

April 18th, 2021 Second Sunday of Easter – Email/At Home Missal

A blessed Third Sunday of Easter to you, and thank you for joining us for worship, whether by print, email or Zoom. Since Easter Sunday, not only was the tomb found to be empty, but we also have come to a heightened state of confinement and isolation again due to increasing COVID-19 infection rates. This Sunday's gospel lectionary is the post-resurrection scripture I think of as the "broiled fish" story ☺ And through that very corporeal gospel story which also involves disciples examining Jesus' bodily wounds from his crucifixion might tell us a little bit about our own bodies as the terms of Stay at Home order have been made more strict just on April 17th.

Also, on April 11th, I announced my resignation to the worship gathering on ZOOM, and in the course of the past week, that communication was also shared by email and print mail. Please know I remain available to you as your pastor until May 2nd, and would treasure the opportunity to talk with you without violating our Stay at Home order requirements.

The ZOOM link for today's service, which opens at 9.45 am on April 18th, 2021, can be found here

Sunday Worship April 18, 2021 09:45 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.

Click here to Join Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82275985585?pwd=VmpEOfhJUUZ2MmtGYTliazI0UnI5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 822 7598 5585

Passcode: 345384

You don't have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply):

1 778 907 2071,
1 204 272 7920,
1 438 809 7799,
1 587 328 1099,
1 647 374 4685,
1 647 558 0588 (All Canadian numbers).

You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the "One tap mobile" option:

+17789072071,,82275985585#,,,,*345384# Canada

+12042727920,,82275985585#,,,,*345384# Canada

As we proceed through the season of Easter during stay-at-home order, I am allowed to do wellness checks and deliver home communion kits as part of my in-person service. Final pastoral counselling appointments will be done by telephone or video call to honour the spirit of the stay-at-home order. The new Stay at Home order specifics do not allow us from different households to gather outside, so I have to take walking visits off my menu of options. Home communion kits will be prepared this week, including a dining table liturgy, and I can deliver those as part of my "essential work" during the Stay-at-Home order. Please contact the church office if you would like any of these ☺ Meanwhile, keep safe: distance, wash, mask and love each other.

With love, in Christ
Pastor Janaki.

Welcome remarks:

- changes to what we can do together with Stay-At-Home order upgraded on Friday.
- we have an invitation from Region of Waterloo to volunteer to help with the vaccination program. If you are interested in finding out about this invitation, please email the church office (secretary@st-peters-cambridge.org) or [Alexandra Allen <AAllen@cmh.org>](mailto:Alexandra.Allen@cmh.org) or call the church office 519-653-4721 for more information on how to connect with this volunteering opportunity.
- we will have council installation on April 25th: new council executive are Dave Berg, Chair ... Jennie Miller, Vice-chair and Heide Emrich, Secretary. Alex Black remains treasurer ☺ We are thankful for Alex's willingness to continue his service in this role after his terms on council.
- I will be with you until May 2nd and we will have a two-part "returning the tools of ministry" to span Sunday April 25th & Sunday May 2nd

For print and email: #723 Canticle of the Turning

Click here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ue_Oo_6zVaM

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Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, in your home and in mine.

Prayer of the Day: God who comes to us through Jesus, you took the bodily form of a human being, understanding through that process what we all experience. In these temples given onto us, our bodies, live every hope, every despair, all our faith, all our abundance, all our loss, all our grief. Enter these bodies of ours and nourish us with your own body and blood, so that we may be renewed and resurrected with Jesus. Amen.

The Lesson: 1 Corinthians 6: 12-15a, 17, 19-20

Everything is permissible for me, but not all things are beneficial.

Everything is permissible for me, but I will not be enslaved by anything [and brought under its power, allowing it to control me].

Food is for the stomach and the stomach for food, but God will do away with both of them.

The body is not intended for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body [to save, sanctify, and raise it again because of the sacrifice of the cross].

And God has not only raised the Lord [to life], but will also raise us up by His power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But the one who is united *and* joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*.

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is within you, whom you have [received as a gift] from God, and that you are not your own [property]?

You were bought with a price [you were actually purchased with the precious blood of Jesus and made His own].

So then, honor *and* glorify God with your body. [The Amplified Translation]

Word of God, Word of Life. **C: *Thanks be to God.****

Gospel Acclamation: Take, O, Take Me As I Am ELW 814

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mf3QHqQ-004>

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The Holy Gospel according to Luke 24: 36b-48

C: *Glory to you, O Christ.*

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

This is the Gospel of our Saviour. **C: *Praise to you, O Jesus.***

Message (Imagine Pastor Janaki’s voice here 😊)

In the years that we have journeyed together as congregation and pastor, we have grieved together a lot. One thing you may not be aware of, is that, for me (as I know for many of you), grief is a whole-body experience ... one I have come to recognize especially in the course of parish ministry. So when the funeral would be over, and maybe the reception and the interment done generally my whole body aches, as though I have done some major work out (when in fact the only real physical work has been lifting egg salad sandwiches and dessert squares to my mouth 😊).

Then some of you might remember, in a period following two particularly hard deaths, I got a concussion and with it came vertigo. Turns out my body has figured out that if it wants to park me fast, the vertigo trick works well. This past week, after letting you know of my resignation from parish ministry, I have felt this kind of grief: the body aching, even some vertigo kind of grief.

Grief. Fear. Exhaustion – all of these are part of the journey of loss, even when that loss might be bringing us to places where we can be used better and more to God's glory ...

I also felt this kind of pain as I know many of you have also told me you have felt, as we watched COVID numbers climb, and entered into deeper stages of danger: yellow, orange, red, grey, lockdown ... then stay-at-home order 1, and stay at home order 2.0 ... last spring, when we were first under the gun of this pandemic, my body hurt in most peculiar ways.

Bodies.

These vehicles we are given to travel in ... they are so amazing, so cleverly created, and at the same time so vulnerable, so susceptible not only to physical viruses, but to ailments of the spirit and hurtings of the soul. As the 1 Corinthians reading said today, our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit who resides within each of us, so it is no surprise or wonder that when our relationship of spirit as congregation and pastor draws to a close, we feel physical hurt and pain

... these bodily vehicles are taking a beating in the spiritual carburetor or fuel injection mechanisms

... these bodily vehicles are showing wear and tear on the wheels – soon some parts will be replaced.

I speak to these bodily or corporeal, tangible realities because they land us right in this third Sunday of Easter Gospel reading ... the one I always think of as the "broiled fish" story ... It shows up only in the Gospel of Luke, and occurs after Jesus' walk with the disciples on the road to Emmaus (when they don't even recognize who he is). He visits with them, reveals himself to them and then ...

Poof.

He disappears. The disciples re-group and are sharing this story with each other when again ...

Poof he appears again! (this is becoming disturbingly commonplace behaviour for Jesus by the way!! Last week it was through locked doors!!)

You'd think by now they are getting used to the Jesus-poof-act, but nope. There they go again: terrified, startled, thinking they were seeing a ghost.

By now the trademark proof is offered – see here the wounds on his hands and feet ... he even invites them to touch (clearly not a pandemic situation), so they can know – he is truly alive, not a ghost.

And then he first attends to the physical, the needs of the body – maybe also as a very real way of showing that he is alive, he needs to eat, he needs to take care of his temple: this is where the broiled fish comes in.

Broiled fish. Such a simple food. Not meat, or lamb, not chicken or anything fancy ... Simple fish.

Like the feeding of the 5000 fish.

Like the Jesus-makes-food-on-the-beach-for-the-disciples fish.

Nothing fancy. But sustenance that is easy to digest ... proof of bodily reality, and example of bodily self-care.

It is only after this temple attendance, this temple care is done, that Jesus proceeds to teach from his resurrection ... reminding them that the ancient scriptures had to be fulfilled in all he does.

He goes on to remind them “that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

Last week I talked about being a witness, martureo, what it means to bear witness:

- to what we know as the incredible gift of God in Christ,
- to the incredible grace and mercy through which we are redeemed
- to bear witness, each of us being priests and caretakers of these bodily temples in which Spirit resides with and within us.

So I go back a few steps to our experience of grief, this very bodily experience of grief as we gently let go of our relationship with each other in the midst of a pandemic which continues to steal freedoms from us: congregation and pastor, pastor and congregation ...

as we do this leave-taking in a time when we cannot share the hugs and in-person visits, the in-person worship or even the walks we have become used to ...

and I give us the same advice I have given many of you when you have lost a loved one ...

practical bodily advice ...

-let us take our vitamins, especially vitamin C, and Omega 3-6-9's and drink lots of water

-let us honour our tears and sadness with triple ply hypoallergenic Kleenex (or whatever brand of tissues you prefer – but let it be soft and non-irritating – for these pandemic leave-taking circumstances are irritating enough).

-Let us talk with each other, however we can, as much as we can, even when it means being in silence on the other end of a phone ... let us be with each other as Jesus has told us to be: loving each other, in repentance and forgiveness, with kindness and pandemic safety in mind.

-Let us turn to God, over and over again bringing our temples to the act of glorifying our relationship with our beloved Creator.

Because we also have a greater job to do with these temples of ours ☺

with these hearts and souls of ours ☺

with these hands and feet, these eyes and ears of ours ☺

We are called to be witnesses, so that through us others may know this abundant hope, love and grace that is our God. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: #769 If you But Trust in God to Guide You

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZY2Q7rXegE&t>

Text & Music: Georg Neumark; tr. Composite; Organ Setting J.S. Bach BWV 691; Tune Name: Wer Nur Den Lieben Gott

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Prayers of Intercession

Confident that God provides for us abundantly, we bring our prayers before God ...

Holy God, our Father, you give us your son, Jesus,

and you equip us and empower us with the Holy Spirit.

You lead us with instructions, by example, and with inner promptings.

Strengthen us to be obedient to you, and to be hopeful about our leaders.

Guide our leaders especially in these pandemic times of fear.

God of Abundance ... hear our prayers.

Generous & Abundant God, you bless us with many gifts.

Here in Cambridge, in Waterloo Region:

you have given us as a congregation the gift of many opportunities:

opportunities for partnerships, opportunities for our facilities.

May we invest our gifts in the work of your Kingdom.

Help us to be responsible servants, investing wisely the gifts you give us.

In this season of Easter, draw us closer to you in the Word, sacrament and love.

God of Abundance ... hear our prayers.

Great and Holy Spirit, you walk alongside us always,
Nudging us towards deepening relationship with God.
Be with the families and loved ones of those who have died unexpectedly,
With those remembering with deep hurt the Canadian maritime shootings last year,
With those affected by gun violence all over the world.
As we encounter news of pandemic deaths, violence and disasters in our world,
keep us open to your nudging, help us to hear you,
Make us your Holy vessel and a channel for your love.

God of Abundance ... hear our prayers.

God who sees all and knows all, we Pray:
For people across Canada who are affected by: poverty and domestic violence,
of whom Indigenous people are affected in disproportionate numbers.
We pray for those who are questioning meaning and purpose.
We pray for our youth and children's ministry.

We ask God to be with those who suffer,
especially those we name aloud
or in the silence of our hearts
(leave time for the prayers to come forward).
For these we have named, and the ones we hold in our hearts, we pray.

God of Abundance ... hear our prayers.

God of Love, you call us to serve our neighbors.
Nourish us with word and sacrament and bless those who are unable to worship today.
Receive our prayers into your tender-loving care, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Share the peace of Christ:

The Peace of Christ be with you always, in your home and in mine, and throughout God's creation.

Meal:

Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HsiaRdyFr50>

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks almighty God,
that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life.
In your mercy and love,
strengthen us in faith towards you and in love towards each other,
in Jesus name we pray.
Amen.

Sending Hymn: #364 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia

For email missal, click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulcq4PNckAo&t>

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Blessing:

May God bless you and keep you.
May the face of God shine upon you with grace and mercy.
May God look upon you with favor
and give you ✝ peace.
Amen.

Dismissal:

L: Go in Peace. Christ is with us all. **C: Christ is Risen, Alleluia. ***