

Easter 4
April 25th, 2021



Land Acknowledgement

For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on the lands that we now call Canada; their relationship with the land was, and remains today, at the centre of their lives and spirituality.

In this holy time and place, we acknowledge with respect that we gather on the traditional, ancestral territories of the Abenaki and Mohawk first peoples.

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



Cree Communities of Northern Quebec

The northern Cree communities of Québec are: Chisasibi, Eastmain, Mistissini, Nemaska, Ujé-Bougoumou, Waskaganish, Waswanipi, Wemindji and Whapmagoostui.

This population has been there for almost 5000 years and maintain their traditional lifestyle by hunting, fishing and trapping. Because of the biodiversity of the territory, the majestic rivers, and the abundant fauna, the Cree can pursue their traditional activities. The Baie James Cree use the word Eeyouch meaning “the people” and “Eeyou Istchee” which translates “land of the people”.

1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away our fear.

2 It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary, rest.

3 Dear name! The Rock on which I build
my shield and hiding place
my never failing treasury filled
with boundless stores of grace.

4 Jesus, my shepherd, brother, friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.



Our Opening Prayers

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Almighty God,

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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Today, let us celebrate God's majesty, and delight in the wonder of God's love.

Together we shall confess our sins and receive assurance that we are forgiven.

As the scriptures are read, we can allow God's word to speak to us, and ponder its meaning for our lives.

In our prayers, we give thanks for God's goodness, we pray for others as well as for ourselves,
and we offer our lives anew in Christ's service.

All this we do, because we believe in the presence among us of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and in the mighty power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Prayer book of New Zealand)

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbour.

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 on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.



Gloria!



GLORY TO GOD

ANTIPHON:

Glo - ry to God _____ in the high .

est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. _

1. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. *Refrain.*
2. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. *Refrain.*
3. 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. *Refrain!*



Acts 4:5-12

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"



Peter Healing the Lame Man -- Matthias Gerung, Ottheinrich Folio, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

The Lord's my Shepherd – Psalm 23 (CP #519)

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; He leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
even for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill;
for Thou art with me, and Thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnishèd
in presence of my foes;
my head Thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me;
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling place shall be.



1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us-- and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.



Daniel Humm, right, the chef and owner of Eleven Madison Park, in Manhattan, partnered with Rethink Food to turn his Michelin-starred restaurant into a soup kitchen at the start of the coronavirus outbreak.

1 **Lord, whose love in humble service**
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart.

2 Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power
to our world to make it whole.

3 As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service,
your abundant life to share. **(CP #585)**



There are an estimated 26 million refugees around the world, and many find themselves in limbo for years, denied the rights they need to become self-sufficient and restart their lives. More than 50% of all refugees are children.

John 10:11-18

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away--and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."





Sermon by the Rev. Nick Forte

The Good Shepherd - Julien Dupre, Legion of Honor Museum, San Francisco, CA

1. **We believe** in God the Father,
God Almighty by whose plan,
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.
We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary,
upon whom the Spirit came.

2. Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.
We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
'Till as judge he comes again.

3. We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:
Saints of God in one
communion, one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord, and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end.

JESUS CHRIST



THE CHIEF
CORNERSTONE

Prayers of the People
by Beverly Sutton-Brown





The New Zealand Anglican Lord's Prayer

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Collects

Shepherd of all,
by laying down your life for your flock
you reveal your love for all.
Lead us from the place of death
to the place of abundant life,
that guided by your care for us,
we may rightly offer our lives
in love for you and our neighbors. Amen.

Good Shepherd,
Teach us to follow you:
to care for all that are close to us,
to protect those who are threatened,
to welcome those who are rejected,
to forgive those who are burdened by guilt,
to heal those who are broken and sick,
to share with those who have little or nothing,
to take the time to really know one another
and love as you have loved us. Amen.



A Prayer in the time of pandemic

Almighty and gracious God, whose creation calls and inspires the hearts of many to the study of science and healing, make in us today new hearts, that stand in awe of the advances in human scientific understanding. Strengthen our faith in science, and all those called to research. Help us to live for others in this time of pandemic.

Continuously inspire those who work on the front lines of health care. Support and sustain all those who have been negatively impacted at this time, and help us to grieve with those who grieve. We ask this, in Jesus mighty name. Amen.

The Blessing

God be your comfort, your strength;
God be your hope and support;
God be your light and your way;
and the blessing of God,
Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life,
remain with you now and for evermore.
Amen.



Butchart Gardens, Victoria, BC

1. Heaven shall not wait
For the poor to lose their patience,
The scorned to smile, the despised to find a friend:
Jesus is Lord;
He has championed the unwanted;
In him injustice confronts its timely end.
2. Heaven shall not wait
For the rich to share their fortunes,
The proud to fall, the elite to tend the least:
Jesus is Lord;
He has shown the masters' privilege –
To kneel and wash servants' feet before they feast.
3. Heaven shall not wait
For the dawn of great ideas,
Thoughts of compassion divorced from cries of pain:
Jesus is Lord;
He has married word and action;
His cross and company make his purpose plain.
4. Heaven shall not wait
For our legalised obedience,
Defined by statute, to strict conventions bound:
Jesus is Lord;
He has hallmarked true allegiance –
Goodness appears where his grace is sought and found.
5. Heaven shall not wait
For triumphant Hallelujahs,
When earth has passed and we reach another shore:
Jesus is Lord
In our present imperfection;
His power and love are for now and then for evermore.

