

From the Curate

St. Helena of Constantinople (c. 246 or 248-330)

While there are a variety of days depending on which calendar you follow, the 21st of May is the day that parts of the Church keep the feast day of St. Helena of Constantinople (or Helen). St. Helena is most notably the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine the Great, who himself is famous for being the first Christian Emperor of Rome who legalized the religion and allowed it to flourish.



Helena was born to a humble family of innkeepers in the Bithynia region of the empire, in what is modern-day Turkey. Sometime around the year 270, she was married to the Roman general Constantius Chlorus despite not being from a noble family. Together, Constantius and Helena had one son, Constantine, in 272 before Constantius abandoned his wife in 289 to pursue another woman who would be politically advantageous for him in his search for power. Constantius became *Caesar* in 293, and then consolidated his power as *Augustus* (senior emperor) in 305. He spent most of his time as *Caesar* in modern-day France and England, and upon succeeding as *Augustus*, launched a campaign against the Picts in Scotland. He died suddenly

in York, England in 306, and his army soon proclaimed his son, Constantine, to be the sole emperor – immediately pitting Constantine against the other members of the Imperial Tetrarchy of co-emperors. The ensuing series of civil wars would play out for nearly twenty years, but in the meantime, Constantine began to embrace the Christian faith. He recognized his birth mother, Helena, as a noble, and raised her status to the highest woman in the empire.

In February 313, Constantine proclaimed the Edict of Milan, which legalized Christianity within the Roman Empire. Sometime shortly thereafter, the Greek historian and bishop, Eusebius, wrote that Helena began to embrace the faith and was baptized at about sixty-three years old. Her enthusiasm and craving for Christ was such that Eusebius wrote,

“She became such a devout servant of God under [her son’s] influence that one might believe her to have been a disciple of the Saviour of mankind from her very childhood.” She is credited for single-handedly lighting the fire of faith in thousands of Romans through her example, and she commissioned many large, proud churches to be built. Constantine gave Helena unlimited access to the imperial treasury so that she could find Christian relics.

In 324, Constantine became Master of the East, and Helena soon was travelling to Palestine to visit and worship the places made sacred by the bodily presence of our Lord. Now in her eighties, Helena wrote to the Bishop of Jerusalem to commission churches in the Holy Land to be built, especially the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, and the Church of Eleona on the Mount of Olives. Tradition also holds that Helena found three wooden crosses buried, which were believed to be the three from Jesus’ death. Legendary accounts of the discovery say that Helena ordered the Bishop of Jerusalem to have a woman who was near death brought from the city. When the woman touched the first and second crosses, her condition did not change, but when she touched the third and final cross she suddenly recovered – this cross was declared to be the “true cross”.

Upon returning to Rome, Helena kept attending churches dressed in humble clothes and could be seen low to the floor, despite her noble status. She died around the year 330 and is buried in Rome. St. Helena is remembered as a holy woman for being a devoted follower of Christ, despite her advanced age and wealth. She is often depicted wearing imperial robes along with the Cross she found in Jerusalem – as she is portrayed on the Iconostasis at All Saints’ Church in Marysville.

May the love and devotion that St. Helena had for Christ be an example to us all, as we remember her among the saints of the Church.



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 _____

STARTING ON MONDAY, THE RECTOR expects to be on vacation for the next two weeks and will be returning to the Parish on June 6th. Please be sure to contact Fr. Nicholas on all pastoral and administrative concerns.

THE PARISH CORPORATION IS LOOKING TO HIRE A NEW SEXTON to look after the cleaning of the Church and Hall. If you, or someone that you know, is interested in applying for the position, please contact one of the Parish Wardens: Shannon Thornton (shannon-l-drost@hotmail.com) or Andrew Mathis (andrewmathis36@gmail.com); or Fr. Nicholas.

NEXT WEEKEND THE CHURCH will commemorate the **Feast of Pentecost, or Whitsunday**, the day on which the Holy Spirit was given to the Church that it might carry out the ministry to which it is called. The liturgical colour for Pentecost is red, in remembrance of the flames of fire that appeared on the heads of the Apostles, as described in Acts 2. To help celebrate that day, **EVERYONE** is invited to wear something red that day when they come to Church. Let's try to fill the Church with the bright red of Holy Fire when we gather next week for the Feast of Pentecost!

THE NEXT WORKDAY AT CAMP MEDLEY will be on Saturday, June 3rd, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and they would love to have your help. There will be lots of cleaning and other projects we are going to do with different skill levels required, so all are welcomed and needed. To help with their planning, you are asked to let the Director, the Revd. John Galbraith, know if you are thinking of going as it will help them prepare. Lunch will be provided. Contact: director@campmedley.ca; O: 506-488-2874; C: 506-471-2429.

FR. NICHOLAS AND MELISSA will be married at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday, June 10th at 2:00 p.m. Members of the Parish are welcome to attend this celebration of the Holy Eucharist as they are wed before Almighty God along with their friends and families.

GLUTEN-FREE COMMUNION WAFERS are available; please speak to one of the clergy before the service.

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

*The Anglican Church of Canada
The Diocese of Fredericton*

THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK



In the days of His earthly ministry, only those could speak to him who came where He was. If He was in Galilee, men could not find Him in Jerusalem; if He was in Jerusalem, men could not find Him in Galilee. But His Ascension means that He is perfectly united with God; we are with Him wherever we are present to God; and that is everywhere and always. Because He is "in Heaven" He is everywhere on earth: because He is ascended, He is here now. Our devotion is not to hold us by the empty tomb; it must lift up our hearts to heaven so that we too "in heart and mind thither ascend and with Him continually dwell;" it must also send us forth into the world to do His will; and these are not two things, but one.

William Temple (1881-1944), *Readings in St. John's Gospel*

THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY

May 20, 2023

*Alleluia! Christ has ascended
into Heaven! O come, let us
worship! Alleluia!*

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer:

✠ Psalm 103 | Judges 5 | Hebrews 4:14-5:10

5:00 p.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit Psalm 27:1-7:	<i>page 360</i>
The Gloria:	<i>page 86</i>
The Collect:	<i>page 203</i>
The Old Testament Reading:	2 Kings 2:9-15
Psalm 27:8-12:	<i>page 361</i>
The Epistle:	<i>page 203</i>
Gradual Psalm 47:5-10:	<i>page 389</i>
The Holy Gospel:	<i>page 203</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 22: ASCENSION FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

MAY 23: ASCENSION FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

2:00 p.m. – Holy Communion, Neill Hall

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer, All Saints, Marysville

MAY 24: ASCENSION FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

MAY 25: ALDHELM, Bishop of Sherborne, Scholar & Poet, 709

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer, All Saints, Marysville

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

MAY 26: AUGUSTINE, Missionary, Archbishop of Canterbury, 597

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

4:00 p.m. – Evening Prayer (Zoom)

MAY 27: THE DAY OF PENTECOST: WHITSUNDAY

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

MAY 28: THE DAY OF PENTECOST: WHITSUNDAY

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 Hall

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer



PRIEST & RECTOR

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THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY

May 21, 2023

*Alleluia! Christ has ascended
into Heaven! O come, let us
worship! Alleluia!*

11:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

♫ PROCESSIONAL HYMN:	174 (LLANFAIR)
The Gloria:	page 86
The Collect:	page 196
The Old Testament Reading:	2 Kings 2:9-15
Psalm 47:5-10:	page 389
The Epistle:	page 196
♫ GRADUAL HYMN:	392 (DARWALL)
The Holy Gospel:	page 197
Gospel Acclamation:	Alleluia (LASST UNS ERFREUEN 352)
The Creed:	page 71
The Homily	
♫ OFFERTORY HYMN:	357 (KING'S WESTON)
The Prayers of the People:	L: Lord, in your mercy C: Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	page 82
Post Communion Prayer:	page 85
♫ RECESSIONAL HYMN:	235 (ST. OSMUND)

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