

*From the Rector*_____

As the Church celebrates Rogation Sunday this weekend and the three Rogation Days that fall before Ascension Day, all of which focus on the subject of prayer, I wonder what some of the images are that we're tempted to use as we think about our prayers and our relationship with God. I think that there's a temptation, especially when we're very young, to think about God as a kind of cosmic Santa Claus; a kindly old gentleman on whose lap we can sit, telling him what we most want; who will nicely gift wrap what we ask for and place it proudly under the tree.

And sometimes I wonder if we sometimes think about God as a kind of heavenly vending machine. We put in the correct change, make our selection, and get what we want. After all, didn't Jesus tell us that "Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you"? Surely, if we offer the coins of our wants and needs, our beliefs, and our good behaviour, we will get what we asked for. All of which works fine, until it doesn't. Vending machines are great until they take our money and give us a Mars bar when we really wanted a Diet Coke; or even worse, they give us nothing at all. Think of how we sometimes respond whenever that happens. We get mad. Maybe we push the button again and again. Maybe we hit or kick the machine. Maybe even we tip it side to side. After all, we did our part, and we expect it to do its part.

Sometimes it's not so different with prayer. Some will get angry. Some will feel hurt or betrayed. Some will lose faith. Some even leave the church. We've all had those moments when we prayed and prayed and prayed, for things dearest to our hearts; only to have our earnest, heartfelt prayers go apparently unanswered. It's a story that plays out over and over again in the life of the people of God. And when that's happened, sometimes we hear the most unhelpful explanations: you didn't pray hard enough; or didn't have enough faith; or you were asking for the wrong thing. All of which are hard to take if you've just been praying for something as precious as the life of someone you love, for example.

Whenever I hear those kinds of answers, I can't help but remember a story about a man who prayed on a Thursday night. He prayed fervently with words as well as his own sweat and blood: "Please, please, please Father." But, as we all know, they crucified him the following afternoon. Ask. Seek. Knock.

I don't claim to really understand how prayer works but this much I know. It's not about the coins. It's not about mechanical processes. It's

not about transactions. It's not a matter of trying to tell God something that he doesn't already know. It's really a matter of being in relationship and growing in trust, even when the evidence tries to tell us something else. And in that relationship, the most important step is to echo the words of the disciples, when they asked Jesus about prayer: "Lord, teach us to pray." No matter how long we've been at this, we're always beginners, always learning to pray. Jesus' response is not an explanation of prayer or how it works. He doesn't offer a formula or magic words. He doesn't give us the correct change for the vending machine. Instead Jesus teaches about who and how God is. "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation.

God is holy and we are his daughters and sons. That's a given, a reality, before we even open our mouths; and before we ever offer our coins or make a selection, the relationship already exists. That's how Jesus begins his teaching. Prayer is about relationship and presence. We're not telling God something new. We're reminding ourselves of what already is, always has been, and always will be.

That relationship means that everything about us, even life itself, comes from our Father. And if that's true, then there really is only one answer to every prayer: God. I don't just mean that God answers our prayers but that God is the answer: God's presence, God's life, God's love and beauty and generosity and compassion and forgiveness and wisdom and justice and mercy. God's own self is the answer to our every prayer. Jesus tells us that. If you, he says, know how to give your kids good things "how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit."

And perhaps the greatest difficulty of prayer is that sometimes we just want to offer our coins and push the button. We don't really want God. Instead, we want something from God. We want God to change our circumstances. And while God can and sometimes does change circumstances, I am increasingly convinced that God, more often than not, changes us. God's self-giving sustains, nourishes, strengthens, and enables us to face the circumstances of life, whatever they may be. We do so, sometimes with joy and gratitude, other times with pain and loss, but always with God. On my better days I know this and that's enough. On those other days? It's "Lord, teach me to pray."

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wəlastəkwiyyik (Wolastoqiyik) Peoples. This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Wəlastəkwiyyik (Wolastoqiyik), Mi’kmaq, and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726. The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi’kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyyik (Wolastoqiyik) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.



Parish Notices and Updates _____

PLEASE JOIN WITH OUR PARISH FAMILY this coming **Wednesday, May 17th** at 7:00 p.m. for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Archbishop David Edwards will be with us to confirm eight candidates. A Reception will follow in the Parish Hall

ASCENSION DAY is the Church’s commemoration of Christ’s triumphal return to heaven following His sacrificial death and glorious resurrection. It falls each year on the 40th day of Easter. A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist for the Feast of the Ascension will be held on **Thursday, May 18th at 10:00 a.m.** at All Saints’ Church in the Parish of Marysville; and everyone is encouraged to make the effort to attend as their schedule permits. Some light refreshments will follow the Service. Plan to join us on the 18th as we celebrate the completion of Christ’s earthly ministry and His promise to send us the Holy Spirit.



Please join us in the Parish Hall following the 11:00 a.m. Celebration for Coffee and Conversation.



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*The Anglican Church of Canada
The Diocese of Fredericton*

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK



Going through my prayers this morning just trying to get it done- too much to do. Then I stop myself and say "No!" The point is not to get the prayers done. The point is to say yes to the invitation from God through those prayers. Prayer is a love language not just a task.

Greg Brewer

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER

EASTER

Rogation Sunday

May 13, 2023

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer:

✠ Psalm 68 part 2 | Joshua 24:1-28 | Acts 28:16-end

5:00 p.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Priest: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Introit Psalm 107:1-9:	<i>page 471</i>
The Gloria:	<i>page 86</i>
The Collect:	<i>page 196</i>
The Old Testament Reading:	Joel 2:21-26
Easter Anthems	<i>page 182</i>
The Epistle:	<i>page 196</i>
Gradual Psalm 66:15-19:	<i>page 409</i>
The Holy Gospel:	<i>page 197</i>
The Creed:	<i>page 71</i>
The Homily	
The Prayers of the People:	L: Lord, in your mercy C: Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	<i>page 82</i>
Post Communion Prayer:	<i>page 85</i>

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

MAY 15: ROGATION DAY

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

MAY 16: ROGATION DAY

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer, All Saints, Marysville

MAY 17: ROGATION DAY

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

2:00 p.m. – Holy Communion, Nashwaak Villa

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – The Sacrament of Confirmation with
the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
Followed by a Reception in the Parish Hall

MAY 18: ASCENSION DAY

9:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer, All Saints, Marysville

10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, All Saints, Marysville

2:00 p.m. – Holy Communion, Paradise Villa

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

MAY 19: DUNSTAN, Archbishop of Canterbury, 988

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

4:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer (Zoom)

MAY 20: THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

THE COUNCIL OF NICAEA, 325

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

MAY 21: THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION

8:45 a.m. – Morning Prayer, All Saints, Marysville

9:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, All Saints, Marysville

11:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

*Followed by Coffee & Conversation in the
Parish Hall*

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

Rogation Sunday

May 14, 2023

*Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

11:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Priest: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

♫ PROCESSIONAL HYMN:	359 (UNSER HERRSHER)
The Gloria:	<i>page 86</i>
The Collect:	<i>page 196</i>
The Old Testament Reading:	Joel 2:21-26
♫ EASTER ANTHEMS	<i>page 182</i>
The Epistle:	<i>page 196</i>
♫ GRADUAL HYMN:	367 (DIADEMATA)
The Holy Gospel:	<i>page 197</i>
Gospel Acclamation:	Alleluia (LASST UNS ERFREUEN 352)
The Creed:	<i>page 71</i>
The Homily	
♫ OFFERTORY HYMN:	600 (TERRA BEATA)
The Prayers of the People:	L: Lord, in your mercy C: Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	<i>page 82</i>
Post Communion Prayer:	<i>page 85</i>
♫ RECESSIONAL HYMN:	721 (ROYAL OAK)

*During the singing of the Recessional Hymn, the
Congregation is invited to process to the Community
Food Forest for the annual Rogation Blessing.*

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A Message from the

Parish Wardens

Save the Date for Fr. Kevin's Retirement Party

Shannon and I would like to welcome you to join us in commemorating the wonderful ministry of Fr. Kevin and Janice at St. Mary's with a retirement party on June 17th.

We will be holding an informal BBQ after the 5 pm service, which will take place in the St. Mary's Community Food Forest (weather permitting).

It's an excellent opportunity to come together as a community and express our gratitude for their tireless work.

Please note that Fr. Kevin has humbly requested that donations be made to the St. Mary's Renovation Fund in lieu of monetary gifts.

See you then!

- Andrew Mathis

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