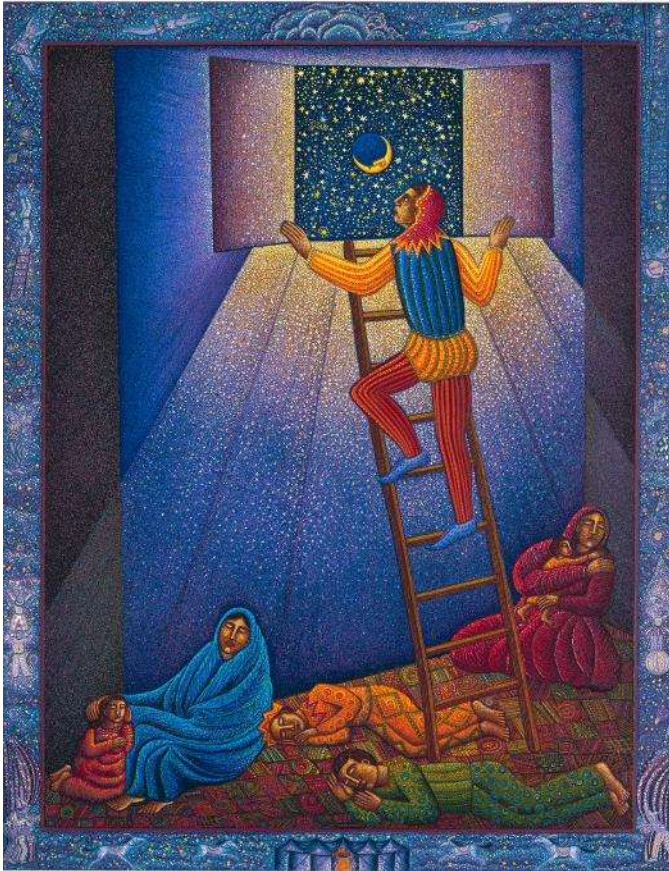


1st March 2026

10:30 a.m.



Artwork: John August Swanson

2nd Sunday in Lent

St. John's Anglican Church
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Dawna Wall
Director of Music: Donald Russell, ARCO

Heritage  *Faith*  *Vision*
St. John's ~ A National Historic Site ~ Founded 1753

Music before the Service:

O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig, BWV 618

J S Bach (1685-1750)

Mass Setting: Merbecke

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Welcome and Announcements

Standing, we sing together:

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

7 New Every Morning Is the Love

Melcombe

OPENING GREETING

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.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

INTROIT

Remember O Lord

H. Willan (1880-1968)

Call to Confession

Dear Friends in Christ, each year we make our annual pilgrimage from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Lent is a time to explore the shadowed and wilderness places and to pray and keep watch with Christ. The

steadfast love and infinite mercy of God meet us here and invite us to lay our burdens down. Confident in God's forgiveness, let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept

CONFESSION

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.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE

THE COLLECT

Creator God, you sculpted a people for yourself out of the rocks of wilderness and fasting. Help us as we take up your invitation to prayer and simplicity, that the discipline of these forty days may sharpen our hunger for the feast of your holy friendship, and whet our thirst for the living water you offer through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Sitting, we listen to the First Reading

Genesis 12:1-4a

6. So that the sun shall not strike you by / day, * neither the / moon by / night. **Refrain**

7. The Lord shall keep you from all / evil; * it is he who shall / keep your / soul.

8. The Lord shall keep watch over your going out and your coming / in, * from this time forth for / ever- / more. **Refrain**

Sitting, we listen to the Epistle.

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

For the word of God in scripture
For the word of God among us
For the word of God within us

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

431 Take Up Your Cross, the Saviour Said

Breslau

THE GOSPEL READING

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person."

Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No

one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sitting, we listen to the sermon.

THE SERMON

The choir stands to sing the Anthem.

ANTHEM

God So Loved the World

John Goss (1800-80) / A. Bullard

Standing we share in saying:

A SONG OF CHRIST'S GOODNESS

**Jesus, like a mother hen, you gather your people to you,
You are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Often you weep over our sins and pride,
Tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds,
You nurse us to strength and health.
Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life;
By your anguish and labour we come forth in joy.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
Through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead,
Your touch makes sinners righteous.**

**Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;
in your love and tenderness, remake us.
May your love prepare us for the beauty of heaven.**
Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109)

We sit for:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Abiding God, we give thanks for the shadowed places that teach us deep truths. May your Spirit give us courage to explore the tender areas where we are in-need of a new and contrite spirit, may your Christ renew in us a clean heart.

God of shelter and shadow, hear our prayer.

Abiding God, we give thanks for those who come alongside us and share our sorrow and our joy, for those we meet in our daily routines, and those who help care for our communities.

God of shelter and shadow, hear our prayer.

God of shelter and shadow, sometimes we feel like exiles – in our land, in our languages and in our bodies. We pray that you will translate your love to us again and again, that we may become fluent in your grace and forgiveness.

God of shelter and shadow, hear our prayer.

Abiding God, strengthen us as we share this Lenten Pilgrimage. Write your law of love on our hearts day by day, as we live again into the fullness of your story, **Amen.**

Standing for:

THE PEACE

OFFERTORY HYMN

330 O Praise ye the Lord!

Laudate Dominum

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God our refuge and strength, receive all we offer you this day, and through the death and resurrection of your Son transform us into his likeness. We ask this in his name. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth, because you bid your faithful people to cleanse their hearts and to prepare with joy for the paschal feast; that reborn through the waters of baptism and renewed in the eucharistic mystery, we may be more fervent in prayer and more generous in the works of love. Therefore we raise our voices to you in praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

SANCTUS

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for 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 his Mother, 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.” Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

and 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 children; 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.**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray:

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread, to share in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

The gifts of God for the people of God

Thanks be to God

THE COMMUNION

(in both kinds – the bread and the common cup)

AGNUS DEI

COMMUNION HYMN

52 O God, Unseen Yet ever Near

St. Flavian

Standing, we pray the

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Faithful God, in this holy bread you increase our faith and hope
and love. Lead us in the path of Christ who is the Word of life.**

We ask this in his name, Amen.

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN

468 To Abraham and Sarah

Thornbury

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Prelude and Fugue in g minor

H. Willan (1880-1968)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This week in the life of the church:

Family Play Group

Wednesday 9:30

Church choir practice

Thursday, 6:30 - 8:00

Assisting with the Service today:

Lectors:

Donald Russell, Mary Meisner

Licensed Lay Minister:

Jim Shepherd

Assisting with the Service next week:

Lectors:

Duncan Crowdis, Wendy Dean

Licensed Lay Minister:

Susan MacMillan

AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will be held following the 10:30 service on the 8th of March in the Church Hall.