

March 15,
2018

Grace and peace in Jesus Christ:

What a delight to journey with you this Lent at St. John's. It feels like I just arrived yesterday, and now Easter is soon upon us! As we begin the Easter season I invite you to participate in all that St. John's has to offer that we might be reminded of the hope on which our faith is founded.

I particularly draw your attention to the events that mark the great **Triduum** during Holy Week. These are the three holiest days in the Christian calendar, and are intended to be one great liturgy spread over a three day period. While it appears to be four days, it is helpful to understand that the days are marked by following the Jewish tradition of a day beginning at sunset. So the first day begins on Thursday evening, when we hear of Jesus' new commandment at the last supper, and we descend into the darkness of the betrayal, arrest, trial, condemnation and crucifixion of Jesus. It all happened very quickly. We do not emerge from the darkness until the dawn of the third day, which begins on Saturday evening, and we celebrate it on Easter Sunday morning. So come and participate in the richness of it all as much as you are able.

The Easter season lasts for 50 days, and as you can see on the back of this leaflet, we have much to celebrate, with the Bishop's visit and Farewell, Bishop-Elect Susan's Consecration, and our Patronal Festival.

If you are not able to come to church, please let me know. I am happy to come to visit you with an Easter Communion. Similarly, if you have a pastoral issue that you think I should be aware of, please be in touch, so I can support you appropriately. We are called to live our life of faith as community together, so when circumstances prevent your participation at church, then church comes to you.

I am delighted to be working alongside the **Wardens**, Charlotte Logan, Doris M'Timkulu, Marcus Kramer and Peter Barr, and the members of **Parish Council** to identify some areas of ministry at St. John's that need to become our priorities in the longer term. If you have some ideas for ministry that you think we need to focus on, please let me know.

None of this happens without the participation of gifted people and the commitments of generous people. I am so impressed with how many people take on different roles at St. John's, formally and informally, to ensure that our ministry is offered at the highest standards to glorify God. From Sunday School, office volunteers, Youth Choir, nursing home services, property, altar guild, knitters, acolyte training, Portage, and flowers, it is an impressive team. Thank you particularly to Joel Vanderzee who is working alongside Jurgen Petrenko during this period of Noel's leave to ensure that our choral program continues to be offered at the highest standards we are known for. The Wardens will review Noel's leave after Easter. I trust that we all share a responsibility to offer our ministry and programs to the glory of God in a way that ensures that people engage our programs in a safe, holy and prayerful space. If you have any concerns or questions about this, please be in touch with me.

In February **Vestry** approved an operating budget and we are slowly meeting our goals. It costs just over \$1,000 a day to keep St. John's operating with all of our programs; over 90% of that is funded through your generous Givings. As you are able, I trust that you are intentional about reviewing your financial contribution to St. John's. Thank you for supporting St. John's regularly through P.A.G. (*Pre Authorized Giving*) or Offering Envelopes as part of following the resurrected Jesus.

Please find enclosed an Easter Offering Envelope for you to use as a way of making an offering over and above your weekly or monthly commitment.

Easter is a powerful season of renewing your faith in what often seems the unimaginable, the hope and power of God raising Jesus Christ from the dead. Join us at St. John's in helping proclaim the transforming hope of this event to all in our community.

God bless you this Easter.

Faithfully in Christ,

The Rev'd Paul J. Walker
Incumbent

**The Great Triduum
at St. John's**

- **Maundy Thursday**, March 29
6:30pm Holy Eucharist (*men's voices*)
and stripping of the Altar.
- **Good Friday**, March 30
11:00am Ante-Communion and Reproaches
- **Easter Sunday**, April 1
8:00am Holy Communion
9:00am Contemporary Eucharist
10:15am Choral Mattins
11:00am Choral Eucharist

**The Easter Season
at St. John's**

- **Bishop Michael's Visit.**
April 15th 11:00 am.
A Choral Eucharist. Bishop Michael plans to arrive in time to participate in the coffee hour following the 9am service, and then the 11am liturgy, with coffee hour following.
- **Bishop Michael's Farewell Reception.**
Saturday April 21, 1:00 to 4:00pm at the Cathedral Centre.
If you would like to donate towards a farewell purse for Bishop Michael, please make your cheque to Diocese of Niagara, marked "Farewell Reception".
- **The Lessons and Carols for Eastertide.**
Sunday April 22, 11:00 a.m.
- **Bishop-Elect Susan Bell's Service of Consecration.**
Saturday May 5, Christ's Church Cathedral.
- **St. John's Patronal Festival.**
Sunday May 6.
Let us know how you can participate in organizing this celebration.

St. John the Evangelist

36 Henderson Street, Elora, ON, N0B 1S0
519-846-5911
rector.stjohnselora@gmail.com
stjohns@sentex.net