

A Digital Project of the Regional Ministries of Brome-Missisquoi



A Service of Morning Prayer for
The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost (8 November)

A Prayer for Community

Once again, we enter into a virtual gathering place. We worship together in spirit and in truth, though not in person. We pray, sing, and listen to God's Word despite all the fear and darkness that pervades our world. God is with us. The Holy Spirit is among us, blowing with a wind of hope and renewal. The risen Christ is present in our midst.



The National Anthem

O Canada!
Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all of us command.

Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,
Il sait porter la croix!
Ton histoire est une épopée
Des plus brillants exploits,

God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.



Prayers of Remembrance

On this day of memory we gather to sing and to pray,
We remember the past and look to the future.

On this day when the guns once fell silent,
We come before you God, seeking your peace.

On this day of hope in the face of darkness,
We come before you God, praying with all our hearts.

God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
**Open our eyes and the eyes of the nations to find a
different path through the disagreements of life in
this world.**

In this time of story, song, and prayer,
**May we be re-committed to being people of peace,
truth, and love.**

May we catch a vision of how the world could live
together.
Let there be Peace on Earth and let it begin with us!



Territorial Acknowledgment

For thousands of years, indigenous peoples have walked on these lands that we now call Canada. We acknowledge with respect, the history, spirituality, and culture of the Abanaki and Mohawk first peoples upon whose traditional territories our churches and communities are built.

May the living Christ lead us all on pathways of reconciliation and peace.

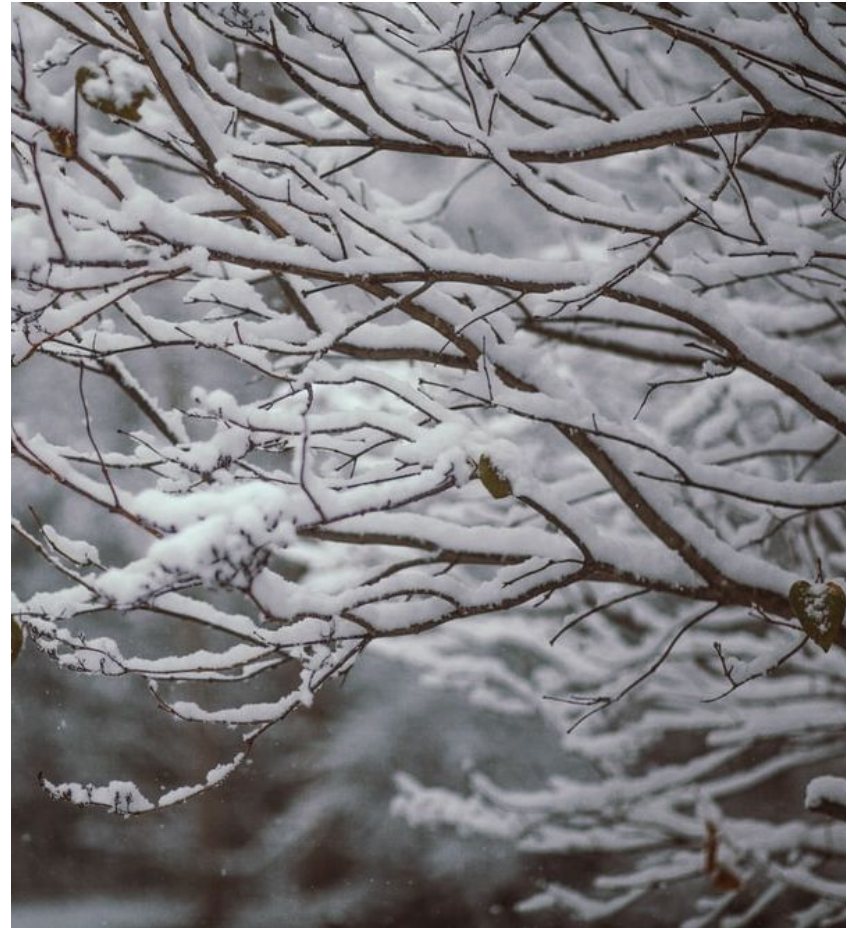


Confession & Absolution

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy:

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.

May 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.**



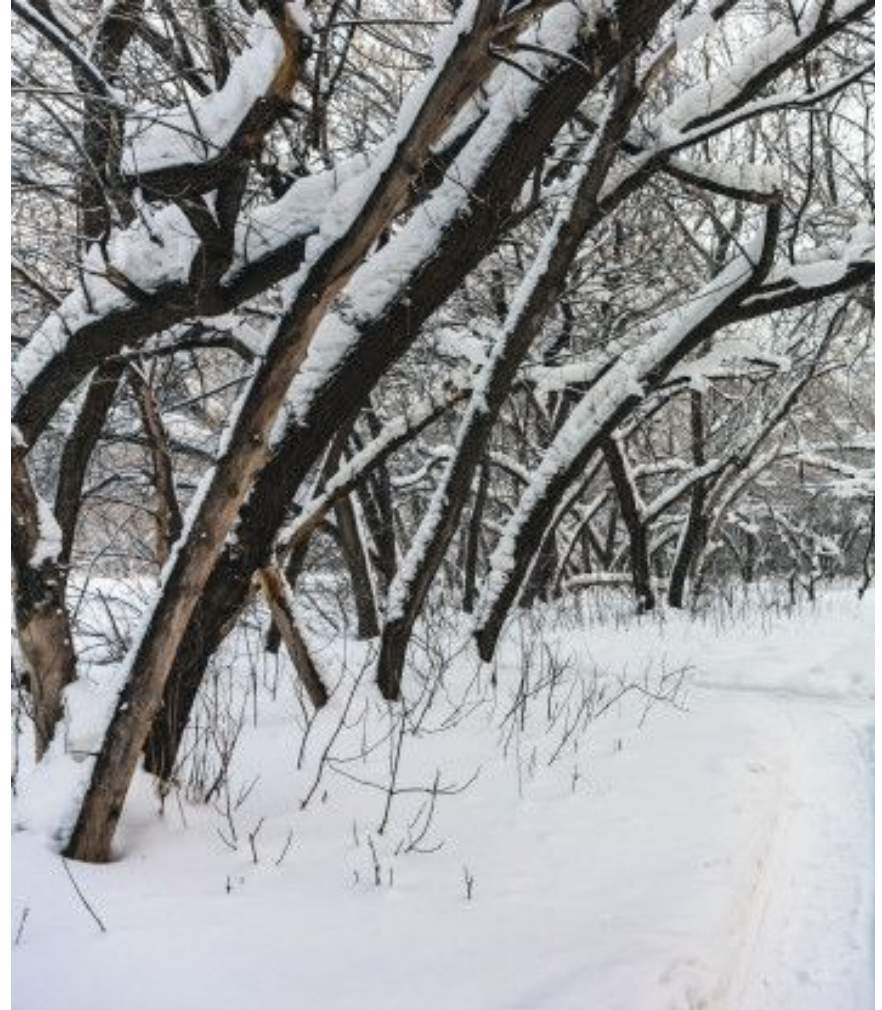
Opening Responses

Lord, open our lips,
**And our mouth shall proclaim
your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.
**O Lord, make haste to help
us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
**as it was in the beginning, is
now, and will be for ever.
Amen.**

The Lord is in his temple.
O Come, let us worship!



Joshua 24:1-3, 14-25

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

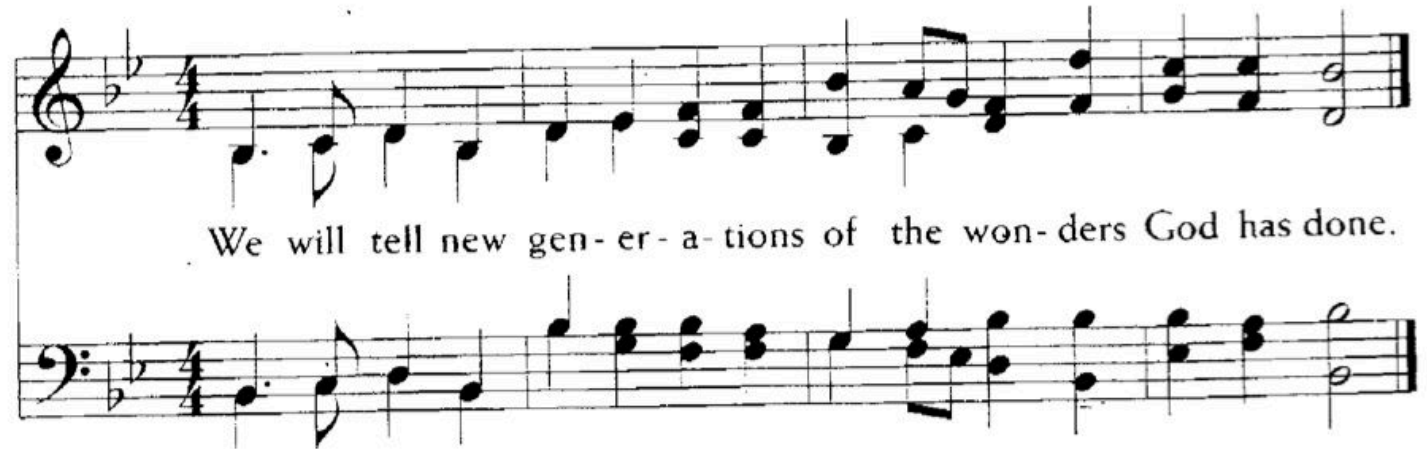
Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the Lord!” Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.” The people said to Joshua, “The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Psalm 78

Refrain

Joachim Neander 1680



Give heed to my teaching, o my people, turn your ears to the words of my mouth
I will open my mouth in a parable, I will reveal the hidden meaning in the past.

Refrain.

What we have heard and known, what our parents have told us, we will not hide from our grandchildren

But declare to the next generation the testimony that you gave to Jacob, and the Law you appointed to Israel, which you command them to teach their children.

That the next generation might now them, children yet unborn, and these in turn should arise, and tell their children,

That they should put their trust in you, and not forget your great deeds, but keep all your commandments.

Refrain.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.



Give me oil in my lamp

1. Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray;
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,
Keep me burning till the break of day.
2. Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising
Give me joy in my heart, I pray,
Keep me joy in my heart, keep my praising
Keep me praising till the break of day.
3. Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,
Give me peace in my heart, I pray;
Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving,
Keep me loving till the break of day.
4. Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
Give me love in my heart, I pray,
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
Keep me serving till the break of day.

REFRAIN:

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
Sing hosanna to the king of kings!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
Sing hosanna to the king.



Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus said, “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”



1st century Jewish oil lamp

The Sermon

Archdeacon
Tim Smart

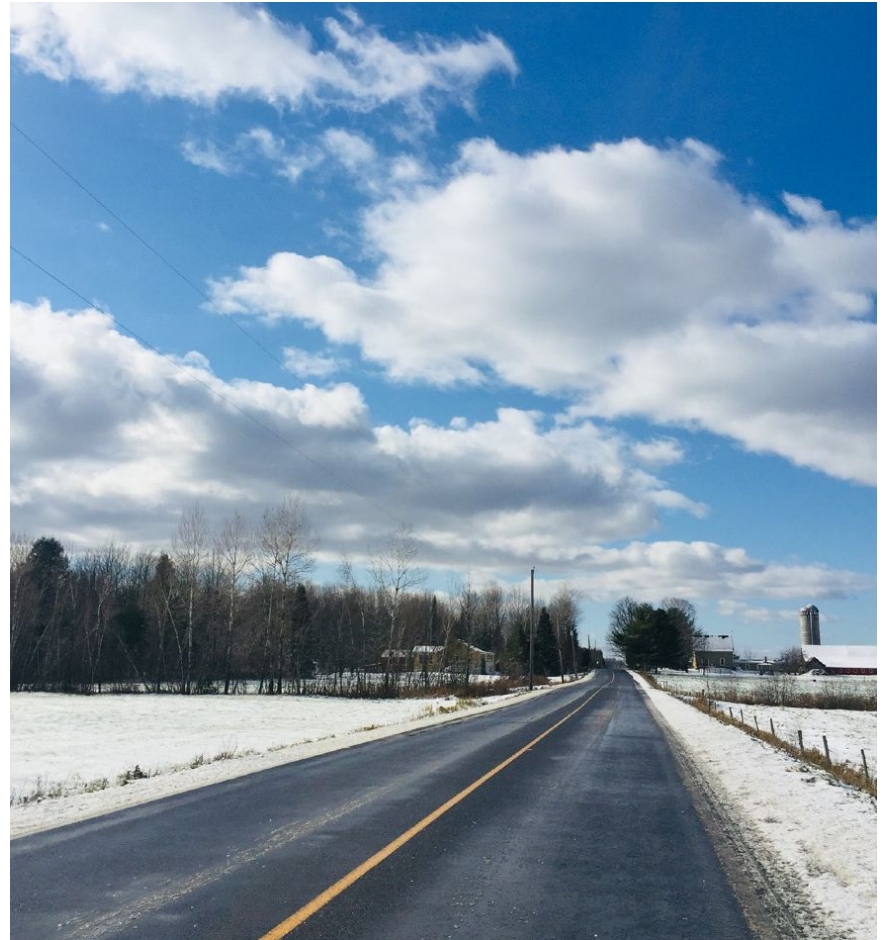
*Friedrich Wilhelm
von Schadow's
"Die klugen und
die törichten
Jungfrauen" (1842)*



Confession of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in the ancient words of the שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל (Shema Yisrael), as we say:

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.



Prayers of the People

Led by the Rev. Deacon Judy Ball
(Mansonville)



The Collect of the Day

Brighten your Church, O God,
with the promise of your
kingdom, and waken our
hearts to its light. Bid us
hasten with faith undimmed to
greet the bridegroom's return
and join the wedding feast.
We ask this through our Lord
Jesus Christ, our lamplight on
the path. **Amen.**



The Lord's Prayer

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

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.

Notre Père, qui es aux cieux, que ton nom soit sanctifié, que ton règne vienne, que ta volonté soit faite sur la terre comme au ciel. Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour. Pardonne-nous nos offenses, comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés. Et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation mais délivre-nous du mal. Car c'est à Toi qu'appartiennent le règne, la puissance et la gloire, pour les siècles des siècles. Amen.

Love divine, all loves excelling

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n to earth come down:
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving
Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest:
take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be:
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
'til in heav'n we take our place,
'til we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Blessing and Dismissal

May God, who is the lamplight in the darkness, pour his blessing upon all things created, and upon us his children, that we may use his gifts to his glory and the welfare of all peoples; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

