

Sunday, 10 March, 2024



Icon from Saint Paraskevi Church in Langadas, Greece

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

130 Clergy Street East, Kingston, ON, K7K 3S3

www.StAndrewsKingston.org

613-546-6316

Gathering to serve God & neighbour
in this community since 1817
We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional lands
of the Anishinaabe and Haudonosaunee peoples.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Preludes	Agnus Dei	Cavazzone
	Plein chant de l'Agnus Dei	Couperin

Entry of the Bible

Welcome and Announcements

Introit for Lent	Healy Willan
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Call to Worship

On this fourth Sunday of Lent, we overhear a nighttime conversation between Jesus and a Pharisee named Nicodemus.

Jesus says we must be born anew and born of the Spirit.

With Nicodemus we ask, "How can these things be?"

But maybe it's not all about understanding these mysteries. Maybe it's about hearing, believing and sharing the good news with our words and our actions.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

Hymn	God of mercy, God of grace	39
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Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Words of Assurance

Gospel Box

The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Lessons	Psalm 107:17-22	Emily
	Numbers 21:4-9	
	John 3:14-21	

Hymn	O Love that wilt not let me go	209
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Message	"Healing Sin"
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Music Ministry	Blest are the pure in heart	R.S. Eaton
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Invitation to the Offering

Doxology	Praise God from whom all blessings flow	830
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Dedication of Offering

Prayers of the People (*Response during prayer – God in your mercy,
hear our prayer*)

Hymn Guide me, O thou great Redeemer 651

Benediction and Choral Amen

Postlude Troisième Couplet de l'Agnus Couperin

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Responsive Psalm 107:17-22

Some were fools and took to rebellious ways;
they were afflicted because of their sins.

**They abhorred all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.**

Then they cried to you, O Lord, in their trouble,
and you delivered them from their distress.

**You sent forth your word and healed them
and saved them from the grave.**

Let them give thanks to you, O Lord, for your mercy
and the wonders you do for your children.

**Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving
and tell of your acts with shouts of joy.**

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, ‘Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.’ Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, ‘We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.’ So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, ‘Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.’ So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’

Response to readings

For the word of God in Scripture
For the word of God within us
For the word of God around us

Thanks be to God.

Introit for Lent

If thou, O Lord, wilt be extreme to mark iniquities,
Lord who may abide it?
For unto thee belongeth mercy, O God of Israel.

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice.

*From "Introits for Festival and General Use"
by Healey Willan (1950)*

Anthem – Blest are the Pure in Heart

Blest are the pure in heart
For they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs,
Their soul is Christ's abode.

The Lord who left the heav'ns
Our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with men,
Their pattern and their King!

Still to the lowly soul,
He doth himself impart,
And for his dwelling and his throne
Chooseth the pure in heart.

Lord we thy presence seek;
May ours the blessing be;
Give us a pure and lowly heart,
A temple meet for Thee.

*Words: Rev. John Keble (1792-1866)
Music: Richard Eaton, 1942*

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Today we focus on the “Lamb of God” or in Latin, “Agnus Dei”. It is a part of the Catholic Mass and the full text is:

*O Lamb of God that takest away the sin of the world,
Have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God that takest away the sin of the world,
Grant us Thy peace.*

The term “Lamb of God” comes from John the Baptist in John 1:29; “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” This text was used for a well-known section from Handel’s *Messiah*. The concept of “the lamb that was slain” is further dealt with in the book of Revelation. In the early church, the term appeared in the Gloria in Excelsis Deo:

“Glory be to God on high and in earth peace, good will towards men... O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us...”.

By the 7th century, this phrase from the Gloria had been established as the “Agnus Dei”, a separate part of the mass (with the addition of the phrase “grant us thy peace” at the end). There are many, many settings of the Agnus Dei including #745 in our Book of Praise.

The first **Prelude** is from a Mass setting by Italian composer Girolamo Cavazzone. Very little is known about this early church musician. He was born in Italy around 1525 and died around 1577. His surviving works include “alternatim” mass settings where a choir will sing a verse of one of the Mass pieces in plainsong and then the organ will play a variation. This meant for a very lengthy mass and the practice was eventually banned by Pope Pius X in 1903. The second **Prelude** is from the *Mass for the Parishes* by François Couperin (1668-1733). This is from another alternatim mass setting. The **Postlude** is from the 3rd couplet of the Agnus Dei.

My sister in Calgary once had the privilege of singing in a choir named the “Richard Eaton Singers”. Richard Eaton was an important choral composer and conductor in Western Canada. Today’s **Anthem** is one of his best known pieces, and one of my favourites. “Blest are the pure in Heart” uses a lovely text by the Rev. John Keble, an Anglican priest and poet who died in 1866.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us this week, in person and online. We are happy that you're here, and hope you find the service meaningful and satisfying.



Daylight Saving Time

Hopefully you are reading this before Sunday, and have marked your calendar appropriately – clocks *spring ahead* on Sunday!!

Potluck Lunch

Thank you to all who participated in the February 25th potluck lunch. The next potluck will be next Sunday, March 17th, and we look forward to seeing you there. Any help you can provide with the clean-up would be appreciated.

PCC Webinar

The office of the Presbyterian Church in Canada will be offering an important webinar on Wednesday, 13 March from 1:30-2:30. The website explains:

“The 2021 General Assembly marked a pivotal point in the approach of The Presbyterian Church in Canada to gender, sexuality and the denomination’s ministry with LGBTQI2+ people. In addition to changes to the PCC’s theology and practice regarding marriage and ordination, General Assembly adopted a set of recommendations to guide the whole church to acknowledge the harm caused due to homophobia, transphobia, heterosexism and hypocrisy, to respond appropriately to that harm and to ensure that harm does not continue.

This webinar is an opportunity to review and learn more about the decisions the church has made regarding LGBTQI2+ inclusion. Staff from the General Assembly Office and the Life and Mission Agency will give a short presentation about the church’s decisions, followed by time for participants to ask questions. The webinar will be recorded.”

The webinar is free, but you need to register to receive the link.

Register to attend or receive the recording at:

<https://presbyterian.ca/2024/02/15/upcoming-webinar-pcc-decisions-regarding-lgbtqi2-inclusion/>

Our Daily Bread

The spring editions of Our Daily Bread have arrived at the office. We have small print copies for March/April/May, and large print copies for April/May/June. Contact the office to reserve a copy, or pick one up at the back of the church.

Presbyterian Connection

The Spring edition of the Presbyterian Connection is now available in the narthex and online. This issue features the candidates for Moderator of General Assembly 2024, articles on the current work of PWS&D and Presbyterians Sharing, a story on how a Canadian Presbyterian Minister invented the game of basketball, and a couple photos of a very familiar sanctuary this past Christmas. It would make for a lovely Sunday afternoon of reading in a cozy chair... Bonus points if you can find a pic of our minister and past interim moderator!

Prayer Requests

Anthony Houghton, John Sanger, Barb & Al Zabel, Phyllis-Ann McCormick, Kim Sutherland-Mills, Larry Moore, and Aime & Donna Delacretaz appreciate the continued prayers of the congregation.

Circle of Prayer

This team of St. Andrew's members is ready to add their prayers to yours. If you would like to join our circle, or if you have a prayer request (confidentiality assured), please contact our co-ordinator Dorothy at dotmessenger@gmail.com

Seeking Scripture Readers

There is now a sign-up sheet for all the remaining Sundays of the year, so please fill in a couple blanks. And don't worry, the office will email you during the week before you read to remind you!

News from the Mess Studio

Since 2009, The Mess Studio has provided opportunities for people to come, connect, and create art in a non-threatening atmosphere of love and acceptance. Bringing a diverse community together, they aim to build relationships through art. Through community building, they empower others to make healthier life choices, and welcome anyone

interested in creating art and connecting with others. A winter update from Sandi:

“Just two months into 2024 and things are already shaping up to be an amazing year at The Mess Studio. Since getting back to the community on January 9, 2024, we have been welcoming new artists into the space on a weekly basis. Each day the saying ‘today is a good day for a good day’ is being experienced in living colour as we learn and grow together as a diverse and inclusive community. Already this year we have had mini-workshops in paint pouring, pottery, composition, and photography. Our informal demos are inviting people to explore different avenues of creativity and build community connections. The welcoming uniqueness of our community is a true testament to how quickly our space begins to feel like home to newcomers. Wednesday afternoons often find us looking for additional space as we welcome between 10 and 18 men from Harbour Light every week. What an amazing gift it is to host this enthusiastic group as they get back in touch with their creative sides. We provide at least one instructional demo per month as well as pottery, wood-burning, painting, drawing, and other art forms. Being creative is helping all of us become engaged and empowered to be healthier - individually and collectively.”



CHURCH CALENDAR FOR WINTER 2024

Sunday School – a multi-grade class, each Sunday immediately after Children’s Time. We also have a nursery for infants and pre-schoolers, staffed by a certified ECE.

Choir – Thursdays 7:00 pm, St. Andrew’s Hall, mjchall@telusplanet.net

Imago Dei – A gathering to read Scripture, discuss, study and spend time in contemplative prayer. 1st Thursday monthly, 4:30-5:30. Contact: dotmessenger@gmail.com

Prayer in Song – A meditative ecumenical gathering of singing and prayer in the Taizé tradition. Last Friday of each month, 5:15-6:00 pm, in the chapel of St. Andrew’s. Enter via doors on Princess St. Dates for 2024 are: Mar 29, Apr 26, May 31, Jun 28.

Session – 2nd Monday monthly, 7:00, St. Andrew’s Hall. If you have something you would like to bring to Session, please contact your elder by the Friday before the meeting so it can be put on the agenda.

Financial Review to Feb 29, 2024	Budgeted	Received
General Offerings	\$27,152	\$24,202
Missions (to Dec 31, 2023)	\$15,000	\$23,296

SERVING THIS MORNING

Beadle: Dennis
Livestreaming: Christopher
Flowers: Decorating Committee
Ushers today: Eleanor, Andy
Ushers 17 March: Philippe, Holly

Convener of Property and Maintenance – John Sanger

Treasurer – Paul Payne

Chair of Trustees – Ken Hancock

Clerk of Session – David Holland

Office – Lori-Kim den Otter lorikim@standrewskingston.org

Bookkeeper – Candace Gomes candace@standrewskingston.org

Custodian – Glen Mercer

Director of Music – John Hall – mjchall@telusplanet.net

Minister – Rev. Barry Carr – rvrndbcarr@gmail.com

Gaza Response Amid Ongoing Conflict

The **Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC)** stands in solidarity with all the people of the region, who are enduring the devastating consequences of continued violence and strife. With the church leaders in the area, the PCC condemns all acts that target civilians, regardless of nationality.



After over four months of war in Gaza, tens of thousands have been killed or injured and more than half a million people face catastrophic hunger. The most recent conflict in Rafah, where over a million people have sought refuge, has only complicated an already dire situation. Humanitarian efforts remain challenged by limited access and mobility, as well as the high cost of goods and the difficulties of getting them into Gaza. The [ACT Alliance Palestine Forum](#) continues to coordinate efforts to alleviate suffering on whatever fronts are possible. PWS&D has been responding through ACT Alliance member, DSPR (Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees) of the Middle East Council of Churches. Your generosity is helping enable ongoing work in Gaza.

To date, DSPR has provided:

- Primary health and dental care in their Rafah clinic. Services also include, pharmacy, mother and child health support and distribution of essential medicines, and hygiene and dignity kits.
- Cash transfers to more than 620 families to buy water, food and other essentials.

- Essential food support to approximately 800 people who sought refuge in local churches in Gaza.
- Psychosocial care to children and mothers. Through play-based and creative activities, mental health staff and volunteers are working to help provide psychological relief and restore some normalcy and hope for children. Parents are receiving training on how to support themselves and their children to relieve psychological and emotional stress.

Ongoing conflict makes these activities incredibly challenging to carry out, but ACT Alliance members continues to do all they can.

The need for assistance rises every day. If you would like to help support this essential work, visit: <https://presbyterian.ca/donate/donate-to-pwsd/>

The Presbyterian Church in Canada asks that people pray for all who are affected and threatened and for an end to violence and a just peace in the land of Christ's birth. A sample prayer is:

God of truth, mercy and peace,
 God of life and of reconciliation,
 we mourn the suffering and murder of your people
 and we pray for a just peace
 and reconciliation for the people of Palestine and Israel
 who have endured the burden of violence and conflict for so long.
 Console those who grieve,
 heal the injured,
 comfort those who are alone and afraid,
 protect those who are held hostage, and
 restrain those who would cause more violence
 or act cynically for political gain and power.
 Let wisdom settle on your churches
 and on the governments and leaders of this world
 so that justice is sought,
 reconciliation found,
 peace established and
 security provided for all.
 In the name of Jesus, we pray.
 Amen.