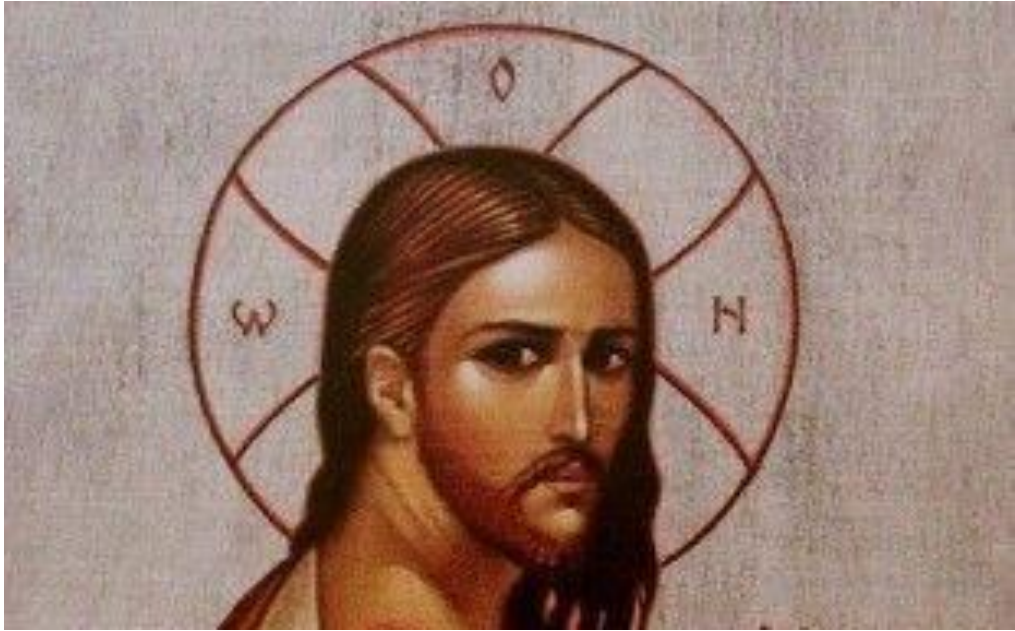


# St. Philip's Anglican Church, Etobicoke

## Second Sunday in Lent, February 28, 2021



*We welcome you to worship this morning. Our celebration is joyful, reflective, playful and reverent, as we thank God for new life through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*As we gather on this sacred land, we acknowledge that this is the Dish with One Spoon Territory created in Treaty by the Anishinabee, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee binding them to share and protect this land. Subsequent indigenous nations and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect. May we faithfully fulfill our treaty commitments to the land and its people.*

*This land has also been the place of Christian worship since the 1820's.*

## Gathering of the Community

*Welcome and Announcements*

*The prayer bell calls us to silent preparation*

From Bethlehem to Nazareth,  
from Jordan to Jericho,  
from Bethany to Jerusalem,  
from then to now,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**

To heal the sick,  
to mend the broken-hearted  
to comfort the disturbed,  
to disturb the comfortable,  
to cleanse the temple,  
to liberate faith from convention,  
**come, Lord Jesus.**

To carry the cross,  
to lead the way,  
to shoulder the sin of the world  
and take it away,  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Today,  
to this place,  
to us,  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together  
on the Lord's Day to praise you for your goodness and to ask  
your blessing. Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past,  
and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Hymn 431 *Take Up Your Cross, the Saviour Said* vs. 1, 2, 3, 4

1. Take up your cross, the Savior said,  
if you would my disciple be;  
take up your cross with willing heart,  
and humbly follow after me.
2. Take up your cross; let not its weight  
fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up  
and brace your heart and nerve your arm.
3. Take up your cross, heed not the shame,  
and let your foolish heart be still;  
the Lord for you accepted death  
upon a cross, on Calv'ry's hill.
4. Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength,  
and calmly ev'ry danger brave:  
it guides you to abundant life  
and leads to vict'ry o'er the grave.

Dear friends in Christ, as we turn our hearts and minds to worship almighty God, let us confess our sins. (*A period of silent reflection*).

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.

Merciful God, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Faithful God,  
may we set our minds and wills to yours,  
and take up our cross,  
following Christ with confidence  
for the glory you reveal in him;  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## Breaking Open the Word

First Reading: Genesis 17.1—7, 15—16

Reader: Eric Albishausen

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. <sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

You who reverence the Holy One, praise the Holy One!

**You descendants of Jacob, honour your God!**

All Israel, stand in awe of the Holy One!

**for the Holy One does not scorn the downtrodden,**  
nor shrink in loathing from their plight.

**God does not hide from them,**  
**but answers when they call for help.**

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

**my vows I will fulfil before those who reverence the Holy One.**

The poor will eat and be satisfied.

Those who seek our God will offer their praises.

**May their hearts live forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember,  
and return to the Holy One.

**All families of the nations shall bow down before God.**

Surely sovereignty belongs to the Holy One,  
who rules among the nations.

**All at death's door shall bow down to God alone.**

All going down to the dust shall kneel to the Divine Majesty.

**I shall live for the Holy One.**

Posterity will worship the Holy One;

**generations to come shall be told of the Holy One.**

They will come and proclaim divine justice.

**To people yet unborn they will proclaim what God has done.**

The Holy Gospel: Mark 8.31—38

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>31</sup> Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' <sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples, and

said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon: The Reverend Mike Stuchbery

Song: Rachel Sunda shares a song

## **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**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.**

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence*

God of the wilderness, we pray for the church. Lead us in showing grace and hospitality to all who struggle with doubt and shame. Make your church holy ground where all people can be seen and loved for who you have created them to be.

We pray for creation. Show your glory in deserts and in mountaintops. Nourish gardens and orchards and bless those who tend them. Forgive us for our desire to dominate creation instead of serving as faithful stewards and caretakers.

We pray for the nations. Liberate leaders and governments from the temptation to exercise unjust dominion over those whom they are called to lead and serve.

We pray for those in need. In this time of pandemic, sustain those who are hungry and alone, those who are anxious, those facing difficult decisions, and those facing a recent diagnosis or new grief. We pray especially for those on the hearts and minds of this congregation who are in particular need of prayer Bernard, Bruce, Scott, Grayson, Eddy, Bill, Mae, Carly, Ty, and Teslyn.

We thank you for putting new songs on our lips and in our hearts.

We praise you for bringing us through the desert into the promised land of your kingdom. We give thanks for saints who have guided us in times of trial and joy. We pray for the 331 people in Canada and the almost 65,000 around the world who died from Covid-19 this past week. We hold those who grieve the loss of these loved ones in prayer.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## The Offertory

*We offer ourselves and our monetary gifts for the support of the ministry of the Church.*

Hymn 179 *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery* vs. 1, 4, 5, 6c

1. **Tree of Life and awesome mystery,  
in your death we are reborn;  
though we you die in all of history,  
still you rise with every morn,  
still you rise with every morn.**
4. **Gentle Jesus, mighty Spirit,  
come, inflame our hearts anew.  
We may all your joy inherit  
if we bear the cross with you,  
if we bear the cross with you.**
5. **Christ you lead and we shall follow,  
stumbling though our steps may be;  
one with you in joy and sorrow,  
we the river, you the sea,  
we the river you the sea.**
- 6c. **In our call to be a blessing,  
may we be a blessing true;  
may we live and die confessing  
Christ as Lord of all we do,  
Christ as Lord of all we do.**

Prayer Over the Gifts

Let us pray.

God our provider,  
you have not fed us with bread alone,  
but with words of grace and life.

Bless us and these your gifts,  
which we receive from your bounty,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Glory to God,  
whose power, working in us,  
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn 602 *Lift High the Cross* vs. 1, 2, 4, 5

*Refrain* – Life high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name!

1. Come, Christian people, sing your praises, shout!  
If we are silent, even stones cry out.

*Refrain*

2. Jesus, you wept to see our human strife:  
Teach us compassion for each human life.

*Refrain*

4. Great is the cost of walking on this road,  
to follow and suffer with the Son of God.

*Refrain*

5. Worlds to be born and children yet to be,  
come, take up this song into eternity.

*Refrain*

Final Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourself and to take up your cross and follow him,  
and the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life  
be with you always.

**Amen.**

Postlude

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