

St. Paul's Anglican Church April 28, 2024 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

45 Russell St. W., Lindsay ON K9V 2W8 Tel: (705) 324-4666 Email: <u>office@st-pauls-lindsay.ca</u> Website: <u>www.st-pauls-lindsay.ca</u>

Incumbent – The Rev. Bonnie Skerritt Honorary Assistant – The Rev. Canon Greg Physick Musician – Myrna Sloboda

10:00 am Holy Eucharist (BAS)

#### Indigenous Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that this church is situated upon traditional Indigenous territory. We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples connected to and on this land. We are grateful for the opportunity to gather on this territory, and we commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Creator, let us be of Good Mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and to those who have been displaced. With thankful and respectful hearts, we pray in Your name, Your Son the Peacemaker and the Sacred Spirit. **Amen.** 

#### **Processional Hymn**

#482 Come and Journey with a Saviour

#### Welcome

#### Sentence

I am the vine, you are the branches, says the Lord. Those who abide in me, and I in them, bear much fruit. John 15.5

#### The Gathering of the Community (All stand)

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.

Celebrant Almighty God,

All 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.

#### **Glory to God**

Celebrant Glory to God in the highest,

All 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.

#### The Collect of the Day

Celebrant Let us pray.

All 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. Amen

#### The Proclamation of the Word

#### First Reading Acts 8: 26-40

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards 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 starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

ReaderThe word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

#### Psalm 22: 24-30 (said responsively)

My praise is of him in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

#### The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: "May your heart live for ever!"

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him. **27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; he rules over the nations.** 

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before him.

# My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

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

All Father, your tortured Son felt abandoned, and cried out in anguish from the cross, yet you delivered him. He overcame the bonds of death and rose in triumph from the grave. Do not hide your face from those who cry out to you: feed the hungry, strengthen the weak, and break the chains of the oppressed, that your people may rejoice in your saving deeds. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour

#### Second Reading 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. People Thanks be to God.

#### The Gospel

Gradual Hymn: O Blessed Spring

- O blessed spring, where word and sign Embrace us into Christ the Vine: Here Christ enjoins each one to be A branch of this life-giving Tree.
- Through summer heat of youthful years, Uncertain faith, rebellious tears, Sustained by Christ's infusing rain, The boughs will shout for joy again.
- When autumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their heavy harvest hold, Then through us, warm the Christ will move, With gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.

ReaderThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.ReaderThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christaccording to John.Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Holy Gospel John 15: 1-8

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. 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 Gospel of Christ.
People	Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gradual Hymn: O Blessed Spring

- As winter comes, as winters must, We breath our last, return to dust; Still held in Christ, our souls take wing And trust the promise of the spring.
- 5. Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree, Be praised for this blest mystery: That word and water thus revive And join us to your Tree of life.

Homily The Rev'd Bonnie Skerritt

#### The Apostles' Creed

Celebrant 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

In joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life, saying, "Hear us, Lord of glory!")

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and lifegiving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Hear us, Lord of glory!

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Hear us, Lord of glory!

That he may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Hear us, Lord of glory!

That he may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Hear us, Lord of glory!

That by his power wars and famine may cease through all the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Hear us, Lord of glory!

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and strengthened, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Hear us, Lord of glory!

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

#### Hear us, Lord of glory!

#### **Confession and Absolution**

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Celebrant Most merciful God,

All 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.

People Amen.

#### The Peace

People	And also with you.
Celebrant	The peace of the Lord be always with you.

#### **Offertory Hymn**

#425 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee.

#### The Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant Gracious God, you show us your way and give us your divine life. May everything we do be directed by the knowledge of your truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.

People Amen.

# The Great Thanksgiving

**Eucharistic Prayer 4** 

Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right to give you thanks and praise, O Lord, our God, sustainer of the universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

#### People Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home; by your will they were created and have their being.

#### People Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill; you made us the stewards of creation.

#### People Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant But we turn against you, and betray your trust; and we turn against one another. Again and again you call us to return. Through the prophets and sages you reveal your righteous law. In the fullness of time you sent your Son, born of a woman, to be our Saviour. He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities. By his death he opened to us the way of freedom and peace.

#### People Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

#### All 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.

Celebrant Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said, "Take this, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup of wine; he gave you thanks, 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."

#### People Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant Gracious God, we recall the death of your Son Jesus Christ, we proclaim his resurrection and ascension, and we look with expectation for his coming as Lord of all the nations. We who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring you these gifts. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this offering of your Church, that we who eat and drink at this holy table may share the divine life of Christ our Lord.

#### People Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth and make it your new creation. Gather your Church together from the

ends of the earth into your kingdom, where peace and justice are revealed, that we, with all your people, of every language, race, and nation, may share the banquet you have promised; through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honour and glory are yours, creator of all.

#### People Glory to you for ever and ever. Amen.

# The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant 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 Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant	Lord, we died with you on the cross.
All	Now we are raised to new life.
Celebrant	We were buried in your tomb.
All	Now we share in your resurrection.
Celebrant	Live in us, that we may live in you.

# The Communion

Celebrant	The gifts of God for the People of God.
People	Thanks be to God.

# Agnus Dei

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us. Jesus, Redeemer, redeemer of the world, Give us your peace, give us your peace.

#### Hymns during Communion

- # 52 O God Unseen, Yet Ever Near
- # 60 I Come with Joy

#### **Choir Anthem:** In the Bulb There is a Flower

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant God of love, in this eucharist we have heard your truth and shared in your life. May we always walk in your way, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

People Amen.

#### Doxology

Celebrant 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.

#### The Blessing

Recessional Hymn #374 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

Dismissal



#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers at the alter today are to the Glory of God, and in loving memory of Margaret Mackey; given by her husband Jim and Family.

# Management Team meeting Monday April 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

# Faith & Friendship Re-imagined

Back for another six weeks: Apr 24 – May 29

# Wednesday Morning Prayer & Study Group,

A time of prayer & study beginning at **9:30 for MP** and moving into **study at 10:00** in the library.

The basis of our study this time will be a look at the **Gospel of Mark** along with the writings of N. T. Wright.

No need to sign-up ahead of time, just come out and **bring your Bible**!

# Session 2: Jesus on the Move.

Reading Selections: Mark 4:1-20, 35-41 & Mark 5: 1-20



**Gift cards** are a major fundraiser for the church. They are available during office hours and on Sundays. Available cards include: Canadian Tire, President's Choice, Tim Horton's, Home Hardware, Shopper's Drug Mart, Giant Tiger, Food Basics, Burns Bulk Foods, LaMantia's, Kelsey's, and Swiss Chalet. *Everyone needs to shop for Groceries*, please consider buying a gift card from the church **TODAY!** 

A **BIG THANK YOU** to Linda Todd and her Team who spend many hours making this happen.

# Next Sundays' Readings

Acts 10: 44-48 Psalm 98 1 John 5: 1-6 John 15: 9-17



# Thank you for worshipping with us today.

# Please join us in the hall for a time of refreshment and fellowship after the service.

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