

# St Thomas' Church

Anglican Parish of Stanley • Diocese of Fredericton



The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.  
Almighty and everlasting God,  
you despise nothing you have made  
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent.  
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our brokenness,  
may obtain of you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

## Readings

JOEL 2.1-2, 12-17a  
2 CORINTHIANS 5.20b-6.2(3-10)

*Hymn 105 • Forty Days and Forty Nights*

MATTHEW 6.1-6, 16-21

Homily – Canon Jim Irvine

Dear friends in Christ,  
every year at the time of the Christian Passover  
we celebrate our redemption  
through the death and resurrection  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration  
and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.  
We begin this holy season  
by remembering our need for repentance,  
and for the mercy and forgiveness  
proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes,  
an ancient sign,  
speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life,  
and marking the penitence of the community as a whole.

I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord,  
to observe a holy Lent  
by self-examination, penitence, prayer,  
fasting, and almsgiving,  
and by reading and meditating on the word of God.  
Let us kneel before our Creator and Redeemer.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness; \*  
**in your great compassion blot out my offences.**

Let us pray.

All your works praise you, O Lord.  
**And your faithful servants bless you.**

**Gracious God  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son  
Jesus Christ.  
May we, who share his body,  
live his risen life;  
we, who drink his cup,  
bring life to others;  
we, whom the Spirit lights,  
give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so that we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Dismissal

Go forth in the name of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn 596 • My Song is Love Unknown*

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*This is a Solemn Night. Please leave the church in silence and reflection.*

**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 Lent and Holy Week

We break this bread,  
**Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

Let your Church be the wheat  
which bears its fruit in dying.  
**If we have died with him,  
we shall live with him;  
if we hold firm,  
we shall reign with him.**

The Communion

The gifts of God for the People of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Prayer after Communion

Wash me through and through from my wickedness \*  
**and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions,\*  
**and my sin is ever before me.**  
Against you only have I sinned \*  
**and done what is evil in your sight.**

And so you are justified when you speak \*  
**and upright in your judgement.**  
Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,\*  
**a sinner from my mother's womb.**

For behold, you look for truth deep within me,\*  
**and will make me understand wisdom secretly.**  
Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
**wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

Make me hear of joy and gladness,\*  
**that the body you have broken may rejoice.**  
Hide your face from my sins \*  
**and blot out all my iniquities.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,\*  
**and renew a right spirit within me.**  
Cast me not away from your presence  
**and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
**and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**  
I shall teach your ways to the wicked, \*  
**and sinners shall return to you.**

Deliver me from death, O God,\*  
**And my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,  
O God of my salvation.**  
Open my lips, O Lord,\*  
**and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,\*  
**but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.**  
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; \*  
**a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Litany of Penitence

**Most holy and merciful Father,  
we confess to you, to one another,  
and to the whole communion of saints  
in heaven and on earth,  
that we have sinned by our own fault  
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, and mind, and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven  
others, as we have been forgiven.  
**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have  
not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved Your Holy Spirit.  
**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

to suffering and death,  
took bread and gave you thanks,  
saying, "Take, and eat:  
this is my body which is broken for you."  
In the same way he took the cup,  
saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you.  
When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,  
we offer you this bread and this cup,  
giving thanks that you have made us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit  
upon the offering of your holy Church.  
Gather into one  
all who share in these sacred mysteries,  
filling them with the Holy Spirit  
and confirming their faith in the truth,  
that together we may praise you  
and give you glory  
through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

All glory and honour are yours,  
Father and Son,  
with the Holy Spirit  
in the holy Church,  
now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say,

he took flesh of the Virgin Mary  
and shared our human nature.  
He lived and died as one of us,  
to reconcile us to you,  
the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will  
he stretched out his hands in suffering,  
to bring release to those who place their hope in you;  
and so he won for you a holy people.

He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows,  
and to give up his life on the cross,  
that he might shatter the chains of evil and death,  
and banish the darkness of sin and despair.  
By his resurrection  
he brings us into the light of your presence.  
Now with all creation we raise our voices  
to proclaim the glory of your name.

**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.**

Holy and gracious God,  
accept our praise,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;  
who on the night he was handed over

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride,  
hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,  
**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other  
people,  
**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more  
fortunate than ourselves,  
**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our  
dishonesty in daily life and work,  
**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend  
the faith that is in us,  
**We confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our  
blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to  
injustice and cruelty,  
**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our  
neighbours, and for our prejudice *and* contempt toward those who  
differ from us,  
**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern  
for those who come after us,

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us; Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Almighty God,  
from the dust of the earth you have created us.  
May these ashes be for us a sign  
of our mortality and penitence,  
and a reminder that only by your gracious gift  
are we given eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

The Imposition of Ashes

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*After everyone has returned to their pew...*

Accomplish in us, O God,  
the work of your salvation,  
**That we may show forth your glory  
in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,  
**Bring us with all your saints  
to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God have mercy on you,  
forgive you all your sins  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
strengthen you in all goodness,

and by the power of the Holy Spirit  
keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

*Offertory Hymn 589 • Take up thy cross, the Saviour said*

Prayer over the Gifts

Merciful God,  
turn us from sin to faithfulness.  
Accept our offering,  
and prepare us to celebrate  
the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour, who is alive and  
reigns with you now and for ever.

Eucharistic 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.**

We give you thanks and praise, almighty God,  
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,  
our Saviour and Redeemer.  
He is your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit