

Dismissal Songs

“Let There Be Love”

*Let there be love shared among us,
let there be love in our eyes;
may now your love
sweep this nation,
cause us, Oh Lord
to arise;
Give us a fresh understanding,
of Christian love that is real;
let there be love shared among us,
let there be love.*

“May God’s Blessing”

*May God’s blessing
Surround you each day,
As you trust Him
and walk in his way.
May his presence within
Guard and keep you from sin,
go in peace,
go in joy,
go in love.*

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

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Metropolitan: Archbishop David Edwards

Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

Bishop: The Right Reverend Samuel Rose

Anglican Church of St. Philip

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Honorary Assistants

The Rev. Canon Shirley Gosse

The Rev. Canon Don Morgan

The Rev. Russell Osmond



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September 2023 (Year A)

A WARM WELCOME IS EXTENDED TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS WHO ARE WITH US TODAY. WE HOPE THAT GOD WILL BLESS US AS WE WORSHIP HIM HERE TOGETHER AT ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH.

From the Rector's desk:

As I reflect today (August 31), it is right after I sent out a letter from our bishop, sharing the news that as of August 31st (today) the parish of St. Michael and All Angels will cease to exist as a parish in our diocese, after about 116 years of ministry in St. John's. You have the letter, and my comments, so I won't go further into that, except to say, our trust is in God, and the good work done by so many faithful clergy and lay people over all these years has not been in vain. Many people's faith was nurtured in this parish through Word and Sacrament, seeds were sown that will continue to bring forth harvest. Like Paul points out in 1 Corinthians 13:12 - *For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.* The problem us human beings have is that we don't see the bigger picture, only God does. When we don't see the bigger picture than our minds often draw the bleakest conclusions, and we are prone to despair. As we share in the pain of those mourning the loss of St. Michael's parish, let us not forget to give thanks for the blessings that were given and received there for so long. The love that was given and received, the lives that were shaped and nurtured in Christ. This chapter of 1 Corinthians is a reminder to us that love is eternal, it never dies, it keeps on giving. St. Michael's will not be forgotten, it touched far too many lives for that, and so we honor it, and know that as members of the parish seek new worship communities, they will bring along their faith and life experiences that shaped them at St. Michael's. That needs to be welcomed and cherished. As the bishop shared in his letter, remember to pray this prayer that we use every September 29th on the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels – *Eternal God, you have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals. Grant that as your holy angels stand before you in heaven, so at your command they may help and defend us here on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.* It's a beautiful prayer asking God to send forth holy angels to help keep us safe on earth. The world we live in is often dark and evil, and we can certainly use all the help we can get, both earthly and heavenly, to watch over us, to watch over the Church, for we are constantly at war with the powers of evil and darkness. The most powerful weapon we have in this fight, a fight for justice, truth and life, is our faith. Once our faith wavers, once our light grows dim, we will be pummeled on every side by the devil and his forces. Sometimes this evil comes in very obvious forms, such as we have seen in the past, with people like Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, Saddam Hussein, Idi Amin, Kim Jong-un, Ayatollah Khomeini, Nero, Gengis Khan, Mao Zedong, and now Vladimir Putin with his genocide in Ukraine. These are just a few of Satan's warriors over the years, there are more than we can count, and they are still among us and they will keep coming. Indeed, we need heavenly help to ward them off and stay faithful.

How do we stay faithful to God in a world today that makes it easy for us to stray away from Christian values and principles that have guided our faith, the faith of others, and the faith of the Church for the last 2000 years? St. Michaels is not, and will not be the last church to close its doors. The victory of Satan is not in the closing of buildings, for it can be argued we have too many anyhow, no, the victory of Satan comes when we lose our faith and hope. Many church buildings have closed and congregations have joined together to concentrate their energy and resources to be an even more powerful voice for Christ. Faith is two-fold, there is the personal element to it, but also the corporate element. As human beings, God has not created us to live unto ourselves, we are created to be in community, including a faith community. That's why I fervently hope and pray that members of St. Michael's parish will find themselves a welcoming church, where they can be blessed and be a blessing to that congregation. Much of the tradition of gathering for Sunday worship on a regular basis has been greatly diminished over the years. Sometimes we try to convince ourselves that it's ok, when we say – *oh well, I can say my prayers wherever I am, in the woods, in the garden, etc.* That is very true, and we need to do that at times when we are unable to gather, but it is not a suitable replacement of regular worship in community. That's why Jesus commissioned and sent out his disciples in groups, that's why he gathered the crowds together to preach, teach, heal and perform miracles, because there is power in community. Nothing is more beautiful than a church full of God's people coming together for worship on a Sunday morning. I think we all miss that sense of *"togetherness"*, but the good news is we can do that, it just takes the effort on our part to make it happen. Reality is, that without it more churches will close and more congregations will be disestablished into the future. If we make that effort to live together in community as the people of God, we won't be celebrating the faith of the past, but celebrating a present faith still living and making a difference in our towns and communities.

As we begin to shift our attention to a new church year, with all its possibilities, I invite you to join with us at St. Philip's to make the year ahead an exciting year of spiritual growth for us all. To nurture our own individual faith but also to grow together as a strong faith community. Why not make that conscious effort this year to get back to regular worship and participation in the life of our parish? We really need this if we are to remain strong, vibrant and healthy as a parish going forward. Pray about it, talk about it as a family, and be open to the guidance of the Spirit. I believe wholeheartedly that God is calling you into community, and that you will be blessed. There is a place for you here, and you have God-given gifts and talents to share with all of us in this great work of building the Kingdom of God, right here in this place, and preparing for that place in God's eternal Kingdom when our work here is done.

Blessings!

Rev. Randy

Both our ACW (women's group) and our ACM (men's group) will be starting their regular monthly meetings soon. We want to issue an invitation to any of the ladies or the men to feel free to join in with the meetings, and to be part of the activities that they undertake throughout the year on behalf of the parish.

To those who hold keys to the building we want to stress the importance of ensuring the building is securely locked after every usage. As a rule, if you unlock a door please lock it after, even if someone else is in the building. Ensure all windows are closed and locked, all lights are out and the door locked. Not often, but occasionally a door gets left unlocked all through the night, so please be extra vigilant in securing the building.

Our choir and organists will be resuming their weekly practices soon. If you have an interest in joining the choir we would love to have you. What a joy it would be to have enough in the choir to need to use the seats on the other side of the chancel. We welcome people of all ages.

We will be scheduling our Eucharistic Assistants again this Fall. Over three years ago, when the pandemic was declared, much of what we were doing got sidelined, such as the use of the common cup. Now that we are back to offering the common cup we would like to reactivate our EA list. If you were on the list and would like to continue, or you were not on the list but would like to do this, please let Rev. Randy know.

Rev. Russell will be scheduling our prayer leaders soon. Ada Lockyer joined the group last year, and as we start up again now we are proud to welcome another one, Brenda Gavin – Harding, a new member of our parish. The list now includes Joan Osmond, Gloria Earle, Ruth Hiscock, Ada Lockyer, Joyce Fewer Keeping and Brenda Gavin Harding. If anyone else would like to join in this parish ministry we would be proud to have you, please speak to Rev. Russell.

Canon Shirley continues to look after our Sunday readings and reader lists. In the past year we added a couple of new readers to the list, but would love to have even more. If you would like to be one of our readers on a Sunday morning please speak to Canon Shirley.

Altar Servers are needed. We welcome any young people in our congregation that would like to serve at the altar to please speak to Rev. Randy. Duties include things such as lighting and putting out the candles, carrying the cross, helping with Communion, etc. Canon Morgan did some extensive training with a group of adults as well in the past year, so we would like to get them involved in this ministry as well this year.

Envelope drop-off box in the foyer. The box formerly used to collect Canadian Tire money, has now been re-purposed to receive weekly envelopes. This box is accessible most days of the week (Monday – Friday) in the afternoons, when the main doors are open. If you have church envelopes to drop off to the church during the week, and the office is not open, please drop them into the box next to the nursery room door. This box will be checked at the end of each day and any envelopes inside will be transferred to the office safe until monies are counted on Sundays.

St. Philip's parish is set up to receive E-Transfers. These days many of us do online banking and send e-transfers, so this is another way to make your contribution to the parish.. The parish will receive your offering instantly and a message will be sent to our treasurer and she will ensure the amount gets added to your envelope offerings for tax purposes. It's very easy and convenient. **As we move toward the Summer Season, please remember the needs of the church.** Summer is a time when many parishioners are away on holidays, camping, spending time at the cottage, etc. There are several ways that we can still be regular in our weekly offerings, so that the treasurer is able to keep all our commitments up-to-date. We have many signed up for regular E-Givings, if this is something you would like to do, simply pick up a form from the parish office. We can keep post-dated cheques in the office safe, and we can use the Email Transfer method, by simply using the parish email: stphilipsanglicanchurch@nf.aibn.com You may simply type the message *"weekly offering"* in the message box. Thank you for all your generous support to the parish, it helps us stay financially strong and viable. This is especially important at a time when some parishes are struggling to stay afloat and joining up with other parishes to share a priest.

Our parish website can be accessed now through a **QR Code** (Quick Response Code). By scanning the code with your cell phone, tablet or some other compatible device you will immediately be taken to the parish website. We are also in the process of updating our website so it can be current. Here is the QR Code:



NOTICES /MEMORABLE DATES

September 10th - Blessing of the backpacks will take place again today, Sunday, September 10th at the 10:30 am worship service. As the teachers and kids start another school year, we invite everyone to bring school bags and backpacks, for the *blessing of the backpacks*. As we ask God's blessings on them for a safe and enjoyable year. All are welcome!

September 12th - Vestry Meeting – 7:00 pm

Sunday School, we hope will be resuming in the very near future. We are asking all parents that would like to enrol their children to please speak to Rev. Randy, Lori Gosse or Stephanie Smith. We also are in need of parents to volunteer to help out as well. We hope to get everything up and going soon so that we can begin planning our Christmas Eve pageant.

Confirmation classes will resume in October. We are not yet sure when the bishop will be coming for the service of Confirmation in 2024 (possibly Spring) but we are now taking names of young people that want to be confirmed. Anyone wishing to be confirmed must be at least 11 years of age by June of 2024. Please speak to Rev. Randy about registration.

The Ballicatters will be starting up the same time school reopens. We are pleased to report that they have a full program, with an extensive waiting list of children wanting to attend. This is great news for them and great news for our parish, as they are the main renter of the parish hall. This year, because of increased operating expenses, we had to increase their rent by \$250 making it \$2250 per month from September to June. They are very understanding of this and it is the first increase since they began using our space. As a reminder, because of government regulations under which they operate, we must ensure that when they are using the space, which includes the parish centre and washrooms, no other persons are allowed access. Their usual hours of operation are 895 from 2:00 pm until 6:00 pm Monday to Friday.

The lighting project is now completed. We are pleased to say that our church building is now very energy efficient. A few years ago we did all of the lighting in the parish hall, foyer, meeting rooms, bathrooms, offices and exterior with LED energy efficient lighting. The only place left was the main part of the church, the worship space. At a cost of approximately \$40,000 the lights in this space, has now been replaced with new lighting. Some of the lights have been donated (a few are still available to donate in full or in part), and we will place plaques on the foyer boards recognizing these contributions. We are pleased to announce that we also received a federal government *Community Service Recovery Fund* grant in the amount of \$30,000 to be applied toward the cost of the new lighting, for which we are grateful. The contractor for this work was Snow's Electrical, and we are pleased with what they did.

The roof project is also completed. We are happy to report that we now have a brand new roof above us. After more than 20 years we realized that the old shingles were not going to last another year, and needed to be replaced. Our roof is both sloped and flat, the sloped roof has shingles and the flat sections (over the foyer & kitchen) have a torch-on membrane. At first we did not anticipate doing the flat sections this year, however, once we started the project, it was obvious that these areas too were in great need of replacement. It boosted the cost of the roof by another \$22,500 plus HST, for a total cost of just over \$91000.00 but it was really necessary. For the size of the roof, we believe as a Vestry, we got the very best price we could get for this work. It also included replacing a lot of rotten wood in the bell tower, and 4 days with a crane operator as two men worked on the tower suspended in a large bucket. The company that did this work was Metro Roofing, and they did perhaps even a little more than we would have expected them to do, such as the rot in the bell tower, without charging anything more.

Would you like to help out in our Sound Room on Sunday mornings? There is a real need for volunteers to control the microphones, etc. during our morning services so that we have the right volume and everyone can hear what is being said. This would be a great thing for some of our young people to get involved with, they have lots of technical ability for sure. We would also like to get back to using our screens on a more regular basis as well. Speak to Rev. Randy about it.

Resuming our Sunday morning coffee hour this Fall. One Sunday of the month we invite parishioners and visitors to come a little early for the 10:30 am worship and enjoy coffee/tea and refreshments served in the foyer. We are looking for volunteers to organize the event. If you would like to help with this please speak to Rev. Randy.

Our parish received a \$30,000 grant from the federal government *Community Service Recovery Fund*. This money is granted specifically for the lighting project we just completed. This means that, with the donation of some of the lights, this project will end up costing the parish very little. We are very grateful for this grant, and want to especially thank our parish treasurer, Debbie, for all the work she put into submitting it.

Columbarium niches are still available for purchase. Approximately 37 of the 48 available have been sold since they were first installed in 2016. The cost is still \$3000 (no tax if purchased from the church, funeral home will charge tax) The plan is to install more of them once these are sold, however, the cost of future units will be determined by the cost of purchase and installation at that time. Anyone requiring more information about the columbarium is asked to speak to the rector.

The Canon EB Cheeseman Parish Centre is now available for rentals. If you would like to book the hall, or would like information about rental costs, please contact Donna or Janice Spurrell at 895-3581.

Parish Recycling program is something we are very proud of in our parish. This is a project taken on by our men's group (ACM) many years ago and still going strong. Residents of the town drop off their bottles and cans at several designated sites, our men pick it up and take it to the recycling trailer, where it gets sorted, counted and bagged every Monday night. Once we have enough its placed on a trailer and taken to the recycling depot in St. John's. In addition to keeping a lot of stuff out of the landfill, it brings much needed money into our parish budget. There is a need for extra volunteers that can spare about two hours on a Monday night (7-9 pm) to come along and help out. If you can do this, please speak to our ACM president, Gary King at 709-895-6239

Maintenance Fund. The work we undertook this summer was possible because we had a very healthy maintenance fund, therefore, we did not need to borrow the money. Now that the work is done, we need to rebuild our fund again for future work that arises. We have been using the maintenance fund as well for the past 7 years to repay the loan we acquired to install the geo-thermal heating system. We are happy to say this will be paid off fully this coming November, for which we give thanks. We can't stress too much the importance of building up our maintenance fund, because it enables us to look after the physical structure of our building, so that necessary work gets done in a timely fashion because we have the money to do it. Please keep being generous with your contributions to our parish maintenance fund.

If you would like to receive the rector's messages, bulletins and other parish information from time-to-time please provide him with your email address by contacting him at the following address: lockyerrandy@gmail.com

Please check our parish Facebook page as well as our website for weekly updates. Any information we want to get out to our parishioners will be shared and please pass it along to others that may not be using this technology.

www.facebook.com/stphilipsanglicanchurch

September 10th

Scriptural Sentence

“God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and he has entrusted us with the message of reconciliation.”

1st Reading

Exodus 12: 1-14

Psalm 149

Pages: 908-909

(Brenda Harding)

2nd Reading

Romans 13: 8-14

(Betty Lewis)

Gospel

Matthew 18: 15-20

(Deacon Ed Bonnell)

Collects & Prayers

Collect – Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people, that richly bearing the fruit of good works, we may by you be richly rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Prayer over the Gifts - Great and holy God, accept our offering of labour and love. May we bring you true and spiritual worship and be one with you. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen

Prayer after Communion – Father, your word and sacrament give us food and life. May we who have shared in holy things bear fruit to your honour and glory, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen

September 17th

Holy Cross Day (Sept. 14)

Scriptural Sentence

“Far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1st Reading

Numbers 21: 4b-9

Psalm 98: 1-6

Page: 836

(Dr. Greg Brown)

2nd Reading

1 Corinthians 1: 18-24

(Todd Martin)

Gospel

John 3: 13-17

(Deacon Ed Bonnell)

Collects & Prayers

Collect – Almighty God, whose son our Saviour Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself, may we who rejoice in the mystery of our redemption, have grace to take up our cross and follow him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Prayer over the Gifts - Merciful God, through the death of your beloved Son you transformed an instrument of shame into a sign of hope and glory. Receive all we offer you this day, and renew in us the mystery of his love; through the same Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. Amen

Prayer after Communion – Almighty God, we give thanks that you have made us partakers of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who took our nature upon him and suffered death upon the cross for our redemption; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

September 24th

Scriptural Sentence

“Open our hearts, O Lord, to give heed to what is said by your Son.”

1st Reading

Exodus 16: 2-15

Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45

Pages: 847-848

(Rev. Russell Osmond)

2nd Reading

Philippians 1: 21-30

(Joan Osmond)

Gospel

Matthew 20: 1-16

(Deacon Ed Bonnell)

Collects & Prayers

Collect – Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth, and ourselves in your image. Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Prayer over the Gifts – God of power, the glory of your works fills us with wonder and awe. Accept our offering this day and help us to live in peace and harmony with all your creation, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer after Communion – Ruler of the universe, all creation years for its fulfilment in your Son. May we who have shared in holy things grow into maturity in him. This we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Oct. 1st

St. Michael and All Angels (Sept. 29)

Scriptural Sentence

“Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, you ministers of his who do his will.”

1st Reading

Genesis 28: 10-17

Psalm 103: 19-22

Pages: 841-843

(Canon Don Morgan)

2nd Reading

Revelation 12: 7-12

(Debbie Collis)

Gospel

John 1: 47-51

(Deacon Ed Bonnell)

Collects & Prayers

Collect – Eternal God, you have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals. Grant that as your holy angels stand before you in heaven, so at your command they may help and defend us here on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer over the Gifts – God of glory as you have appointed angels to minister in your presence, so may all our worship bring you worthy praise. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer after Communion – Eternal God, you have fed us with the bread of angels. May we who come under their protection, like them give you continual service and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.