



# Parish of the Ascension Chimes



March 29, 2020

Lent V, Passion Sunday

Weekly Lenten Focus: Shopping Thoughtfully

**Lections:** Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130 (*Refrain: The Lord shall redeem us from all our sins*); Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

**Hymns:** The Royal Banners Forward Go; Breathe on me, Breath of God; Sing; My Tongue, The Glorious Battle (Lyrics located below)

**Updates:** Please check the following websites for regular updates on information related to the COVID 19 pandemic:

[www.parishoftheascension.ca](http://www.parishoftheascension.ca)

<https://anglicanenl.net/home/covid19/>

<https://anglicanenl.net/home/> (You will find the most recent weekly letter from our Bishop under our Bishop's Writings.)

<https://www.mountpearl.ca/>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

**On Line Church Service:** This Sunday at 11 a.m., the parishes of St. Michael and All Angels, St. Mary the Virgin, Good Shepherd and Ascension are hosting morning prayer from the Book of Common Prayer. Come and join us at the website [lent2020.ca](http://lent2020.ca).

**Church Services and Public Gatherings Cancelled:** In compliance with a directive from the diocese, as well as public health, all services and public gatherings have been cancelled at the Parish of the Ascension until further notice. As a result, 'Opening Doors in Lent' has been cancelled and the Annual General Meeting has been postponed. We will provide further information as it becomes available.

**Blessing Bags:** If you have items purchased for the Blessing Bags, you may drop them off at the parish. Please ring the bell at the side entrance between the hours of 9 a.m. – 12 noon, Monday to Friday. The door will be unlocked and you may deposit your Blessing Bag in the bin provided inside the door. Thank you.

**Outreach:** This is a time for our faith community to come together to uplift each other. Please don't forget to regularly check on your family, friends and neighbours. If you are in need of pastoral contact, or if you know of anyone who is struggling at this stressful time, please let one of the clergy know.



**Food First NL:** Food First NL works with communities in Newfoundland & Labrador to ensure everyone has access to affordable, healthy, and culturally appropriate food. Please visit their website at <http://www.foodfirstnl.ca/covid19> to find updates to NL Community Food Programs.

**Clergy Contact During the COVID 19 Pandemic:** During the outbreak of COVID-19, the clergy will be reaching out to all parishioners. They will do their best to contact everyone, however our parish list may need to be updated. If you have not received a call or e-mail by the end of March, please e-mail your updated contact information to [office@parishoftheascension.ca](mailto:office@parishoftheascension.ca). In the event that you do not have e-mail available, please call the parish office and leave a message. Thank you.

**Canadian Blood Services:** The need for blood has not stopped for patients who rely on blood for their ongoing health treatments due to the COVID-19. We ask you to book your appointment at [www.blood.ca](http://www.blood.ca), call 1-888-236-6283, or download the app “GiveBlood.” Listed below are office hours for St. John’s Donor Center at 7 Wicklow Street, St. John’s:

Tuesday & Wednesday .....3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday .....9:00 a.m – 3:00 p.m.  
Friday ..... 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Saturday.....10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Please be assured that donation events are places of wellness. In response to the evolving COVID-19 situation, we are working closely with health-care partners and are following all recommended guidelines from the federal and provincial governments. We have added measures to our already careful procedures for donor screening and infection control that keep donors, patients, employees, volunteers, and our mobile event partners safe.

## Weekly Word

### **If only . . . then.**

In some iterations, I have heard this statement, of cause and effect in so many different contexts this last week. Family, travel, health, work, school, shopping, community, worship, mental health and so much more. In each of these areas I see that people are looking both backward and forward, as we enter more fully into a period of unknowing, of high anxiety, of isolation, and of potential fear.

Into all this, all humanity, indeed, all creation is moving and living and growing. COVID19 is changing us, and has changed us. For most all humans, we are creating and sustaining new patterns, a new rule of life, with all the challenges, benefits, and inconveniences that occur within them.

In the moments of pause, where I look around me, to my family, to the virtual community that I am now connecting with, I am recalling so many ‘*If only . . . then*’s.’ I am not only thinking about what could happen, but what has happened, and how my actions result in causal results. I wash my hands . . . I cover my cough . . . I socially distance . . . You may all be thinking of the results, and the lack of results in this way. In Scripture this week, the Christian church examines two familiar stories, that both have elements of cause and effect. The reading from Hebrew Scriptures is Ezekiel’s vision of dry bones in the valley, the Gospel

reading is John's description of the death and resurrection of Lazarus, Mary and Martha of Bethany's brother.

They are readings of both grief and hope. The image of thousands of bones representing the death of a nation, combined with the breathing of the breath of God into bones, sinews and bodies of the dead offers me hope that the Holy One will reanimate, regenerate and resurrect a people. When I hear the daily reports locally, nationally, and internationally, I am reminded that in the midst of anxiety and grief, there can be that hope that our lives will not be as broken, painful and shattered always. Our lives, and the existence and blossoming of humanity will not be disintegrated by a virus, nor by an act evil that ignores it. Thus, the images of hope I see and hear are that of humanity's hope and resilience, being breathed into individuals, communities and nations from north, south, west and east.

The image of Mary and Martha grieving at Jesus' tardiness reminds me of the very personal nature of the time we have now entered. Both sisters are calling out for Jesus long before he arrives. Both sisters confront Jesus in their grief and share that the effect of Jesus' delay causes Lazarus' premature death. There is more to this story. When we are faced with the personal nature of our actions, and the actions of our loved ones, we too struggle with grief, fear, anxiety, anger, and the like. We want to blame, we want to act, we want to do what we can do to express to those we love, and to the world, the injustice and the futility of the situation. Yet, the story goes still further. Both these stories are told, looking backwards, after the chaos, the storm, the death, the pain, the pandemics are over. They look back and reveal to me that the Holy One is in the detail of the chaos we experience *as it is happening*. This is the ultimate hope to which I cling. In the uncertainty and my helplessness, even there, the Holy One is present, active, reconciling, healing and offering hope. There will be many more '*If only. . . then's*' in the days to come. I do not write expecting this new reality to somehow be magically resolved. The resolve I hold is that my heart will be at peace for the Holy One is dwelling within it.

Blessings,

*David*

**Donations to Ministry:** If you are interested in continuing to donate to the parish ministry during the COVID-19 pandemic, there are a variety of ways for you to do so.

- **Church Envelopes:** You may still use your envelopes during this time. You may drop them in the mailbox at the main entrance of the church or you can put your givings in the mail.
- **Pre-authorized Giving:** You can have your givings automatically deducted on a schedule that works for you. If you are interested in setting up pre-authorized givings, please contact the church office at 368-5693.
- **Canada Helps:** You can sign up to make donations to Canada Helps through our parish website.



**Food Bank Donations:** The need for food donations is still great. If you are able to donate to the food bank, we ask that you drop your donation directly to St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank at either St. Peter's Parish Hall on Ashford Drive or Mary Queen of the World on Topsail Road. All donations are gratefully appreciated.



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[www.parishoftheascension.ca](http://www.parishoftheascension.ca)  
[www.facebook.com/parishoftheascension](https://www.facebook.com/parishoftheascension)

**Rector:**  
*Rev'd David Burrows  
746-2095*  
**Associate Priest:**  
*Rev'd Lynn Courage  
682-8500*

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*"I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever lives and believes in me shall never die." John 11.25, 26 -*

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Resources for Chimes from the following sources:

Anglican Church of Canada  
The Book of Common Prayer © 1962  
Book of Alternative Services © 1985  
Book of Common Praise © 1938  
Common Praise © 1997  
Wee Worship Book, Fourth Incarnation © 1999  
CCLI License # 1733318  
The Iona Community  
The Taizé Community  
GIA Publications.

## Prayers of the People

Lent V

March 29, 2020

*From a distance the world looks blue and green,  
And the snow-capped mountains white,  
From a distance the ocean meets the stream  
And the eagle takes to flight\**

Holy One, during this time of social distancing and lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic, remind us that we are still connected to one another. We pray for those impacted by travel bans, those unable to connect with loved ones, those who have insurance, those who do not, those who are getting treatment, and all those who cannot get a hospital bed.

We pray for all of us, who are anxious and afraid. Remind us that we are infinitely connected to you, and we can come to you in prayer at any time, in any setting. We pray for Bishop Geoff, for the Primate's Task Group on prayer and repentance, for the National Indigenous Bishop and the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples, for the parishes of Harbour Grace and Heart's Content, and for those worshipping in the South Sudan.

*From a distance there is harmony  
And it echoes through the land  
It's the voice of hope  
It's the voice of peace  
It's the voice of every human*

Help us to be the Body of Christ that you call us to be in this moment.

May we be your hands and feet right now, in neighborhoods, farms and small towns, hospitals and clinics, tribes and large cities, as we work to safely feed each other, heal each other, look out for each other, and act as your instruments in this ailing world. Be with the very young, the school-age children as they watch this world around them. Be with those who are sick, those who mourn, and for those who see you face to face.

Guide the healers on each continent, in each country, in each city around the globe, and be with them and each of us as we struggle to navigate new things in new ways. Sustain the researchers, virologists, laboratories and medical transport teams.

*From a distance we all have enough  
And no one is in need  
And there are no guns,  
no bombs and no disease  
No hungry mouths to feed*

All economies around the world have been terribly affected over these past months. We pray for each of the ways it is impacting the small business owners, investors, our elderly, our homeless, the middle class, all of us in vastly varied ways. May we rebuild together without rank of who is worthiest, but, instead, guided by your light and filled with your love, stronger than we can imagine.

*From a distance we are instruments  
Marching in a common band  
Playing songs of hope  
Playing songs of peace  
They are the songs of every human*

May we hear your songs of hope ringing from balconies. May we hear your songs of a common band. May we hear your songs of peace in the “care mongers” of **Canada** who out of kindness, not fear, have created online groups searching out need (#iso) and/or providing help (#offer). May we know that these are the songs of all of us, your beloved children.

*God is watching us  
God is watching us  
God is watching us from a distance*

May God watch over us, and may we watch over one another, from a distance.

**Amen.**

**Ascension Prayer Cycle** : Andrea, Aubrey, Audrey, Barbara, Baxter, Bill, Brenda, Brian, Carl, Christina, Clarence, Claude, David, Debra, Delilah, Dennis, Don, Donna, Doris, Dot, Dulcie, Edgar, Edith, Elaine, Elizabeth, Erin, Frederick, Flo, George, Georgina, Gerry, Gordon, Harry, Herb, Ina, Jack, Jason, Jenny, John, Josephine, Junior, Kevin, Laura, Leo, Leonie, Lori, Madeline, Marina, Marion, Maurice, Maxine, Maxwell, Melissa, Melvin, Nancy, Pam, Phyllis, Randell, Rodney, Roland, Ruby, Ruth, Rita, Scott, Sean, Stan, Stephen, Tina, Todd, Valerie, and Wayne.

**Parish of the Ascension**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**March 29, 2020**

**COLLECT**

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ, and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL**

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus, says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord." So, I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus, says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act," says the Lord.

**EZEKIEL 37:1-14**

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

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**PSALM**

**REFRAIN: The Lord shall redeem us from all our sins.**

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication. **R**

If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand? For there is forgiveness with you; therefore, you shall be feared. I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope. **R**

My soul waits for the Lord, more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning. **R**

O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy; With him there is plenteous redemption, and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins. **R PSALM 130**

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### **A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS**

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason, the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you. **ROMANS 8:6-11**

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

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Reader: The Lord be with you

**People: And also with you**

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN**

**People: Glory to, you Lord Jesus Christ**

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Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So, the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus

said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So, they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

#### **JOHN 11:1-45**

Reader: The Gospel of Christ

**People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

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#### **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Giver of life,  
your Son has destroyed the power of death  
for all those who believe in him.  
Accept all we offer you this day  
and strengthen us in faith and hope;  
through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all the living. **AMEN**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God of hope,  
in this eucharist we have tasted the promise  
of your heavenly banquet  
and the richness of eternal life.  
May we who bear witness to the death of your Son,  
also proclaim the glory of his resurrection,  
for he is Lord for ever and ever. **AMEN**

## **The Royal Banners Forward Go**

The royal banners forward go;  
The cross shines forth in mystic glow,  
Where He, the Life, did death endure,  
And by that death did life procure.

There was he slain in noble youth,  
There suffered to maintain the truth,  
And there, to cleanse the heart of man,  
From out his side life's torrent ran.

Fulfilled is all his word foretold:  
Then spread the banners, and unfold  
Love's crowning power, that all may see  
He reigns and triumphs from the Tree.

O Tree of grace, the conquering sign,  
Which dost in royal purple shine,  
Gone is thy shame; for lo, each bough  
Proclaims the Prince of Glory now.

For once they favoured branches bore,  
The wealth that did the world restore,  
The priceless treasure, freely spent,  
To pay for man's enfranchisement.

Father of all, life's source and spring,  
May every soul thy praises sing,  
May those obey the rule of heaven  
For whom the perfect life was given.

## **Breathe on me, Breath of God**

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Fill me with life anew,  
That I may love what Thou dost love,  
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Until my heart is pure,  
Until my will is one with Thine  
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
Till I am wholly Thine,

Until this earthly part of me  
Glow with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
So shall I never die,  
But live with Thee the perfect life  
Of Thine eternity.

**Sing; my tongue, the glorious battle,**

Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle,  
sing the ending of the fray;  
Now above the Cross, the trophy,  
sound the loud triumphant lay:  
Tell how Christ, the world's Redeemer,  
as a victim won the day.

Tell how, when at length the fullness  
of the appointed time was come,  
He, the Word, was born of woman,  
left for us his Father's home,  
showed to men the perfect manhood,  
shone as light amidst the gloom.

Thus, with thirty years accomplished,  
went he forth from Nazareth,  
destined, dedicate, and willing,  
wrought his work, and met his death.  
Like a lamb he humbly yielded  
on the cross his dying breath.

Faithful cross, thou sign of triumph,  
now for man the noblest tree,  
none in foliage, none in blossom,  
none in fruit thy peer may be;  
symbol of the world's redemption,  
for the weight that hung on thee!

Unto God be praise and glory:  
to the Father and the Son,  
to the eternal Spirit honour  
now and evermore be done;  
praise and glory in the highest,  
while unending ages run.