

The Great Vigil of Easter

The Service of Light

In the darkness, fire is kindled. The celebrant greets the people in these or similar words.

Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy night,
when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life,
the Church invites her children throughout the world
to come together in vigil and prayer.

This is the Passover of the Lord.

We remember his death and resurrection
by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries;
we are confident that we shall share his victory over death
and live with him for ever in God.

The celebrant says the following prayer.

Let us pray.

Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world. Sanctify this new fire, and inflame us with new hope. Purify our minds by this Easter celebration and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The paschal candle is blessed and then the paschal candle is lighted from the new fire.

The deacon (a priest if there is no deacon) takes the paschal candle, lifts it high, and sings.

The light of Christ. *People* Thanks be to God.

The procession enters the church, led by the deacon with the paschal candle.

Members of the congregation light their candles from the paschal candle.

Hymn “It Only Takes a Spark” (*Mission Praise #111*)

It only takes a spark, to get a fire going. And soon all those around,
can warm up to its glowing. That’s how it is with God’s love –once you’ve
experienced it; you spread his love to everyone; you want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring, when all the trees are budding. The
birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming. That’s how it is with
God’s love, once you’ve experienced it; you want to sing –it’s fresh like
spring, you want to pass it on.

I wish for you my friends, this happiness that I’ve found. You can
depend on Him, it matters not where you’re bound. [I’ll shout it from the
mountaintop –I want my world to know; the Lord of love –has come to me
– I want to pass it on.] *[repeat]*

Exultet

The deacon, or other person appointed, standing near the candle, sings the Exultet.

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation! Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,
radiant in the brightness of your King! Christ has conquered!
Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen
Saviour shines upon you! Let this place resound with
joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

The Lord be with you. *People* And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should
praise the unseen God, the all powerful Father, and his only Son, our Lord
Jesus Christ. For Christ has ransomed us with his blood, and paid for us
the price of Adam's sin to our eternal Father!

This is our Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain, whose
blood consecrates the homes of all believers. This is the night when first
you saved our forebears: you freed the people of Israel from their slavery
and led them dry-shod through the sea.

This is the night when Christians everywhere, washed clean of sin and
freed from all defilement, are restored to grace and grow together in
holiness.

This is the night when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose
triumphant from the grave.

Father, how wonderful your care for us! How boundless your merciful
love! To ransom a slave you gave away your Son.

Most blessed of all nights, chosen by God to see Christ rising from the
dead! Of this night scripture says, "The night will be as clear as day: it will
become my light, my joy."

The power of this holy night dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores
lost innocence, brings mourners joy; it casts out hatred, brings us peace,
and humbles earthly pride. Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to
earth and we are reconciled with God!

Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night, receive our evening
sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering. Accept this Easter

candle, a flame divided, but undimmed, a pillar of fire that glows to the
honour of God. Let it mingle with the lights of heaven and continue
bravely burning to dispel the darkness of this night!

May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning:
Christ that Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his
peaceful light on all creation, your Son who lives and reigns for ever and
ever. *(Sung)* Amen.

*After the Exultet, if candles are being held, they may be extinguished. The paschal candle
continues to burn at all services from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost.*

The Vigil of Old Testament Readings in three-part narrative.

The congregation joins in singing the various responses throughout.

1. Psalm 104 - Refrain: Send forth Your Spirit, O Lord, and renew the
face of the earth.
2. "Just As I Am" #615 CP (*Woodworth*)
3. Lead on, O King Eternal #428 *BB-Lancashire*
Lead on, O King eternal; the day of march has come. Henceforth in
fields of conquest they tents shall be our home. Through days of
preparation thy grace has made us strong, and now, O King eternal, we lift
our battle song.
Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease, and holiness
shall whisper the sweet Amen of peace: for not with swords loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums, but deeds of love and mercy, the heavenly
kingdom comes.
Lead on, O King eternal, We follow, not with fears; for gladness breaks
like morning where'er thy face appears. They cross is lifted o'er us; we
journey in its light; the crown awaits the conquest, lead on, O God of
might.
4. "Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God" #458 CP (*Seek Ye First*)
5. "As Longs The Hart" #541 CP (*Waly, Waly*)

Glory to God - #702 CP

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. R
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer. R

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. R

Easter Vigil Collect

Celebrant Let us pray.

Eternal Giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance
of the risen Christ. Renew your Church with the Spirit given to us in
baptism, that we may worship you in sincerity and truth, and shine as a light
in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever Amen.

Second Reading: Romans 6:3-11 Reader: Robert MacMillan

Gospel Alleluia with Gospel Procession #715 CP

The Gospel: Luke 24.1-12

Homily

Holy Baptism - *found on page 153 BAS*

*St. John's welcomes into the family of God through Holy Baptism Henry
Connor Dodge and Kevin Barry Lloyd. We welcome their families to the
service this evening*

Procession to the Font #35 CP "Wash, O God, our Sons and Daughters"

The Peace

The Celebration of the Eucharist

The Preparation of the Gifts

Offertory Hymn #500 "Sister, Let Me Be" (*Servant Song*)

*Representatives of the parish present the gifts of bread and wine for the Eucharist. Each one as they are
able, makes an offering to the Lord for the needs and responsibilities of the Church to be placed on the
altar. As the gifts are received, all sing:*

*Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere, and some
there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.*

*Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make: be
pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.*

The Prayer over the Gifts - *Read by celebrant.*

God of life and health, accept the offering of your holy people,
and grant that we who are baptized into Christ may be perfected in
your salvation, in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer 3

Music for the Eucharist is from: 'The Byzantine Setting'

The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface for Easter

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth;
we give you thanks and praise for the glorious resurrection of your Son
Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true paschal lamb who has taken away
the sin of the world. By his death he destroyed death, and by his rising to
life again he has won for us eternal life.

We praise you Lord, with all the angels, in their song of joy.

Cantor Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, Lord our God,
or the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation;
in calling Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.
For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.
In him, you have delivered us from evil,
and made us worthy to stand before you.
In him, you have brought us out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death,
a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it,

and gave it to his disciples, and said,
"Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said,
"Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith. *(Sung)*
We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.

We offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,
that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the
new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made
acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new,
and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and
daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.
Amen. *(Sung)*

The Lord's Prayer

The celebrant introduces the Lord's prayer in these or similar words:

In the joy of the risen Lord, let us pray the Father, saying:
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.

The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread for distribution, and says:

Celebrant Lord, we died with you on the cross.

All Now we are raised to new life.

Celebrant We were buried in your tomb.

All Now we share in your resurrection.

Celebrant Live in us, that we may live in you.

The celebrant invites the people to share in communion and may say,
The gifts of God for the People of God.
People Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

The Communion

The sacrament is given with the following words.

The body of Christ (given for you). The blood of Christ (shed for you).

Or The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

The communicant responds each time, Amen.

This community of faith, welcomes to the Lord's table
all who are baptized and who wish to be nourished
with the Body and Blood of Christ.

During Communion, hymns may be sung, silence may be kept.

Communion Hymn #247 Hail the Day *(Ascension)*

#207 At the Lamb's High Feast *(Saltzburg)*

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Let us pray.

Standing the community prays in silence.

Giver of life, you enlighten all who come into the world. Fill our hearts with the splendour of your grace, that we may perfectly love you and worthily praise your holy name, through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Doxology

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.

The Blessing

May the Rising Son give colour to vision that has faded,
May He give warmth to hope that has chilled,
May He give song to voices that were silent,
And may the Source of all life, bless you and your family,
the Father + the Son, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever more. Amen.

The Dismissal

Let us go in joy, to love and to serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Recessional Hymn "Because He Lives"

God sent his Son they called him Jesus. He came to love, heal and forgive. He lived and died to buy my pardon. An empty grave is there to prove. My Savior lives.

*Because He lives I can face tomorrow;
Because He lives all fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future,
and life is worth the living, just Because He lives.*

How sweet to hold a newborn baby. And feel the pride and joy he gives. But greater still the calm assurance. This child can face uncertain days, Because he lives.

And then one day I'll cross the river. I'll fight life's final war with pain. And then as death gives way to victory. I'll see the lights of glory, And I'll know he reigns.

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NOTICES

Corporate Communion Breakfast takes place Sunday, March 30th after the 8:30 am service. Everyone is welcome to attend and breakfast is free.

St. John's Concert Series presents Pictou County's *Carillon Singers*, a twenty voice Women's Choir directed by Jennifer Grout, in the Parish Hall on Saturday, April 5th at 7:30 pm. This lively performance will include madrigals, folk songs, Broadway hits, Gershwin tunes and Oscar Peterson's well loved *Hymn to Freedom*. A selection of desserts and refreshments will be served at intermission. Tickets are \$15. Please reserve through Ruth McConnell at 634-9994.

Note: The choir will be our guest during the 10:30 am service on Sunday, April 6th.

VISITATION UPDATE

Calls began this week for volunteer visitors. We are delighted to report that we have had an enthusiastic response. Our visitors will attend a Workshop on April 12th from 2 PM - 4:30 PM to prepare for our Parish visit which takes place from April 27 - May 11. This visit is not about 'money'. As neighbours visit neighbours, we will reconnect with our Parish Family, fulfilling our Vision for St. John's.

Please note:

- ▶ Lay Readers are urged to attend the Life in the Eucharist Meeting Wednesday, March 26th following the 10 AM service.
- ▶ Commissioning of Parish Council Members will take place at the March 30th church service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Please note that we are holding two 'MOVIE NIGHTS' on Friday, March 28th and Friday, April 25th. Time is 6 PM-8 PM. We will be having pizza and popcorn, so come and have supper with us.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE AT HARBOUR VIEW HAVEN

This special service is being held Wednesday, March 26th at 2 PM. We encourage anyone, especially family members of residents at Harbour View Haven to attend with their loved ones. Everyone is welcome.

ON THE MOVE, Assisted Transportation Program offered by the VON is looking for volunteer drivers to donate a few days a month to provide assistance to people to get to their appointments within the Towns of Lunenburg, Mahone Bay and surrounding areas. For further information please contact VON Lunenburg County at 624-0318.

STORIES FROM THE RICH PAST OF OUR PARISH

Submitted by George Munroe, Heritage Chairperson of St. John's Church

The following are the inscriptions on the surviving headstones of those buried beneath the church:

- Here lieth the mortal part of D.C.Jessen, esq.,born 25th of February, 1730, at Holsteen, in Germany, died Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, August 12th, 1814, age 82 years.
- Here lieth the mortal part of Frances Barbara Jessen, consort of D.C. Jessen esq. Was born in the year 1722, at Mesheim, in Franconia, Germany. Died at Lunenburg, January 1st, 1807, age 85 years.
- Here lieth the mortal part of Frederica Francisca Jessen, only daughter of D.C. Jessen esq., born 13th day of June,1757, died 23rd day of November, 1773 age 16 years.

From historical note by M.M. Gardiner, Parish Historian 1934

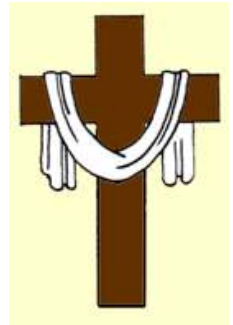
Diocesan Cycle: Pray for the Parish of Antigonish and Country Harbour - The Rev'd Dawn Dickieson.

Local Ministerial: The Congregation of St. Norbert's Roman Catholic Church.

Fisheries: Adams & Knickle - Freedom 99; Concordia; Clearwater - Atlantic Leader; Picton Castle.

St John's Church Easter Memorials - 2008

Below are listed the Easter Memorials for departed Loved Ones. Donations have been made to *the Memorial Fund, Rector's Discretionary Fund, Flower Fund, Music Fund and Food Bank.*



In Loving Memory of:

John W. Oxner from Wife Edythe

Emmeline, Alvin and Arthur Sawler from Russell, Gailyn, John and Dékota

Vicki, Peggy and James Risser from Russell, Gailyn, John and Dékota

Parents Gerald and Phyllis Bruhm from Max and Dale

Husband and Father Armond Falkenham from Wife, Winnie and Daughter, Dale and Max Bruhm

Arthur Skinner, Barbara Daurie and Loved Ones from Carrie and Family

Violet Skinner from Stanley, Jeffrey, Rose and Terry, William, Dale and Families

Fred and Marion Tanner, Roy Green and Thomas Green from Alex, Sharon and Family

John and Dorothy Meisner and Loved Ones from The Family

Loved Ones from Jane, Wilfred, Nicholas and Alexandra

Loved Ones from Eli, Rita and Family

Loved Ones from Beatrice Hiltz

Victor Hall from Wife Lilian

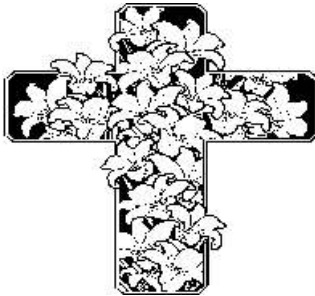
Anne Hebb from Don, Lynn and Bruce

Wilfred, Roberta and Kathryn Kinley from Don and Family

Leslie Zinck and Loved Ones from Evelyn Zinck

Fred and Marion Tanner and Tracey and Edith Tanner from Patty, Andrew, Michael, Jackie and Family

Martin Eisenhauer from wife Barbara, Dan, Alison, John, Blair and Leah
Sam Savory from Evelyn, Carolyn and Michael
Alfred and Mary Dauphinee and Flo Dauphinee from Rosalie, Darrell and Family
Marnie Bartlett Sanger from Rosalie, Darrell and Family
Capt. and Mrs. W. C. Smith and Family placed as a bequest from the late Vivian P. Zinck
Beatrice & Wilson Anderson placed as a legacy of their estate
June and W. Guy Tanner and Captain W. P. Cluett placed as a bequest from the estate of June Tanner
Skip Skinner placed by Mom, Dad, Terry and Brenda
Loved Ones from Rhea Creaser



Rector's Message

Friends, for forty days, we have been journeying through Lent. This year, we have considered Water as a Gift from our loving Creator. God gives us water as a free gift. We are called to be faithful stewards of the water and of all creation, so that generations to come may have life.

Easter day is a day like no other. It is a day when we proclaim God's abundant and generous love in raising Christ Jesus, from the dead. It is the day when we are most clear about who we are as his followers and about our mission on behalf of the Kingdom to bring Good News to everyone.

This is the day when everything is made new again. Today we celebrate and give thanks to God for creating us anew by raising up his Son from the dead for the life of the world.

This is the day when we stand in awe with Mary Magdalene in her grief and with Peter in his fear before the empty tomb, in wonder and joy at the truth it holds.

This is the day when we are sprinkled with the water of new life as we renew our baptismal Covenant and pledge again to be the people God wants us to be.

This is the day we stand with the apostles and testify that we also are witnesses to the message of peace and reconciliation first preached in Judea and Jerusalem and now preached to the ends of the earth.

This is the day when we take our place with all those who have gone before us and proclaim that Jesus brings new life to those who have died, forgiveness to all who sin and good news to our troubled world. This is the day! Let us rejoice and give thanks! Alleluia!