

April 25th, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Easter – Email/At Home Missal

A blessed Fourth 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 "Good Shepherd" lectionary. This Sunday we also have council installation and the first part of our "returning the tools of ministry" service ☺ So we focus our learning today on how all of us are ministers, from each one of you, to church council, to myself – and the calling we each have to nurture gifts that God has planted inside us.

Also, on April 11th, I announced my resignation to the worship gathering on ZOOM, and in the course of the past two weeks, 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 25th, 2021, can be found here

Sunday Worship April 25, 2021 09:45 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.

Click here to Join Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84592630184?pwd=RHJobTFRUEg5MEhVSFNkV1I0NWxpZz09>

Meeting ID: 845 9263 0184

Passcode: 913656

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 to you. 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 were prepared last 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 ☺ Instructions will also be left with the church office for the disbursement of these blessed communion kits after May 2nd, using our network of disciples ☺ So do not hesitate to call the office to ask for communion if you need it.

Meanwhile, keep safe: distance, wash, mask and love each other.

With love, in Christ

Pastor Janaki.

Announcement on behalf of Church Council:

The current state of our Stay-at-Home provincial order and our current Lockdown status do not permit us to plan an in-person celebration of Pastor Janaki's ministry with us, nor does it allow us to plan even a drive-by version of a farewell event. So in order to give everyone the opportunity to offer words of support and encouragement, you are encouraged to send cards, notes, or emails to the church, all of which will be passed along to Pastor Janaki. When our Lockdown status changes, and with the affirmation of our potential Interim Pastor, (whoever that might be) we hope to plan an outdoor gathering to celebrate Pastor Janaki on the front lawn of the church. This will most likely be when the nicer weather arrives, perhaps in June or July. Church Council will keep you updated in the weeks and months ahead. Luckily for us, Pastor Janaki will continue to reside locally and so we should have some flexibility in planning this event.

You are invited to send your cards and letters to:

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 810 King St. E., Cambridge, ON N3H 3P2

or you can email to secretary@st-peters-cambridge.org

Everything received will be forwarded to Pastor Janaki.

Lorre Calder, on behalf of Church Council

Gathering Hymn: When there are challenges to face

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aceQGTiRPGQ>

Text: John Wesley Oldham; Tune Bradley Moggach; ©2021 Used with permission

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 of Spirit-blessings, by your Spirit we are all blessed with gifts. You hand out your gifts with generosity, making possible our ministry and our witness – even in this pandemic world. Thank you for those who have agreed to be on church council this year. We pray your protection and guidance for them. Help each one of us to receive the gifts and tools of Spirit which you generously provide to us – and help us to put these gifts and tools to good use. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

The Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit.

God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit.

God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all.

Each person is given something to do that shows who God is:

Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits.

All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people!

The variety is wonderful:

wise counsel

clear understanding

simple trust

healing the sick

miraculous acts

proclamation

distinguishing between spirits

tongues

interpretation of tongues.

All these gifts have a common origin, but are handed out one by one by the one Spirit of God.

God decides who gets what, and when.

[The Amplified Translation]

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

Installation of Church Council

Pastor: Invite council members to identify themselves on the ZOOM screens by waving, and introduce each one:

Dave Berg - Chairperson
 Jennie Miller – Vice-Chairperson
 Heide Emrich - Secretary
 Barb Braniff
 Lorre Calder
 Linda Ceh
 Donna Graham
 Linda Kahle

These good people have been *chosen by you as the congregation of St Peter's* to positions of leadership.

We give thanks for their willingness to serve in the communication of the Gospel and love of Jesus through their roles of leadership for our church. You have chosen them to serve at an exciting and challenging time of discernment, pastoral change and living into how we all can be disciples of Jesus in our world.

We rejoice now that these, our brothers and sisters, guided by the Holy Spirit will lead you in your walk of discipleship together.

Pastor – to the gathered council members:

Jann read, from 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 and we heard these ideas:

There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
 and there are varieties of services, but the same God;
 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.
 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

You have been *chosen by the people* to positions of leadership and trust in our church.

You are to see that the words and actions of our family of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one as the body of Christ.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, hospitality, witness, service, and support.

You are called to involve the people, so that the mission of Christ is carried out through this congregation to show Jesus' love and God's grace beyond the confines of our congregational membership.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, so that the power of the Holy Spirit is made visible through all of us gathered here.

You are to be examples of:
 faith active in love,
 clear compassionate communication,
 invitational discipleship
 fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding
 within our church family.

The presiding minister addresses those being installed.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices with which you have been entrusted by the people?

If you will, please respond (ask each person by name to unmute and respond):
I will and I ask God to help me.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your *chosen* leaders,
and will you share in the call to discipleship
that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

If you will, please respond: with visual thumbs up, so we can see your response, and with these words from your end:

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Church council members, I now declare you installed as *leadership council* of this congregation.
Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace,
that you may be faithful servants of Christ.
Amen.

Acclamation of the Word: Let Us Enter Into the Silence
(Oldham/Moggach – all permissions given by creators!) © 2021
Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BkchxvuCkjQ>

The Holy Scriptures according to 1 John 3:16-24
C: *Glory to you, O God.*

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

Message (Imagine Pastor Janaki’s voice here 😊)

When we were able to gather together for worship, when we could gather in our church building and elsewhere to work on our ministry things together, there were many many tools in our worship space and in our church which were put to use by all of us.

Then, when the pandemic brought us to a time where we could no longer gather safely together, and those specific tools were not available, we found all kinds of creative ways to continue ... and these ways were possible, sometimes without the same physical tools, not because we are, personally, magicians, who could manage without “stuff” – but because, as the scripture that Jann read, the Corinthians scripture identifies – each of us is given gifts of Spirit by God.

Each person is given something to do that shows who God is:
 Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits.
 All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people!

And we have responsibilities and calls to use those gifts as well as possible,
 to prioritize how we use them according to Spirit's leading,
 and to allow our gifts to bear witness to Jesus' love – not in word or speech (I say, as I write/speak these words), but in truth and action.

As I enter into this final week of ministry as your pastor, my office looks like a hurricane is passing through it, things are being packed up, and I come across many items that are special in so many ways, items that bring back so many memories for me – and photographs of so many of us – some of you a few feet shorter than you are now 😊

So I passed on this past week:

- The one eared moose and the peace dove, which we used for many a children's message – I passed those on to Kari Stiller for safe keeping, and to remind her to keep up her discipleship.
- I passed on my church business cards to some of you, asking you to write messages of encouragement to me on the backs and return them to me – so that I may have them in my new work setting, where it is my hope that my gifts, maybe entirely different gifts than the ones I relied on here – will be put to good use by God.
- I packed up books to share with Sarah Glinski, who came to St Peter's in the middle of a pandemic year, to be our MDiv placement student – books to help her and her colleagues in her studies.
- I passed on a e-tablet donated by someone, with the hope that Luis could make it Zoom capable, and it could then be passed on to someone else who could join worship by Zoom.

Noticing, even as I packed, how many of these items came to be pandemic relevant ways of sharing the gospel ... and how much sometimes our jobs as disciples and ministers – whether lay minister or ordained - is to be part of a bigger chain that brings the gospel to others 😊

And so it is, I come to this second to last Sunday as your pastor, to this second to last worship service with you to return to you as the congregational family of St Peter's some of the tools of ministry – the ministry we did together which will continue to grow and thrive in your disciples hands and hearts because I know each and every one of you here has gifts to use in ministry: I have seen, tasted, touched, heard and felt those gifts on many a blessed occasion 😊 I have some physical "props" to represent the various ministries, and I will use them to guide me through this process of returning the ministry of St Peter's to you: the disciples:

- Marlen's pottery insert for the font, representing the role of baptizing (and because there is no way I could lug the font home from church!!) – not only have we together witnessed so many baptisms, and welcomed so many by baptism (singing Lorre's Morningstar hymn, or hearing the choir singing). We have also remembered our baptism together so many times, and at funerals. I return this item to you, and ask Lorre to receive it on behalf of you all. As Christ welcomes us into the family, so did Lorre serve as the first one from St Peter's to welcome me once the call was extended to me.

- I came to you musically green – and knowing that Brad would be the musical director made me confident that I would not muck up our worship music selections. The only instrument I ever played at church was a shaker – that is about as far as my musical prowess goes (although Wanda did once successfully get me to play a tune with bell choir – but that was just at practice – not for worship together!). Brad received your musically green pastor with grace and gentleness, decoding for me the hymn book, and helping me to learn

how hymnody, melody and language could support an enhance our whole lived experience of worship ... I return this item to all of you, asking Brad to receive it on your behalf. Thank you Brad. I return this precious, soul sustaining ministry to your care, with such gratitude for all you have taught me about music.

- Within my first month at St Peter's we began a vibrant Bible Study, which started in our parlour and quickly moved to St Peter's Place parlour because that space was more accessible. Those regular Bible studies allowed us to grapple with many scriptures – some which we gained much clarity on, others which we held together in mystery. I return this ministry of bible study to all of you, and ask Sherri to receive this Bible on your behalf, representing our adult bible study when we delved into so much together on so many Mondays and supported each other through so much.

- Beyond Bible Study, we had many more vibrant study opportunities: including ZOOM study of the Gospel of Thomas during the pandemic, of course our annual Vacation Bible School – such a wonderful learning opportunity for children and youth alike, and many moving Lenten study opportunities, including our study which brought us to vote on being a fully inclusive congregation. *By that vote, your membership and your leadership will not be overshadowed by prejudice on the basis of sexual orientation, race, colour, social standing, or other factors that might cause prejudice in other settings.* Last Lent, we had two Lenten soup and study sessions before the pandemic shut us down – with more than 35 people attending. Study and learning are marks of your discipleship, and with this Lenten study booklet from last year, I return this learning ministry to your care, asking Heide to receive on your behalf.

- Keys – when I came to St Peter's it took me a while to not get lost. Bonnie Scott colour coded my keys for me, Purple for Pastor, Blue for Bonnie, Green for the grass (or the common lock for many doors), Black for the movie room (since it is dark in there). Bonnie Scott and Jann together organized many administrative things to support the function of myself, the church administrator's office, the facilities manager role and also the very gigantic portfolio of administration the pastoral role has included, which I would not have survived, had it not been for people like Jann and Bonnie. I ask them to receive these keys from me on your behalf.

- Your ministry of radical hospitality included home communion ministry before I became your pastor. In 2019, when I got some mysterious plague of boils and was on sick leave for two weeks, two of our home communion ministers Barb Burden & Sandra brought communion to me at my dining table. They were my ministers, and all of you are ministers to each other. I return to them, and to all of you a blessed set of our new and improved pandemic "home communion kits" – and I ask Barb, Sandra and Ruth Kroft to receive these on your behalf, as I return this radical hospitality ministry to you.

- Confirmation ministry has taken a hit during the pandemic, but we had many groups of confirmation students and I account for some increase in gray hairs due to some of the confirmation antics! There are stories, of cats being chased, of canoes being overturned, of waterfalls being climbed, of "The Gambler" being sung at confirmation camp ... and of deep theological questions becoming a confirmation ministry tradition. Each year, our confirmation liturgy was studied and used and I return this precious ministry to you, asking that Aaron Berg might receive this on your behalf.

- Our youth ministry was shepherded as best a university student could, by Avery, who also quietly joined the Bridges supper team as a regular volunteer following one of our youth meat-fests – a festival of bbq meats at my home. But I was never the leader of this ministry; games nights, sleepovers, Easter breakfasts and many other gatherings were organized without my involvement at all ☺ To the extent that I had a role in youth and outreach ministry, I return these ministries to you, asking Avery to receive this deck of cards and ladle as symbols of these ministries. Please received them on behalf of the church Avery.

- At baptism, as well as before death, anointing with oil happens. I described this to the children as God's invisible ink, marking you with the cross of Christ forever. The little thingy that holds anointing oil has been

used at many a sick-beds - representing end of life care and anointing too – I return this ministry of bereavement support to the church. Your funeral ministry has always been a sound Christian comfort to bereaved families, and in the pandemic you have found other ways to be involved in supporting the bereaved.

- I also had an appointment book that became filled each week with appointments for pastoral counselling and care which often was just accompaniment through a difficult time. I remember after one particularly teary session, one member brought me a few boxes of Kleenex, recognizing the value of tears being shed. I return to you this Kleenex (unused) - representing the ministry of pastoral counselling/accompaniment with the encouragement for you to continue strong in supporting and accompanying each other.

This ministry together is a journey, and soon we come to where our paths part:

May we continue to praise Jesus as we journey on our different ways ...

May we live as servants of Jesus as we journey on our different ways ...

And may we sing to your dawn at the end of our journey

Amen.

Hymn of the Day: #808 Lord Jesus You Shall be my Song

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNNani5BbPc&t=127s>

Text: Les Petites Soeurs De Jesus and L'Arche Community; tr Stephen Somerville; Tune: Les Petites Soeurs De Jesus and L'Arche Community
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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>

I invite you to prepare your table with bread and wine, or crackers and juice, whatever is available to you,
so that you may participate in the meal.

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: Go My Children With My Blessing ELW 543

Jaroslav J. Vajda, Welsh traditional; Bradley Moggach, piano

Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=paeliwar3Hg>

Author: Jaroslav J. Vajda, Copyright: © 1983 Concordia Publishing House; Tune Name: Ar Hyd Y Nos;

Arranger: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958; Copyright: Arr. © Oxford University Press; All Rights Reserved

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Blessing:

May we continue to praise Jesus as we journey on our different ways ...

May we live as servants of Jesus as we journey on our different ways ...

And may we sing to God's dawn + at the end of our journey together Amen.

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