

Enews to the St. Mark's Pews
64th Edition June 18, 2021
St. Mark's Anglican Church est. 1792
Niagara-on-the Lake, ON
Hear the Good News! Hear the Good news!

Dear Friends,

One of my favourite writers is Frederick Buechner, an American Presbyterian preacher, novelist, and autobiographer. His work has long been an inspiration for me, as well as a source of comfort. In my seminary courses on homiletics I went so far as to attempt to preach in his style - an abject failure since one must always preach in one's own style. Even so, I still often say to myself, "If I could preach like that just once ..."

Buechner gave an elegiac and moving sermon in the grand neo-gothic chapel of Princeton University on the occasion of the university's 250th anniversary. It was later published in a collection of Buechner's sermons called *Secrets in the Dark*. I'm reminded of it because it's based on the same gospel text we have this week: Mark 4:35-41, which is the story of Jesus stilling the storm on the Sea of Galilee. Here is part of that sermon:

Remember your own going over the years. Remember the crazy winds that have blown you off course as again and again they blown me off mine. Remember the scudding clouds that have blotted out the moon and the cruel white lip of the wave curling over the gunnels. Remember the fear at your own helplessness, at being lost in a storm very often of your own making. Remember what it's like to be old with death ahead of you and what it's like to be young with life ahead of you. These are among the storms for each of us to preach about ourselves, remembering always too that somehow we have survived the storm and that even at the worst of it there was something in us that clung on for dear life because even at its worst life is dear.

Keep going, Jesus says, because to keep going is to keep living and to stop going is to stop living in any way that much matters. "Let us go across to the other side," he says, though who knows how far the other side is or what awaits us when we get there, if anything awaits us at all. And go bravely because if we are the boat and the storm and the fishermen in their helplessness, we are also, we have in us also, the holy one asleep in the stern with a pillow under his head whose presence gives us hope and courage ... I think I know that, recognized or unrecognized, Christ sleeps in the deepest selves of all of us, and whatever we do in whatever time we have left, wherever we go, may we in whatever way we can call on him as the fishermen did in their boat to come awake within us and to give us courage, to give us hope. to show us, each one, our way. May he be with us especially when the winds go mad and the waves run wild, as they will for all of us before we're done. So that even in their midst we may find peace, find him.

Today we are asked to remember and pray for the First Peoples of this land who continue to be tossed by the storms of the great violence and evil that was done to them - that is still done to them. Remember particularly The Most Rev'd Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Archbishop and the Ven. Valerie Kerr, Archdeacon for Truth, Reconciliation and Native Ministries in this diocese.

A couple of housekeeping things: We would love to welcome new members to Bible Study. It is held at 9:30 am on Monday via Zoom. If you would like to join us, please email me directly at rector.stmarks.notl@gmail.com We are beginning a new study this coming Monday: Women of the Bible. I hope you will consider joining us.

I am also inviting you to come to the Parish Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 2 pm and 4 pm so I can meet you and you can meet me.

Here's the plan: I will sit in the doorway of the parish hall (outside) and couples, families, pods can drop by for a brief (15-minute) socially-distanced outdoor meet-and-greet. We do need to make sure these visits are scheduled and coordinated, so if you would like to drop by, please email Roxanne in the parish office and she will give you a 15 minute slot on your preferred day. And we'll keep this going as long as we need to. I look forward to putting faces to names! The parish email is stmarks@cogeco.net

Every blessing for the week ahead.
Leighton

PARISH UPDATES

Wishing all our Fathers and Grandfathers a very...

Happy
Father's
Day!

From St. Mark's Calling / Caring Team

Kathy Taylor, Rita Brown, Syme Jago, Elsie Lailey, Phebe Appleton

Keeping in Touch On-line

*Our Sunday morning services are **streamed** on Facebook at 10:00 am. Simply go to St. Mark's Niagara-on-the-Lake Facebook page. The service will be uploaded to YouTube also by 10:00 in the morning.*

Please use these URLs to watch:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Marks-Anglican-Church-Niagara-on-the-Lake-235477056649804/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-vVgNf0GbuxrfliW4sOXzQ>

Our Facebook and YouTube channels can also be accessed through our website: <https://stmarksnotl.org/>

WARDEN'S LETTER

We would like to start from wishing a very happy Father's Day to all Fathers and Grandfathers. Hopefully, you will be able to see your family this Sunday, safely, in small groups.

Past the middle of June and some optimism. The Rector is getting settled so he tells us. The grounds and gardens are looking great. Habitat for Humanity has been and taken away the designated items. Thanks to Sally, Steve and Roxanne for being here with Habitat. There were probably more items than Habitat thought. I hope any rejects they



may have don't get dropped at our door .

We have had Finance and Parish Council meetings this week. A reminder that Parish Council meetings are open to any parishioner to attend. It is best to call the office so that you get a Zoom invite.

Fr. Leighton's new office in Addison Hall is nearly ready, wall up, electrical done. The next step is a coat of paint. Thanks to Linda Cross and Wendy Steel for their cooperation in adjusting some reconfigurations for the choir area.

Sad news on the sudden death of Mimi McEwen, who was a longtime parishioner and volunteer. Please keep her son and friends in your prayers.

Jim Bourne continues to be on medical leave. We do miss you Jim and you are in our prayers for continuing recovery.

We have ordered our new video/audio equipment and installation is expected by mid July. The equipment will improve the quality of the video and sound for our online services.

If anyone noticed we had an issue on our chimes but as always Allan Teichman alerted us and quickly made the necessary repairs.

The Diocesan Covid update, received this morning, notes encouraging progress as cases drop and stresses the need for continued vigilance against the virus.

Bishop Bell does not plan to authorize in-person Sunday worship services until at least mid-summer, even if such services may be permitted to some extent by provincial regulations. At the same time, the Diocese hopes to share an updated Parish Re-opening Guide next week so preparations can begin even if there isn't a firm re-opening date.

Take care and please, stay safe!

Called to Life – Compelled to Love

Your Wardens

WORSHIP: Sunday Prayers with Bishop Susan

Every week, the Bishop continues to lead Sunday Prayers at 10:00 am on our [Facebook page](#). An order of service is posted on our online [diocesan COVID-19 resource hub](#) on the Friday before. Join a few minutes beforehand and say hello to friends from your church and across the diocese! Afterwards, the service is posted [on our YouTube channel](#) and the Bishop's homily is available on the resource hub.



READINGS FOR FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

[Sunday, June 20, 2021- Fourth Sunday After Pentecost -LINK](#)

1 Samuel 17:57-18:5,10-16 As sometimes happened in ancient times, a dispute between Israel and Philistia, her arch-enemy, has been settled (for a while) by individual combat. David has used an unconventional weapon to kill Goliath the Philistine. Abner serves Saul as commander of the army. Jonathan is Saul's son and heir.

Mark 4:35-41 Jesus has told the good news of the Kingdom to the crowds, in a way they could understand, but "he has explained everything in private to his disciples". Now he shows the disciples that the power the Father has given him includes the ability to control the unruly forces of nature.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (submitted by Tammy Zalepa)

Creator God, we wait, we watch, we long for you.
Renew our powers, refresh our spirits, and restore our well-being.
For you give new strength to the faint and power to the powerless,
As we proclaim: *O' Lord* and responding, **hear our prayer.**

On this Indigenous Day of Prayer, we acknowledge the great injustices committed against those who lived on and cared for this land long before our ancestors arrived. We pray that with determination and compassion we will continue to make ourselves aware of the impact of the injustices so that the legacy of colonization is recognized by each of us. *O' Lord*, **hear our prayer.**

For every father, and all who act with a father's care.
Give them strength with gentleness, firmness with patience, authority with self-sacrificing love.
Help us to honour and thank them, even though they, like us, are not perfect.

Be the sure protector of all who do not have a loving father in their lives. *O' Lord, hear our prayer.*

We give thanks for the presence in this community of Sam and Pat Kingdon, Frank Kotsovolos, Elsie Lailey, and Jean Lalonde and pray for the health and well-being of them and their families. *O' Lord, hear our prayer.*

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Niagara Diocese we pray for St. John, Nassageweya, the Reverend Owen Ash, Interim Priest-in-Charge and the people of that parish.

In the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land, and the National Indigenous Day of Prayer: for healing and reconciliation between Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples. *O' Lord, hear our prayer.*

We give thanks for all who are giving comfort and care, if only at a distance.

We pray for the sick, especially thinking now of Gillian MacKay, Terry, Don Dicarlo, Jan Brown, Lisa, Dorothy Walker, Sharon, Dick, Doug Garrett, Bev Garrett, Ross Tomlinson, Peter Ford, Jodey Porter, Sean, Gail, Jackie Johnson, Sam Kingdon, and Joshua.

And for those shut in their homes, Fred Habermehl, Fred Dixon, Joy Ormsby, Selina Appleby, and Joan Draper. *O' Lord, hear our prayer.*

Entrusting to your never-failing care and love those who have died, especially Yvonne Playle and Mimi McEwan. *O' Lord, hear our prayer.*

O God our defender,
storms rage about us and cause us to be afraid.
Rescue your people from despair,
deliver your sons and daughters from fear,
and preserve us all from unbelief;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and ever. **Amen.**

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