <i>Sunday School</i> | Laura Janes |
| <i>Sound system</i> | Chris Titus |
| <i>Greeter</i> | Bill Sherriff & Judy Galbraith |
| <i>First Reader</i> | Heather Masson |
| <i>Second Reader</i> | Ngairé Nelson |
| <i>Prayer Leader</i> | Officiant |
| <i>Organist & Choir Director</i> | David Mitchell |
| <i>Officiant & preacher</i> | Paul Desjardins |
| <i>Guitarist</i> | Shayne Galbraith |
| <i>Counters</i> | Terry Ricketts & Janet Brown |
| <i>Building care</i> | Terry Ricketts |

Those serving in our outreach this week:

| | |
|--|---|
| Sun, Mar 15, 11:45 am | Susan Jack |
| HVHS Lunch Programme preparation (Large Hall kitchen) | Susan Dole Nancy Kerrigan John Kerrigan |
| Mon, Mar 16, 11:30 am | Janet Brown |
| HVHS Lunch Programme delivery (from Large Hall) | David Brown |

Who’s serving next week is on the Narthex bulletin board.

THIS WEEK

- Mon, Mar 16, 6:00 pm** Tintinnabula Hand Bell Choir (Small Hall) For more info contact Lynn Adams at 506 635-8474
- Wed, Mar 18, 10:00 am** Saint John and District Senior's Shuffleboard (Large Hall) For more info contact Pauline Wilson at 506 738-8677
- Wed, Mar 18, 7:00 pm** Choir practice (Small Hall) For more info contact David Mitchell at 506 738-2798
- Fri, Mar 20, 6:00 pm** Youth Connection-Small Hall & Large Hall

LOOKING INTO LENT & HOLY WEEK

Next Sunday – March 22 *Fifth Sunday in Lent* Scripture readings Ezekial 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 02, 7:00 pm

- + Holy Communion with Stripping of the Altar
- + Prayer Watch – time to pray – to ‘keep watch with Jesus’ – after the service to 9:30 pm (come and go as you’d like – whenever and for however long)

GOOD FRIDAY, April 03, 12:00 noon

- + The Celebration of the Lord's Passion

NOTICES

Happy Birthday this Week to:

March 20 – Nicholas Burpee

March 20 – Ann Hoben

March 21 – Lori McGovern



Food Bank

Please remember the **West Side Food Bank** with a toonie or a loonie in the can in the Narthex, or a donation in a special envelope marked with your name or number. We aim to support the Food Bank by at least \$ 200/month!

The third concert in the **Westfield United Church Choir Concert Series 2025/26: “The Best of The Best - Our Handpicked Favourite Anthems”** will be held on **Thursday, March 26th at 7:00pm. (*Please note date change.*)**

Concert tickets are \$30/person at the door or simply present your subscription card.

PRAYER

Prayer for folks in nursing or special care homes

Ginny Abbott, Diane Cormier, Frances Finley, Ann Hoben, Ruth Northeast, Elizabeth Parks, Arlene Trask

Prayer for those in hospital or sick at home

Andrew Aalund, Diane Basque, Margaret Boyer, Edith Chilton, Shelly Clark Collins, Linda Cunningham, Jo-Ann Diamond, Bonnie Dean, Wendy DeWitt, Ernest Ellingwood, Barb Ellis, Debbie Green, Floyd Hoben, Kaye Mallory, Pam Melanson, Michael Penchoff, Susan Penchoff, Carol Price, Margaret Ann Reid, Lois Shaw, Bob Sherwood, Mykayla Spinney, Norm Toole, Dennis Totton, Joe Totton, Robbie Wong.

Prayer Shawls - if you know someone in our parish who is in great need for prayer and would find comfort in a shawl made with love and care. Contact Ngaire Nelson at 506-672-8666 or the church office at 506-635-8145.

Parish Cycle of Prayer for Week of March 15-21

- Mon:** Barry McQueen and Family
Tue: Jay and Pam Melanson and Carrie Megaw
Wed: Rahul and Evelyn Mishra
Thur: Gerald Miller
Fri: Romero House

Please pray for these parishioners and ministry this week.

Saint John Mission to Seafarers Prayer Cycle:

In March, we pray for the families of seafarers who are facing the adventures and perils of life alone.



MAUNDY THURSDAY, Apr 02, 7:00 pm

+ Holy Communion & Stripping the Altar



+ Prayer Watch – time to pray – to ‘keep watch with Jesus’ – starts right after the service to **9:30 pm** (come and go as you’d like – whenever and for however long)

GOOD FRIDAY, Apr 03, 12:00 noon
+ The Celebration of the Lord's Passion



God bless each one as we continue in

