

Gathering Table
a Faith Community in the Anglican Church of Canada

Officiating & Preaching:
The Rev'd George Porter, DPhil

Liturgy of the Word for Ascensiontide
(7th Sunday of Easter)

May 24th , 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.

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord;
I am with you always, to the close of the age.
Matthew 28: 19, 20

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is Risen indeed. Alleluia!

May his grace and peace be with you.

May he fill our hearts with joy.

The Collect for Purity – page 185 BAS

**Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open,
all desires know,
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**

You are God Pages 94 – 95 BAS

**You are God: we praise you;
you are the Lord: we acclaim you;
you are the eternal Father:
all creation worships you.**

**To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.**

**Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim
you:**

**Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.**

**You, Christ, are the King of Glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.**

**When you became man to set us free
you did not shun the Virgin's womb.**

**You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.**

**You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come, and be our judge.**

**Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.**

The Proclamation of the Word

**First Reading is from the Book of
Acts 1: 1 – 11**

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ² until the day when he

was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying^[a] with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with^[b] the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

The Ascension of Jesus

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

This is the Word of The Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 47

God's Rule over the Nations

To the leader. Of the Korahites. A Psalm.

- ¹ Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
- ² For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.
- ³ He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.
- ⁴ He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah*
- ⁵ God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
- ⁶ Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- ⁷ For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm. ^[a]
- ⁸ God is king over the nations;
God sits on his holy throne.
- ⁹ The princes of the peoples gather
as the people of the God of Abraham.
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
he is highly exalted.

Second Reading is from The First Letter of Ephesians 1: 15 – 23

Paul's Prayer

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your
love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not

cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ 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, ¹⁸ 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, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God^[b] 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, ²¹ 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. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the Word of The Lord
Thanks be to God

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke 24: 44 - 53

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: George

Time for silent Reflection

Affirmation of Faith

Let us confess 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.

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

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.

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

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Collect Of Ascensiontide Day

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord. Keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of his peace, and bring the whole of creation to worship at his feet, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Prayers of the People

Litany 17 A Bidding Intercession -

Page 123 – 126 BAS

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world, for this gathering, for our bishop *N*,

and for all ministers and people.
Pray for the Church.

Silence

Almighty and everlasting God,
by your Spirit the whole body of your faithful people
is governed and sanctified.

Receive our supplications and prayers,
which we offer before you
for all members of your holy Church,
that in our vocation and ministry
we may truly and devoutly serve you;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

I ask your prayers for peace,
for goodwill among nations,
and for the well-being of all people.

Silence

Almighty God,
kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace,
and guide with your wisdom
those who take counsel for the nations of the earth,
that justice and peace may increase,
until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry,
the oppressed, and those in prison.
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

Gracious God,
the comfort of all who sorrow,
the strength of all who suffer,
hear the cry of those in misery and need.
In their afflictions show them your mercy,
and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them,
for the sake of him who suffered for us,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

I ask your prayers for the mission of the Church.
Pray for the coming of God's kingdom
among all nations and peoples.

Silence

O Lord our God,
you have made all races and nations to be one family,
and you sent your Son Jesus Christ
to proclaim the good news of salvation to all people.
Pour out your Spirit on the whole creation,
bring the nations of the world into your fellowship,
and hasten the coming of your kingdom.
We ask this through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

I ask your prayers for those who have died
in the peace of Christ,
and for those whose faith is known to God alone.
Pray that God may be glorified in all his saints.

Silence

O God, the giver of eternal life,
we give you thanks and praise
for the wonderful grace and virtue
declared in all your saints.

Grant to us, and to all who have died
in the hope of the resurrection,
a share in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ
and fulness of joy in the fellowship of all your saints.
All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us give thanks to almighty God for all his goodness.

Silence

You are worthy, O Lord our God,
to receive glory and honour and power.

**You are worthy to receive blessing and praise,
now and for ever.**

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

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.

Announcements

A Blessing

Dismissal Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Scripture Readings for The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2: 1 - 21

Psalms 104: 25 – 36, 37

1 Corinthians 12: 3b – 13

John 7: 37 - 39

Anglican Cycle of Prayer

Please Pray for: (Saint Augustine / Anglican Communion Sunday) Pray for all members of the Anglican Communion around the world For the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, and all primates and bishops For members of the Anglican Consultative Council For the Secretary General, The Most Revd Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon, For the staff at the Anglican Communion Office in London and the UN offices in Geneva and New York

Anglican Lutheran Cycle of Prayer :

Please Pray for:

ACC Bishop John Chapman, Assistant Bishop Michael Bird, the people and clergy of the Diocese of Ottawa

ELCIC The staff of the Saskatchewan Synod

ACC/ELCIC The Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem, The

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan
and the Holy Land, and for peace in the
Middle East.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer :

Please Pray for: ACW Executive and the Anglican
Church Women of the Diocese

Prayer for Ascension Day: May 21, 2020: Church of
the Ascension, Sudbury, The Rev. Aidan Armstrong
The Rev. Jeffery Hooper (Hon.), The Rt. Rev. Dr. Stephen
Andrews (Hon. Assoc.)

Parish Cycle of Prayer:

Please pray for our own church members: David
and Jean Marler/McAlpine-Marler, Brock and Gail
Marshall, Doris Marshall, Douglas and Susan Mason, and
Dennis, Quinne and Grant Ian and Virginia McEwen, and
Rory and Toby, Gloria McKay, Donald and Elaine
McKinnon, Joanne McMahan, Geoff and Katariina
Medwid, Robert, Peter and Lillianna, Janis Medwid,
Arlene Meservier, Samuel Metteer, Carl and Elizabeth
Mickelson, Dawn Mills, Adrienne Morris,

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

Jesus has ascended, and he keeps the door open for you.

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-
agloma/electronic-offering-programme/](https://www.dioceseofalgoma.com/about-the-diocese-of-
agloma/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>



Table Talk: We are going to attempt Table Talk via Zoom on Thursday's starting at 7 pm. Please contact George for the sign in information.

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 realize 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.

The Office of the Metropolitan of Ontario The Anglican Church of Canada

The Most Reverend Anne Germond Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario
The Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario 619 Wellington Street East, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 2M6
Telephone: 705-256-5061 Email: bishop@dioceseofalgoma.com

On the Safe Reopening of Our Churches

A letter from the Ontario House of Bishops to the faithful in Christ

Friday, May 15, 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you, most especially during this difficult time of pandemic. In the words of that glorious hymn For the Beauty of the Earth we raise ‘our sacrifice of praise’ for each one of God’s perfect gifts on earth and in the skies given so freely to us. We give thanks for the gift and joy of human love which is given and received through the work of human hands and minds as it works to heal the sick, comfort the sad, and find a vaccine to end this coronavirus. Bit by bit our leaders are taking tentative steps to open up the country, and here in Ontario the Premier has just announced what Stage 1 looks like in our communities. While we share the desire of many other churches in the province to physically gather in-person to worship our Heavenly Father, we are not adding our voice to petitions of the Premier. The well-being and safety of all our parishioners and the communities we serve is uppermost in our hearts and minds as we carefully plan for the eventual reopening of Ontario’s many Anglican churches. We will be taking a cautious and measured approach in the days ahead, in consultation with medical experts and the leaders of our dioceses, including our executive officers, chancellors, and liturgical officers. We remain committed to working with parish leaders to equip them to honour the various protocols that will enable us to worship safely in due course, and to keeping you informed about all decisions that are made. Until that time, we will continue with our online worship, respecting all of the provincial directives in place. As we adjust to the ‘new normal’ in our lives, the unspoken language of understanding and cooperation and concern for each other is evident as we remember to physical distance, wear our masks, wash our hands, and pray without ceasing. In our churches online worship continues unabated and we continue to stay connected with each other in new and meaningful ways. Who would have ever thought that coffee time by Zoom would be a thing?! In the midst of this time of uncertainty, we ask you for your patience and your prayers as we continue to be apart – but together in the One who stood among his fearful disciples and offered them His Peace. May that peace, which passes all understanding hold you gently during this time of pandemic. “

Peace be with you.”

Anne+

Metropolitan and Archbishop of Algoma and Moosonee



Gathering Table
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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)