

Food Bank: When you are picking up your groceries, please add an item or two and drop it in the food bank box. Items needed this week are **toilet tissue, tinned milk and tinned tomatoes**. If you wish you may also make a monetary donation to the food hamper fund. It is much appreciated!

Duty teams for next Sunday, March 15, 2020: Sidespersons' Team #5, Counting Team # 4

Godly Play: These are the stories that we will be covering in Godly Play in March:

- March 8 - The Mystery of Easter.
- March 15 - The Faces of Easter 1, 2 & 3.
- March 22 - The Faces of Easter 4, 5 & 6.

Please help us keep the air we share, scent free. Scented products such as hair spray, perfume, lotion, after shave, and deodorant can trigger reactions such as respiratory distress and headaches. We are asking that you not use any scented products when coming to the Church. Thank you!

Services During the Week:	Morning Prayer daily at 9:30 a.m. (Except Wednesday & Saturday)	
Wednesday March 11	9:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist (BAS)
	12:15 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Liturgy
Sunday, March 15, 2020 Lent III AGM @ 2:00 p.m.	8:30 a.m.	Holy Communion (BCP)
	11:00 a.m.	Welsh Eucharist
	6:30 p.m.	Evening Prayer (BCP)

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Rector:
Rev'd David Burrows

Associate Priest:
Rev'd Lynn Courage



Parish of the Ascension Chimes



March 8, 2020

Lent II

Weekly Lenten Focus: Use of Water

Lections: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121 (*Refrain: The Lord himself watches over you*); Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
Presider / Homilist: Rev'd Lynn Courage

9:15 a.m. Ascension Café

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (BAS)
Presider: Rev'd Canon John Courage
Homilist: Rev'd Nancy March
Theme Conversation: Lisa Fancy
Readers: Gordon Slade, Carol Manning and Zachary Dawe
Gift Bearers: Dorothy and Curtis Pope
Hymns (CP): 5, 468, 524, 35 & 410, 486

6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer (BAS)
Presider / Homilist: Rev'd David Burrows
Hymns (CP): 180, 503, 520

"The Son of man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." John 3:14-15

Weekly Word

In this week's Scripture a Jewish leader named Nicodemus meets Jesus late at night, asking him questions about how he performs signs and works of the Holy One. It seems that Nicodemus is hoping for discretion, privacy, perhaps a hard conversation away from others.

The answers Jesus provides brings Nicodemus confusion and further questions, as Jesus states that his actions are enwrapped in the work of the Spirit, and being born 'from above.' In the ensuing dialogue, Nicodemus focuses on the lesser details (how can one be born a second time?), instead of the underlying reality that Jesus offers – to embrace and choose Spirit, and choose to be directed by that which is *above*, or beyond human reality.

I can empathize with Nicodemus' conundrum. He seems to be trying to understand the actions and working of Jesus according to a human, religious, cultural framework. He cannot get his mind wrapped around the signs and wonders that Jesus has been showing: changing water to wine, healing invalids, feeding multitudes and the like.

Jesus requires understanding that urges Nicodemus to embrace a new framework, one of choice, in which all human limitations are overcome through Spirit, through an embracing of a life that is *from above* rather than one that is rooted in culture, practice, and expectations of the present reality. All at once this seems to be overwhelming for this Jewish leader.

I can't say that I blame Nicodemus' confusion or hesitancy. So many of my decisions and actions are based on a careful observation and consideration of facts, of present reality, of history. Nevertheless, some of my most profound experiences of and with the Holy One have been when I have loosed myself of the constrains of that which grounds me where I am. When I listen to Spirit, there is a boundless potential that enables growth, opportunity, reconciliation, forgiveness, and love. This has been shown to me both in personal encounters, and in the life of community.

So I give thanks today, for choice. Choice to follow, to fear, to encounter the unexpected, to listen for the Spirit and to look for that which comes from above. I pray that I respond by stepping through that which I believe constrains me, and move beyond, above this reality, and so encounter the Holy One.

This is my hope this Lent. This choice, again and again, through Lenten disciplines and daily encounters of the other, will reveal to me the Holy One, and the path for me to step.

Peace

David

Welcome Rev'd Nancy March: Rev'd Nancy March grew up in Mount Pearl and has been ordained for 11 years. She served in the Parish of the Holy Trinity (New Harbor to Placentia) for eight years and has been the rector of St. Mary the Virgin for 2 1/2 years. She is the wife of Trevor and mother of two, Nathan and Adam. When she gets any free time you can find her at the hockey rink watching her youngest son play junior hockey, dropping off and picking up her oldest son at university, reading books, and binge watching Netflix with her husband.

Weekly Notices: In an effort to reduce paper usage in our parish, on a go-forward basis we will post notices and reminders at both entrances.

AGM: Our Annual General Meeting will be next **Sunday, March 15**, at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Please make an effort to attend.

Ascension Café – in need of Jam: We are in need of various types of jams at the Café. If you are able to donate, please drop your jam to the church office or bring to the café on Sunday. Thank you!

Parish Treasurer: Currently, our parish treasurer, Jessie Green, has fulfilled this role for the past nine years. Normally a treasurer's term is no more than six years. To date we have not had any eligible candidates to replace her, and we have been able to proceed only under the consent of the bishop. If you or any you know are eligible, I ask you to prayerfully consider this ministry.

Thank You from PWRDF: Thank you to everyone for supporting the PWRDF luncheon on March 1. Our parish is blessed to have so many committed and faithful people working for the Kingdom. To date, \$960 was raised for PWRDF. Well done everyone! An excellent effort!