

# St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church

*(Congregation established 1913)*

**September 9th, 2018**

**Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**

KEEP, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy Church with thy perpetual mercy; and, because the frailty of man without thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable for our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **TODAY AT ST. MARY'S**

**We wish a warm welcome** especially to those who are praying with us for the first time; your presence is a blessing! If you would like to identify yourself, or would like know more about our ministry and mission, please speak to one of the greeters and ask for a welcome card which you may complete and place in the offering plate.

**Flowers on the Altar** To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Reg and Catherine Trim by Bill and family

**Nursery** for infants & toddlers is available in the Good Shepherd Nursery. Leader: Sandra D

**Children ages 3 and up** worship in church today.

**Lunch:** Following the service please join us for lunch in the upper hall. Coffee Hosts: Yvonne and Christian S

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY'S**

Tuesday	10:30 am Forever in Motion Senior Exercise
Wednesday	9:00 am Morning Prayer; Men's Breakfast 10:30 am Parent and Tots Group
Next Sunday	9:40 am Morning Prayer 10:30 am Holy Communion

## MORNING PRAYER AT NINE- FORTY

Prayer Book, pp.6-5, Psalm 63:1-8; 98; Job 25.1-6, 27.1-6; Revelation 14.1-7,13

## HOLY COMMUNION AT HALF-PAST TEN

Opening Hymn: # **405 Alleluia No.1**

The Lord's Prayer

Collect for Purity

Summary of the Law, Lord. Have Mercy

Collect for the Day

*(Prayer Book p. 67)*

*(Prayer Book p. 69, 70)*

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:1-10

R/ **Thanks be to God**

Psalm: 150

page: 521

Gradual: **The Light of Christ**

Refrain:

The light of Christ

has come into the world (2x)

We must all be born again

to see the kingdom of God

The water and the Spirit

bring new life in God's love

God gave up His only Son

out of love for the world

So that all men who believe

in Him will live forever

The light of God has come to us

so that we might have salvation

From the darkness of our sins

we walk into glory with Christ Jesus

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (Chap 28, verses 16-20)

**R: Glory be to thee, O Lord**

**R: Praise be to Thee, O Christ**

Dialogue sermon in word and Song

Nicene Creed

*(Prayer Book p. 71)*

Intercessions

Offertory Hymn: # 619 Fairest Lord Jesus

*The people of St. Mary's have the privilege of being part of and supporting the ministry of Jesus Christ and His Church through weekly financial offerings. If you are visiting here today, you are welcome to make a contribution, but please do not feel under any obligation to do so.*

Invitation, Confession and Absolution

*(Prayer Book p. 76, 77)*

Great Thanksgiving, Peace, Prayer of Humble Access

The Communion

+ *All baptized Christians who have prepared themselves are invited to come forward with faith and love to receive Holy Communion.*

+ *If you prefer to receive a blessing, please indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.*

+ *For health reasons, dipping the bread in the wine is not permitted. If you require gluten-free wafer, please indicate this at the time of receiving.*

Hymn after Communion: # **73 One Bread, One Body, One Lord of All**

Lord's Prayer

Thanksgiving after Communion

*(Prayer Book p. 85, 86)*

Gloria

Announcements

Dismissal      **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Hymn: **Go Now In Peace**

Go now in peace, go now in peace;  
may the love of God surround you  
everywhere, everywhere you may go.

*\* Please observe a moment for silent prayer\**

## A Word from the Rector

In our church calendar, today is officially the 15th Sunday after Trinity, but unofficially, it's "Welcome Back Sunday" as many of us, myself included, have been away on vacation. I am so grateful to Revd Nathaniel, for officiating and preaching in my absence, and for Beth Christianson and Henry Friesen for sharing in the preaching. Thank you also to all of you who carried forward the worship and Christian witness, at St. Mary's and for all your prayers for me and my family. It was an exciting trip to the Okanagan for my son Nicholas's wedding. Thank you to all who kindly donated to the wedding fund. What a blessing and a surprise! During the month of July I hand dipped some beeswax candles as a thank you to all the wedding guests. You will find a pair with your name on it in the basket on the landing.

Yesterday I stopped by the church and joined the other St. Mary's congregation that worships here on Saturday mornings: St. Mary's Ethiopian Orthodox Church. They had a big celebration for the Nativity (birthday) of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

While this has not been part of our actual liturgical life, if you look in the calendar of the Book of Common Prayer, you will see that September 8th has been set aside to celebrate Mary's birthday.

What's this all about? Why does it mean? The answer, quite simply, is that the story of our salvation begins with Mary. In response to the message of the angel, that she, though a virgin, was to conceive in her womb and give birth to the Son of God through the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary replied "Let it be unto me according to your word." Mary believed that "nothing is impossible to God." (Luke 1. 31-38), and so became the Birth-giver of God into the world. How natural that the Church should celebrate. The birthday of the woman from whom God "took flesh".

But the point is not just that Mary gave birth to the Son of God, but became the first person to share in His Divine life. Mary therefore is the prime exemplar of what it means to be a Christian. Through our assent and bodily self-surrender to the message of the Gospel, we too give birth to God in our lives and come to share His Divine life. So it is that at Christmas we will sing, in the words of "O Little town of Bethlehem" "Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today!"

How does this happen? It happens when, in the face of impossible odds, with Mary, we say "Yes" to God. God wants to bring something new to birth in you, but you need to say "Yes" to Him, even though you have no idea what precise shape and form God's-Life-in-You is going to take. So it is, that with and through the Church, Mary's story becomes our story. It is the story of our salvation.

It's for this reason that the Ethiopian Church regards the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary as the start of new liturgical year. It's a time for saying "Yes" to God in the face of what seems an impossible situation, trusting that "nothing is impossible to God."

What a great way for us to start what feels like the beginning of a new year on Welcome Back Sunday and the resumption and renewal of church activities at St. Mary's.

Will you say "Yes" to God, "Yes" to the Gospel?

In fear and trembling,

Claude +

## PARISH LIFE NOTES

**Wedding.** This Saturday at 2.30 p.m. Neil F and Sarah M will be united to one another in Holy Matrimony at St. Mary's. Please remember Neal and Sarah in your prayers this week. All members of St. Mary's Parish family are warmly invited to attend the service.

**SAVE the DATE:** Yes thanks to the folks at Edencare Communities, the RSO Chamber Players and Organist Valerie Hall will be performing together again in support of Edencare's Music in the Community program. "Make A Joyful Noise..." will be presented this Fri 14 September at 7.30 in the church. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the hall. See you there.

**Mission opportunity** - we are again feeding the hungry at Souls Harbour soup kitchen by helping to serve and clean up after the evening meal on Thursday, Sept 13 between 4:30 and 7 p.m. Please join us! Souls Harbour soup kitchen is located on the 1800 block of Halifax street. Parking is on the street or behind the building in the alley. If you can help out, please advise Sandra D

### **Discernment opportunity:**

Do you have a heart for working with children with special needs?

Are you looking for a way to serve the Lord in this capacity?

The family ministries team is looking for a few individuals of any age or gender to be companions for one of our parish children during the Sunday morning children's program. We're asking each interested person to commit to one or two services a month. You need not have experience, but should be willing to provide loving attention to this child to help engage in the activities.

If you have an interest in this opportunity, please contact Sandra.

**The St. Cuthbert's regional team**, along with the Wardens from each of the nine congregations in our region, are attempting to discern the future of the Anglican Church in the city of Regina. We have formed two prayer groups, each of whom will meet briefly every month to provide prayer support for this process. You are welcome to attend either one. Our next meetings will be Monday, September 10 at 1:00 pm or 6:30 pm at St. Mary's Regina, 3337 15th Avenue. Questions can be directed to Kate B.

**You are invited to a "Godly Play" Orientation/ Workshop.** Godly Play is the model for teaching biblical literacy used in the Children's Worship Centre for 3 to 7 years old at St. Mary's. The workshop is For: parents, leaders and anyone interested in finding out more about this ministry. **When:** Sunday, Sept. 16th, 2018; 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm beginning with lunch and ending with coffee and muffins. **Where:** St. Mary's Anglican Church. Child care provided. Children 3 and over can listen to the Godly Play story if they wish.

**Breakfast and Community Clean-up** The Cathedral Area Community Association will hold their Annual Community Clean-up Saturday, September 22 from 8:30 am until noon. They will pick up any items discarded in the back alleys in the area. St. Mary's will show hospitality to people from the cathedral area and from St. Mary's by serving breakfast starting at 8:30 am in the upper hall at St. Mary's. Volunteers are needed to help prepare and serve breakfast. If you would like to come for breakfast or volunteer to help with breakfast please sign the sign-up sheet on the landing or contact Sandra D.

**Parent and Tots group** We love to welcome our parents and their little ones to our Parent and Tots Group- We provide games, activities and tea and coffee, milk and juice. You are welcome to bring a snack to share. We will meet every Wednesday morning from 10:30 am -12:30 pm. Start: **Wednesday September 12th.**

**Forever in Motion:** Senior Exercise is starting **Tuesday September 11th** here at St. Mary's 10:30 am. The program includes endurance, strength, balance and flexibility activities which may be performed either in sitting or standing positions. All are welcome! The program is also a good way to start with exercise.

**The auxiliary to the Canadian Bible Society** is holding a meeting at Seventh - day Adventist Church - 3720 Hill Avenue on Tuesday September 11th at 2:00 pm. All are welcome.

## THE WORD OF THE LORD: TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

### **First Reading:** 1 Peter 2:1-10

Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

### **GOSPEL:** Matthew 28: 16-20

Response before the Gospel: **Glory be to thee, O Lord**

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Response following the Gospel: **Praise be to thee, O Christ**

Songs for the Sermon

## **Father , We Adore You**

Father, we adore You  
Lay our lives before You  
How we love You

Jesus, we adore You  
Lay our lives before You  
How we love You

Spirit, we adore You  
Lay our lives before You  
How we love You

## **Holy, Holy, Holy**

HOLY, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.  
BLESSED is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord:  
Hosanna in the highest.

## **Be Still and Know**

Be still and know that I am God.  
Be still and know that I am God.  
Be still and know that I am God.

I am the Lord, the Lord who heals you.  
I am the Lord, the Lord who heals you.  
I am the Lord, the Lord who heals you.