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## E-News from the St. Mark's Pews 146th Edition - January 27th, 2023

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### From the Rector

"In 1937, I began, like Lazarus, the impossible return." So begins Whittaker Chambers's memoir *Witness* in which he recounts his decision to stop spying for the Soviets and return to the United States as a journalist, a decision which was truly a matter of life or death. One false move and he would have been exterminated in one of Stalin's purges. But once he was free and in the clear, he experienced an overwhelming sense of elation.

Even so, he had mixed emotions. "This elation was not caused by any comparison of the world I was leaving and the world I was returning to," he writes. "By any hard-headed estimate, the world I was leaving looked like the world of life and of the future. The world I was returning to seemed, by contrast, a graveyard."

In the ante-chapel of New College, Oxford, there is a remarkable statue by Sir Jacob Epstein which depicts Lazarus, who is bound by almost mummy-like bands, his arms pinned to his side and his head twisted uncomfortably down and to the left. Like all great works of art, it can be appreciated on many levels. On a superficial level, it depicts Lazarus at the moment he has been raised. But on another level, a symbolic level, it depicts a man who is not only physically bound, but spiritually bound, too. He can't reach out in front of him on account of his arms being pinned to his side, nor can he look ahead since his head is twisted, turning uncomfortably as if to glance back over his shoulder.

You'll remember that after Lazarus was raised, Jesus said to those standing by, "Unbind him, and let him go." I wonder if he was talking about something other than funerary bindings. I am haunted by that command of Jesus: unbind him, and let him go. Whatever else it may have been that Lazarus was raised to, it certainly wasn't his old life. There was no way he could go back to the same old, same old, although we can imagine that his family and friends were expecting him to do just that. So when Jesus says, "Unbind him, and let him go," I think he was telling them to stop restricting him with their own expectations, to let him go to live the new life he was given, to let him be free to embrace this new life and let go of the one that had been. No more looking back.

Remember the narrator in Poe's *The Cask of Amontillado* who chains a friend to a wall and then entombs him alive all because of some long-remembered insult? Do we not do the same? We keep loved ones in chains—emotional chains—or we put up a wall and cut them

off, or even smother them to death. It's a terrible thing to realize how much power we have over the destinies of those we love. Jesus tells—he commands—those of us who were bound, who could only look back, who were entombed, but who have taken hold of resurrection life, to stop binding others to destinies which have nothing to do with divine initiative. He says to us, "Unbind them and let them go." In the garden on Easter Day the risen Jesus says to Mary, "Do not hold on to me." Or, in the words of an 80s pop song, "If you love somebody, set them free": free to rise to the life Christ is calling them to. Free to embrace the future. Free to live for God rather than for others.

Nevertheless, it's difficult to believe that there is anything beyond our present graves but more graves. Indeed, this world of death seems more alive than the promised world of life. These are the fears Whittaker Chambers grappled with. What I didn't tell you at the beginning was that he was made strong by a renewed commitment to the Christian faith and its promise of new life. It was this faith and those promises which freed him—even in the face of what seemed to be certain death—to trust in the life of the risen Christ which lay before him.

Grace and peace,  
Leighton

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## **From the Wardens**

Oh well, some extra snow. With all else, we can live with it.

Activity this past week has been limited although there was Bible study on Monday and a return to the Wednesday 10 a.m. service.

Preparation of the 2023 budget for Vestry continues. The final Parish Council meeting before Vestry is February 2nd, 2023. As we look ahead to Vestry the last Sunday in February, it is time to consider who may serve in elected or appointed roles on Corporation, Parish Council and as treasurer. Please give thought to how you may serve St. Mark's this coming year, whether in church leadership or as a volunteer on one of our many committees. Contact the office or one of the wardens if you are interested.

Despite our attempts to recruit greeters, we still have vacancies. We are considering changing our approach and assigning greeters by using the parish list, subject to an individual's agreement, of course. This would mean greeting perhaps once a year, and always while paired with an experienced greeter. The only requirement is a smile of welcome. There is no need to do anything else but give out the bulletin, offer cushions, and remind people about coffee afterwards. Visitors and parishioners always comment on the friendly welcome they receive on Sundays. Greeting is an important role and most enjoyable.

The Men's Breakfast is on February 1st, 2023. Please see Greg Walker's notice. Consider bringing a friend or a neighbour.

We have been approached about doing a new pictorial church directory. There is no cost to St. Mark's. The last one was done in 2016 and is very outdated. The directory is helpful in putting a name to a face and is a good opportunity to have professional photos taken for personal use. A decision will be made shortly.

Our music director James is planning five concerts on Sundays at 4 p.m. starting on February 26th, 2023. Stayed tuned for more details!

See you in church!

As always, a reminder to advise the office of anyone who requires assistance, including a phone call, food delivery or some phone companionship. Or even over the fence!

Stay safe - keep well

## Called to Life - Compelled to Love

Your Wardens

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### Parish Updates

#### ***In-Person Sunday Services***

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Wearing a mask is now an individual's choice.

#### ***On Duty this Week***

January 29, 2023 - Greeter(s)

January 29, 2023- Reader - Wendy Steel

Intercessor - Gary Burroughs

Altar Guild - Virginia Mainprize, Gene Anne Smith, Jennifer Smith

#### ***Order of Service***

The Order of Service can be found on our website: [Order of Service Web Site Page](#)

#### ***Church Bells***

A reminder to all that the Church Bells play on Sundays at 12:05 pm. Enjoy!

#### ***Staying Up to Date!***

Click on this link to find this and recent copies of our E-News: [View our recent E-Newsletters](#)

Click on this link to view our Calendar: [Visit our Calendar](#)

[Click here to access St. Mark's Anglican Church Facebook page](#) You can also access our Facebook page when on our website by clicking on the Facebook icon that looks like an "f".

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### Weekly Prayers

In the parish cycle of prayer, we pray for Peter and Nancy Kemball, Patrick and Jane Kierans, Pat Kingdon, and Frank Kotsovolos and their families.

We pray for those shut in their homes, Fred Habermehl, Fred Dixon, Selina Appleby, and Joan Draper.

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese we pray for Grace Church, Milton, The Reverend Karine Snowdon, Rector; The Reverend Deacon Nina Page, Deacon; The Reverend Mark Curtis, Honorary Assistant, and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, and The dean, council, and congregations of the Ottawa, Ottawa Valley and Seaway Areas of the Eastern Synod.

We pray for the sick, especially remembering Jacquie White, Jack and Lynn Taylor, Margaret Stimson, Terry, Jan Brown, Lisa, Dorothy Walker, Sharon, Dick, Bev Garrett, Jodey Porter, Sean, Joshua, Ben Buholtz, and Jason.

We pray for those who have died, especially Joyce (Joy) Ormsby.

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### **Bible Study via Zoom**

We are sending Zoom invites via Constant Contact to those who regularly join the Bible Study group. If you would like to attend Bible Study via Zoom, please contact the Rector to have your name added to the distribution. [rector.stmarks.notl@gmail.com](mailto:rector.stmarks.notl@gmail.com)

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### **Men's Communion and Breakfast**

#### **Next Men's Communion and Breakfast WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2023**

On the first Wednesday of each month men of our congregation and their guests will participate in a quiet spoken Eucharist service in the church at 8:00 a.m., followed by breakfast at 8:45 a.m. If you would like to join us, please contact Greg Walker by email or phone (905) 262-6605 by Noon on Tuesday prior so that we can confirm numbers for breakfast.

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### ***Did you know.....***

that Addison had been appointed in 1790 to be minister of Niagara and missionary to the Mohawk, a duty he fulfilled till 1818.



His Majesty's Royal Chapel of the Mohawks in Brantford. This painting is part of the Addison Library collection.

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### **PIE MAKERS REQUIRED**

**Cherry Pie makers are required for four sessions in April 2023.**

**If you are interested in joining a pie making team please contact  
Diane Turner**

at

19ab39@gmail.com

289-362-1827

**Newcomers are welcome!**



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[St. Mark's Anglican Church Website](#)



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