

Gathering Table
a Faith Community in the Anglican Church of Canada

Officiant: The Rev'd George Porter, DPhil

3rd Sunday of Easter

April 26th, 2020

10:00 a.m.

WELCOME TO GATHERING TABLE

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For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of life and spirituality. We are gathered as treaty people on the traditional territory of the Anishnaabeg of the Fort William First Nation and acknowledge this people's stewardship of this land through the ages.

Lord Jesus, open to us the scriptures;
Make our hearts burn within us while you speak.

Luke 24.32

Introductory Response for Resurrection – BAS page 98 #6

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He gave us new life and hope

by raising Jesus from the dead.

Rejoice, then, even in your distress.

We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

God has claimed us as his own.

He called us from our darkness into the light of his day.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Penitential Rite

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God,

let us confess our sins against God and our neighbour.

Silence is kept.

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

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed:
O Come Let us worship.

Canticle 12 - page 81 BAS

The Bread of Heaven (*Wisdom 16.20–21, 26*)

**You gave your people angels' food *
and sent them bread from heaven,
ready to eat, though they did no work, *
rich in delights, and suiting every taste.**

**The food which you gave *
showed your sweetness toward your children.
It served the desire of those who ate, *
was changed to the flavour each one wished;**

**That the children you love might learn, O God, *
that not by various crops are they fed,
but it is your word which sustains *
all those who trust in you.**

Alleluia! The Lord is risen indeed:
O come, let us worship.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading is from the Book of Acts 2: 14a), 36 – 41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

This is the Word of The Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 116: 17 – 23

I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; I came to grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray you, save my life."

How shall I repay the Lord for all the good things he has done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his servants.

O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

**Second Reading is from the
1 Peter 1: 17 – 23**

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold,

but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

This is the Word of The Lord
Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke 24: 13 - 35

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of Christ.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: George

A time of silence for reflection.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:
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.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Collect Of The Day

O God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Prayers of the People

Easter Litany – page 122 BAS

(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 life-giving 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!

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

A Blessing

Announcements

Dismissal Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The Easter reports of the Gospels tell of confusion, fear and disappointment, as well as angelic messages and mysterious appearances. Tucked in among them, we find a post-Easter story of Peter - the disciple who was never going to deny Jesus – saying that he was going to go out fishing. He was joined by some of the others.

We aren't really told the reason for Peter's fishing trip, nor why the others decided to join him. Perhaps it was something as innocuous as needing to eat. The impression I have always had, however, upon reading this story is that, overwhelmed by the disappointment of Jesus death and confused by the empty tomb, they turned to something familiar to recover a sense of normalcy.

In this midst of this peculiar Easter season, when neither life nor worship has been 'normal', perhaps we can more easily understand the fear and confusion the disciples experienced than the angels' glad tidings that he is risen. There seems to be an upsurge, after a month of difficult restrictions and physical distancing measures, in the desire to 'go fishing' – to get 'back to normal'.

In the way the Gospel tells the tale, Peter and the others go out fishing all night but catch nothing. Their effort to return to 'normal' meets with failure. Perhaps they would have appreciated Bruce Cockburn's lyrics: 'The Trouble with Normal/Is it always gets worse.' They had, as of yet, not realised that life would not be again, for them, the same 'normal'.

As the story unfolds, Jesus appeared on the shore telling them to try one more time, casting their nets on the other side of the boat. They caught too many fish to the point where they were nearly overwhelmed. They make it to shore, however, suspecting that this mysterious figure on the beach was indeed Jesus. This identity is confirmed for them when they gather to eat with him.

Several of these Easter appearance stories in the Gospels take this eucharistic-like form where Jesus makes himself known in the breaking of bread. In this particular story, Jesus didn't just then immediately vanish. Instead he confronted Peter with the question of 'faith'.

Unlike what most people today would, however, understand by 'faith', what Peter was confronted with was the question: 'Do you love me?' Most contemporary Christians – and even most non-Christian contemporaries – would be most likely to understand questions of 'faith',

or 'belief', as doctrinal inquiries: "What do you believe about Jesus?" or 'What do you know about Jesus?'

Peter wasn't asked that. What Peter was faced with is: 'Do you love me?' It was framed this way because in the biblical writings, 'belief' wasn't 'belief about' but rather 'belief in'. Peter had already answered the question of what he believed, and what others were saying, about Jesus: 'You are the Messiah, the son of God.' Peter wasn't asked a theological or question. Jesus asked him a relational question.

There are still many controversial questions posed about those Easter events, just as there are about our sacramental experiences, but the fundamental question is still for us, as it was for Peter, a relational question. In the biblical writings, 'belief' was a matter of relationship. Biblical scholar Marcus Borg expressed it succinctly: 'Most simply, to believe meant to be love.'

However the risen Jesus comes to us – in word or sacrament or personal or fellowship or mystical experience - he still comes to us with this question: 'Do you love me?' A 'yes' answer means that we can't just go fishing again – that our 'normal' will never be the same 'normal', for we are now members of the community of the beloved.

Scripture Readings for the 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2: 42 – 47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2: 19 – 25

John 10: 1 - 10

Anglican Cycle of Prayer

Please Pray for: The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East, The Most Revd Michael Lewis –

Archbishop, Jerusalem & the Middle East & Bishop of
Cyprus and the Gulf

Anglican Lutheran Cycle of Prayer :

Please Pray for:

ACC Bishop Todd Townshend, the clergy and
people of the Diocese of Huron

ELCIC The dean, council, and congregations of the
Manitoba West Area of the Manitoba-
Northwestern Ontario Synod

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer :

Please Pray for: Emmaus, Sault Ste. Marie, The Rev.
Canon Bob Elkin (Interim)

Parish Cycle of Prayer:

Please pray for our own church members: Mary
Ellen Gouliquer, Lillian Graham, Ted and Donna Hamill, Glen
and Sally Hamilton, Wayne Hargrave, Len and Diane Hartley,
Mary Louise Hill, Irene Humby, Isaiah and Rosalie Jacob, and
Raymond Greg, Rose Jardine, Derek and Denise Jetten, Hazel
Johnson, Daniel and Amelia Joseph, Amanda Kase, John Kirchen,
Alex and Sylvia KostECKI, Bob and Carol Lee Kostyniuk, Richard
and Adrienne Lambert, and Kaylee, Al and Jessica Lauzon, and
Madelynn and Rosalie,

Please Pray For: Our young people in Junior High
School, High School, College and University who are
struggling academically, social and mentally, as well as
with understanding their own identities.

Prayer requests from Arch Bishop Anne:

“Please join the bishops of our province in holding our province and our whole world in prayer during this time of crisis, especially those who are afflicted with this coronavirus. Pray especially for researchers, policymakers, frontline workers, and for all those who are caring for those who are sick, as well as for those who have died and those who mourn.”

“Continue to pray for those who are most deeply affected by COVID-19 - frontline workers, hospital staff, those who are stranded and unable to return to their homes from abroad, those who are isolated further because of the new restrictive measures in place, and those who have been diagnosed with COVID -19 and their families and loved ones.”

New- Gathering Table Prayer Chain

During this time of social isolation and uncertainty, it is more important than ever to pray for one another. If you would like to be a part of the Gathering Table prayer chain or you have any needs or concerns that you would like placed on the prayer chain please contact Sheila Chisholm at chisholmsheilak@gmail.com or text or phone 306-240-0771.

A grace note from www.thunderbay-northshoreanglicans.com

Faith isn't a leap into the dark, but a step into the light.

Reminder about Visitations:

Pastoral care visits will be restricted to emergency situations – please call the office or the Rectory if such a situation arises. Telephone prayer ministry will be ongoing.

Dear Parishioners:

At this time when Sunday worship services have been suspended, we are providing a number of ways that you can continue to financially support our mission and ministries at Gathering Table. Of course, these methods are unnecessary for parishioners currently using the Electronic Offering Program (EOP). But if you wish to begin the EOP or modify your existing EOP, please contact the Diocesan office at:

[https://www.dioceseofalgoma.com/about-the-diocese-of-
algoma/electronic-offering-programme/](https://www.dioceseofalgoma.com/about-the-diocese-of-algoma/electronic-offering-programme/)

Offering Options:

1. Drop it off at the church office at 228 Pearl St. Office hours are Tuesday to Thursday 10 – 2 and Friday 9 – 12 noon. Just buzz the door, identify yourself, and the door will be unlocked. Give it to Roberta or Sharon, who will record the offering.
2. Mail it in to: Gathering Table, 228 Pearl St., Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1E4. Please ensure to not mail cash.
3. Send an e-transfer by setting up a profile with your own financial institution, indicate the recipient is Gathering Table church, and use the church email address of office@gatheringtable.ca

Use the security question “What is the first name of our Pastor?” (answer: George) In the message box, please include your envelope number or mailing address, and the Sunday date you wish the offering to be applied. For example:

| |
|---|
| Envelope no. 999 for
Sunday March 29 |
|---|

With appreciation,
Marg, Marjorie, Sheila, Jim

Sunday Sermons: Since we aren't gathering at the church, the Sunday service can be viewed on the Gathering Table website <http://gatheringtable.ca> and on the Gathering Table Facebook page. The whole service will be live streamed at 10 a.m. Sunday at the link <http://gatheringtable.ca>

BOOKING CHURCH FOR MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES

All bookings are cancelled until further notice.

Email office@gatheringtable.ca

Website <http://gatheringtable.ca>

Office Hours- 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Tues., to Thursday
Friday 9 a.m. - Noon

Services Sundays start at 10 a.m.

Here are some other things to take note of:

The building will remain closed indefinitely, though phone calls will be answered during office hours. All gatherings, events or meetings must either be postponed or conducted by means of various internet tools.

The Food Cupboard will operate every second and

fourth Sunday of the month in its present modified format. No emergency food parcels will be distributed during this time.

Pastoral visitation is drastically restricted. In emergency situations please call the office or the Rectory. We realise that, despite the focus on this crisis and the cutting back on medical and social services, other things still go on – and some things get worse. Isolation is hard for many people for different reasons, not only physically, but relationally, emotionally and spiritually. We want to do what we can to help.

There is a new 'prayer chain' to supplement our ongoing prayers. Please call the office with potential requests. Remember to pray especially for leaders and for those who must engage in heroic forms of 'risky behaviours': medical personnel, emergency responders, those who deal with the dead and their families, those who keep vital services operating, and those mostly unseen people who enable these others to keep going.





Gathering Table
228 Pearl Street, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 1E4

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Pastor: The Rev. Canon George M. Porter, D.Phil.

Phone: 626-9650

Mobile: 355-5454

Email: porter.george@gmail.com

Honorary Assistant: The Rev. Gail M. Clifton, M.Div.

Phone: 768-9865

Lay Readers: Frances Bennett-Sutton, Kim Bienvenue,
Rose Jardine, Brenda O'Neill and Jim Sutton

Rector's Warden: Marg Boone

Deputy Rector's Warden: Marjorie Tutkaluk

People's Warden: Jim Sutton

Deputy People's Warden: Sheila Chisholm

Co-Music Directors - at Gathering Table

Pianist Donna Hamill Organist (Vacant)

Archbishop Anne's Motto for 2020

***"In the same way, let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven."***

(Matthew 5.16)