

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador
Anglican Parish of St. Philip
Bishop: The Right Rev. Cyrus Pitman
Rector: Rev. Edward Keeping



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A WARM WELCOME IS EXTENDED TO ALL OUR
PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS
WHO ARE WORSHIPPING WITH US TODAY

MARCH 8, 2015 (Year B)

Parish Mission Statement

God's people in the Parish of St. Philip, in a covenant relationship with God through Baptism, are called....

- ♦ To be Fishers of people in response to the call of Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit;
- ♦ To be a House of Prayer
- ♦ To be a Centre for Christian Teaching;
- ♦ To be Disciples in learning;
- ♦ To be a fellowship of Loving and Sacrificial Service;
- ♦ To be Witnesses to our Lord's Love through Word and Example.

Launching out into the
Deep....
Into New Spiritual
Depths



From the Rector's Desk

Today's Gospel Lesson is not merely about Jesus' overturning the tables of the money changers; it is something far much greater, far reaching and of enormous consequences. It is a radical act by Jesus of actually cleansing the Temple; and it may be difficult for us to even imagine how radical this was. Nor can we imagine the degree of furor and anger that it must have instilled in the religious leaders and in the Temple worshippers. It was literally an attack on the Temple worship and on the whole sacrificial system and all the rules and regulations that had grown up around it. I have no doubt that this act of Jesus was one of his radical acts that led him to his crucifixion.

It is difficult for us in our time and culture to even have a mental picture of the scene. At the Passover, there would have been thousands of people, maybe in the hundreds of thousands, as Jews from all around the Mediterranean came to Jerusalem to participate in this most holy time of worship. Imagine such vast numbers slitting the throats of lambs, the blood being caught in basins by priests and thrown against the altar. We can imagine the stone floors of the temple being slippery with blood and we can imagine the thick smell and reek of blood in the air. We can imagine all the noise and commotion and distractions from the presence of the Holy God. Not only was the Passover celebration turned into shady business activity and a money-making machine but the scene was chaotic and was like a slaughter house and a butcher shop. Furthermore what was going on was a matter of injustice because religion was being used to oppress most people while lining the pockets of traders and money changers.

We can imagine that our Lord's intense expectation of being in closer company with his Father in his Father's house and how his zeal for his Father's House was being turned into bewilderment and disillusionment.

And just who was in the Temple that day? Would any judged to be sinners be present? I wonder about that because the teaching of the Scribes and Pharisees and Rabbis was that sinners have no place with God and are to be treated as outcasts cut off from God and from God's Community. It was one of the things that enraged the religious folk that Jesus ate and drank with outcasts and sinners.

I cannot imagine that the religious treatment of sinners would not have been in the heart and mind of Jesus as he surveyed all that was happening in the Temple that day.

The Passover Festival was intended to bring into "remembrance" God's acts of deliverance and to lead people into a deepened relationship with God. It was a place for the wounded and contrite spirit to find comfort, healing and blessing. It was a place where a broken conscience could find relief and healing. It was a place where an inquiring and seeking mind could find spiritual food, renewal and refreshment. But all of that seemed to be absent.

Sacrifice, if it meant anything at all, surely meant offering one's best to God. And what is one's best if it is not one's self; one's self-dedication and self-offering to God? What had all of this business and slaughter and rules and regulations and exclusion of sinners have to do with the human soul who was conscious of being soiled with sin and in need of redemption? It would seem that on that day Jesus was in shock and saw deeply in his spirit that all of this was a religious sham and even an offense to God.

But that was then. What about now? We are daily inching towards our Great Festivals of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and our own Passover of Easter...our festivals celebrating our "redemption". Our lessons, today, cause us to face some important questions. What do these great events of God have to do with us right now? How do we prepare our hearts for these great celebrations? Are we able to devote even one hour in the middle of the week to prepare ourselves for Good Friday and Easter? How do we respond to what all of these events of God mean? Do we get caught up in the business and busyness of the world around us and sometimes of religion and yet forget about the business and busyness of the world around us and sometimes of religion and yet forget about the business of heaven? In our Epistle lesson, St. Paul reminds us that the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing but to those who are being saved it is the power of God.

Jesus taught us to pray: "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us." Do we forgive as we are forgiven? Do we really live as we pray? Do we pray with our lips or do we pray with our lives? Jesus said: "Be merciful as your Father is merciful." Do we ever consider the times when we have opportunity to show mercy...or is it a nice thought but places no demand on me. Jesus said: "Why do you see the speck in your neighbour's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?" Lent calls us into a discipline of self-examination...do we really practice this aspect of our faith discipline? Are we a compassionate, healing and reconciling church reflecting the compassion, healing and reconciling ministry of our Lord? Is there real and tangible evidence of that in our worship? Are we ministers of grace? Do we stand in solidarity with those who are oppressed and victims of injustice? We can make a very long list of the things that might challenge us as we reflect upon our Lord's cleansing of the Temple and draw lessons from it for our own worship and for how we live out our lives in faith; and how we come to our own great Passover Festival. I believe this is the gospel challenge before us all today as we reflect upon our scriptural readings.

Rev. Ed

A Stewardship Thought for the Week

- 1) We can begin to get a little bit excited about giving when we ask, "What and whom will my gift benefit most this week?" The answer – "Me".
- 2) It's not what you'd do with a million...if a million were your lot. It's what you are doing at present with the dollar and a quarter you've got.

Church Chuckle

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

The mother replied, "Because white is the color of happiness and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

MILESTONES

If anyone knows of someone in the Parish celebrating a milestone in their lives, please contact the Church Office.

Just a reminder to Parishioners who make their church contributions through post-dated cheques, that this may need to be taken care of at this time. Post-dated cheques may be dropped off at the office or placed in the offertory plate. Thank you.

Annual Financial Statements

Your Annual Financial Statements are available in the foyer. Please pick them up as you leave the church today.

There are a few packages of the **2015 Church Envelopes** left in the foyer. If anyone could deliver these, it would be most appreciated.

Preauthorized Payment (e-Giving) of Church Offerings can now be offered to our parishioners. Many people find that this is a safe and convenient way to make their offerings and, if you are interested, **please complete the form which you will find in the pamphlet rack in the foyer.**

For those who are giving by Pre – Authorized (e-Giving), there will be plastic cards available in the foyer which read "Giving Electronically to the Anglican Parish of St. Philip". We want our people to think about giving to the church by this method.

March 1st, 2015

Regular Givings	\$1,110.00
Lenten Offering	\$ 20.00
Maintenance Fund	\$ 550.00
E-Givings – Feb. 2015	\$1,205.00

Lenten Givings: We have set a budget of \$3,500 for our Lenten Givings. Please give this your prayerful consideration during Lent.

Memorial Request

Recently, we installed projectors and screens in the Chancellery. Because of the amount of light coming through the window at the back of the church, we considered blinds but instead would like to go with stained glass.

If anyone would like to donate the stained glass as a memorial for a departed loved one, we have been given a quote of \$3,450.00 plus installation plus H.S.T. This could be an individual donation or a group of families. Please give this your prayerful consideration.

Schedule of Services

The Third Sunday of Lent March 8th

8:30 AM – Holy Communion (BCP)
Eucharistic Assistant: Larry Bradley

10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist (BAS), Sunday School.
Eucharistic Assts: Joan Tucker, Dave Bartlett
Counters: Lori Mercer, Linda Thomas
Sidesperson: Todd Martin

7:00 PM - DAMA SERVICE – All Welcome

Wednesday, March 11th

7:00 pm Lenten Service (no Eucharist)
Lenten Theme: Parables of the Gospel

The Fourth Sunday of Lent March 15th

8:30 AM – Holy Communion (BCP)
Eucharistic Assistant: Todd Martin

10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist (BAS), Sunday School.
Eucharistic Assts: George Sharpe, Debbie Collis
Counters: Lori Mercer, Linda Thomas
Sidesperson: Gerald Sharpe

Notices

ACW MEETING

The ACW will meet on Wed. March 11th at 7:30 pm.

VESTRY MEETING

The regular Vestry meeting will take place on Monday, March 16th at 7:30 pm in the Boardroom.

SALE OF MOOSE SAUSAGES: LAST CHANCE

As mentioned some time ago, St. Philip's Anglican Church was granted a moose license and we have a moose in cold storage which will be used for fundraising events. We will be taking orders for moose sausages and have placed an order sheet in the foyer. We will have the sausages made up when there are sufficient orders to use the meat available for this purpose. The cost of the sausages is \$5.00/lb.

ANNUAL REPORTS – Available upon request. Please see Rev. Ed.

EUCCHARISTIC ASSISTANTS NEEDED

The hospital chaplains are looking for Eucharistic Assistants to assist with Holy Communion at St. Clare's Hospital and the Leonard Miller Centre.

Eucharistic Assistants are needed at St. Clare's from 8:30 am – 9:30 am and at the Leonard Miller Centre from 1:00 pm.

If any Eucharistic Assistants are willing to volunteer, please see your Rector.

BABY CLOTHES FOR HAITI

The Eastern Health Nurses who use the parish hall on Thursday afternoons are looking for baby clothes for Haiti. Team Broken Earth can share your outgrown baby clothes with needy children of Haiti. Monetary donations also accepted.

Donations will be collected here at the church for the team going to Haiti on March 21st, 2015.

Dismissal to be sung at the end of the service:

Go now in peace, never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true. Know he will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there, watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

**Chaplaincy Services at Hospitals
in St. John's**

When you are being admitted to a hospital in St. John's, you should be asked, "While you are admitted to hospital, would you like to have a visit from a chaplain or pastoral care worker?" Be sure to say "Yes" if you would like a pastoral visit. You will then be asked to identify your religion, and your name will be added to the chaplain's visitation list, and you will then receive a visit from the denominational chaplain within a day or two.

Also, the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Salvation Army and United Church Chaplaincy Teams are continuing a pilot project to assess ways to share resources. The four denominations will share First-call Chaplain responsibilities at the hospitals in St. John's. This means that each night one chaplain will receive all after-hours calls (5:00 pm to 8:00 am). That First-call Chaplain will determine if the chaplain from the patient's own denomination is needed to provide particular services or supports (anointing/ communion). Patients and families can request their denominational chaplain, if they so wish. The denominational chaplains will follow up with patients seen by the First-call Chaplain.

Please call your Parish Priest as well.

If any members of our congregation have a new e-mail address or changed his/her e-mail address, would you kindly e-mail us your new address.

Maintenance Fund – I do ask you to give regularly to this fund. In the spring, major work around the windows of this building will be required. Repairs are needed immediately to the main door of our church. Please continue to use your "Pink Envelope" to contribute to this Fund so when the time comes for repairs there will be funds available.

MEMORIAL BULLETIN: We encourage you to donate the weekly bulletin as a memorial to a departed loved one. The envelopes and information are available from the pamphlet rack in the foyer.

Parish Hall Rentals: The Parish Centre is available to members of the congregation and the public to rent for birthdays, weddings and anniversaries. Please consider renting the hall for your next important event. Any person want to rent the parish hall can call the church office at 895-0715.

Recyclable Donations: -Recycling is a fundraising project of the ACM and your assistance is needed. *"It would be very helpful if the screw top covers were removed from all bottles – plastic as well as glass."* For your convenience, boxes are located near Sharpe's Store on Thorburn Road and Country Convenience, corner of Old Broad Cove Road and Bennett's Road. If you can help with sorting the recyclables on Monday or Tuesday nights please call John Parrell. **The ACM could really use your help.**

Noteworthy Events

Beaumont Hamel – On the Trail of the Caribou – June/July, 2016 – 10 days/16 meals – Bishop Geoff will be leading a tour to Beaumont Hamel to mark the 100th Anniversary of the First World War.

For further information, see the Brochure in the foyer or see the Diocesan website.

Collect, Epistle and Gospel for the Third Sunday of Lent

Scripture Readings for today, March 8th

1st Reading: **Exodus 20: 1 – 17** Psalm 19 (pages 725 & 726)
(Jeanette Osmond)

2nd Reading: **1st Corinthians 1: 18 – 25** (Lloyd Osmond)

Gospel: **John 2: 13 - 22** (Rev. Ed Bonnell)

The Scriptural Sentence for our worship today as appointed in our
BAS Lectionary, page 288:

**God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever
believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**

Collect for the Day. (In Unison) **Father of mercy, alone we
have no power in ourselves to help ourselves. When we are
discouraged by our weakness, strengthen us to follow Christ,
our pattern and our hope; who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect for Launching out into the Deep (In unison) **Bless, O
Lord our God, the worship and work of this church. Grant that
it may faithfully Launch Out into the Deep and respond to the
call of Jesus to be fishers of people. By the power of your Holy
Spirit make it a house of prayer, a Centre of Christian teaching
and disciples in learning, a community of loving and sacrificial
service, and a witness to your redeeming love through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen**

Prayer over the Gifts: (In unison) **Gracious God, we know your
power to triumph over weakness. May we who ask forgiveness
be ready to forgive one another, in the name of Jesus the Lord.
Amen.**

Prayer after Communion: (In unison) **God of mercy and
forgiveness, may we who share this sacrament live together in
unity and peace, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

Today in our **Parish Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for **our parish
families**: Each week we remember a number of our families in our
Prayers of the People: **Derek & Ellen Stevenson, Edna
Strowbridge, Gary Sullivan, Ronald & Thelma Sullivan and
their families.**

In our **Tri-Diocesan Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for **The Parish of
Harbour Grace (2 congregations), The Rev. Moses Tucker,
Rector, and The Parish of Botwood, (3 congregations), The Rev.
Larry Chatman, Rector.**

In our **Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for Meru – (Kenya), The
Rt. Rev. Charles Mwendwa.