



St. Mary Magdalene Church
Picton
Thanksgiving 2020



Teatime-October by Andrew Innes

A Prayer to Nature

The wind listens

Hear my heart, hear my spirit, hear my words.

The water cleanses

Clean my heart, clean my spirit, clean my mind.

The animals guide me

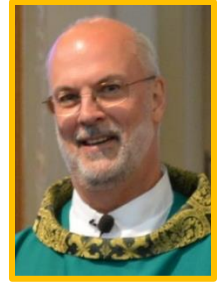
Guide my heart, guide my spirit, guide my mind.

Mother earth feeds me

Feed my heart, feed my spirit, feed my mind.

- Brandon Bob, First Nations' Poet

Our Rector's Message: Returning from Exile



In our summer edition of *The Vine* I reflected on how the COVID-19 pandemic has forced us into a kind of exile: exile from being with family and friends, from public gatherings, especially gathering in church, and even exile from sharing the Eucharist together. In my message I shared some of the inspiration I found in the Psalms, as the people of Israel, our spiritual forebears, expressed sadness and despair during their exile in Babylon, yet never lost hope that the God of love would somehow put things right.

Well, here we are a few months later, having returned from exile, sort-of. Shops, restaurants, and other businesses that were closed have reopened, our church has reopened, and we are once again celebrating the Eucharist. Sort-of. We are back, but whether in stores or at church we are wearing masks, keeping our distance, avoiding handshakes. Even Communion is different: we don't sing together, we share the bread but not the wine, and our fellowship takes place on the front lawn without benefit of coffee, and socially distanced.

And once again our spiritual forebears who have walked these roads before us provide inspiration. When finally their exile was over, and they were allowed to leave Babylon and return home to Jerusalem, the Israelite's joy was muted by what awaited them. The books of Ezra and Nehemiah in the Old Testament tell how when they returned, everything was in ruins. They set about rebuilding their lives and their house of worship, but nothing was easy. They had a great celebration when the temple foundation was laid, but in a moving account Ezra tells us "many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house" (Ezra 3:12). They were doing their best to rebuild a temple that had



A Thanksgiving Prayer

Thank you, Lord,

been reduced to a pile of rubble, but the new building was not nearly so grand as the old, and it would take a lot of time and effort before things would be back to anything like normal. There were many days when they faltered and felt like giving up, but as a community they kept their faith in God, and that saw them through hard days.

Before we reopened, as I read the protocols we had to follow to resume services, I confess I felt like “the old people who had seen the first house” and I wanted to weep. It is not the same, and it won’t be for a while.

And yet, the care and support of our congregation has remained strong right through this pandemic. Fifty parishioners came to church for our first Sunday back since closing. Our Bible Study group has continued using Zoom. We now have the means to share our services via livestream, and each week many dozens have joined our worship in that way, often sharing how it felt like they were almost there in the church with us.

All of this nurtures my confidence that we will find our way back from exile, and will be the better for having found our way through it. It reminds me I have a lot to be thankful for, and leads me to focus my heart on that as we approach Thanksgiving Weekend. Whether in person in church, or via livestream video, I look forward to joining with you in worship.

Yours faithfully, *Charles*

St. Mary Magdalene Milestones

Passing

James Taylor

Anniversary

Lorraine and Brian Hyatt (50 years)



*For each new day
you give to me.*



It wouldn't be Thanksgiving at our home without...

Marie Connor: ... *pumpkin pie and Nell's Thanksgiving array at the Church.*



Kathy Condie: ...*our family...my daughter and son in law and our 2 grandsons...ages 2 and 5. They are precious little boys and we love them dearly. They live in Ottawa and so we don't see them daily although we do spend as much time together as possible. Covid-19 has impacted our ability to visit freely...so Thanksgiving for us is all about our family spending days together; long walks, special meals and cuddle ups with our boys and their favourite book or a stuffed dinosaur...ROAR!!!.*

Maxine Tiller: ... *long distance phone calls with my sisters!*

Helen and Brian Pinkerton: ... *having Thanksgiving dinner with family and friends.*



6-year-old **Alice Davies:** ...*turkey and pumpkin pie! Yum!*

Wendy LeBlanc: ...*tiny bouquets at each Thanksgiving dinner place-setting using the last flowers from the garden.*

claudiajeanmccabe: ... It wouldn't be Thanksgiving without *Love.*



*For earth and sky and
sand and sea,*

What does a Return to Church Mean to You?

While livestreamed services will be offered for those parishioners who are not able to attend in person, St. Mary Magdalene opened its doors to in-person worship on a wet blustery Sunday morning, on September 13th. The poor weather did not deter many of our congregation who were welcomed by the warm lights and twinkling candles in our beautiful church. For many of us it was the first time seeing our friends in many months.



Charles via You Tube

The Wardens kept us safe by ensuring all safety protocols were followed with respect to hand sanitization and the use of masks. The church was carefully cleaned with all touch points sanitized before and between services and has also been appropriately segmented to ensure that social distancing guidelines were being met.

While some things are very different today from six months ago, it is reassuring to see familiar traditions observed even with a few tweaks. Charles' message of forgiveness was comforting and timely in a world where things seem uncertain. His words help guide us through these challenging times and remind us of the importance of taking the time to breathe in the beauty of God's forgiveness and to release that breath to help us forgive others.

In our "new normal" we exchange God's peace as we remain at our seat and acknowledge others in the church with signs and gestures of peace rather than a physical expression. Passing the Peace began as a way for people in the Christian community to be reconciled to one another before making their offering at the altar. Communion, rather than being offered at the altar is offered at the pew to ensure social distancing is observed.

Another tradition at St. MM, it was lovely to be able to observe birthdays and anniversaries from the last six months, and to celebrate with blessings and prayers.

While this has been a cautious re-opening, one could certainly feel the warmth and spirit of our parish family. *- Maxine Tiller*



*For rainbows after
springtime showers,*



PK

Raise Your Voices in *Thanksgiving*

While our joyful noise at Church is silenced, will you be singing a much-loved Thanksgiving Hymn at home? Your favourite is ...?

O THANK THE LORD FOR ALL HIS LOVE

It is hard to choose a favourite Thanksgiving Hymn. However Hymn 258 "**We plough the fields and scatter**" reflects the special time of year when you reap the fruits of your efforts made throughout the year. The Hymn evokes happy childhood memories for me of the Harvest Festival when the church was filled with a bounty of harvest produce, including several large sheaf-shaped loaves of bread. As children we proudly brought baskets of fruit and vegetables which we placed before the altar. *Pauline Smith*



ALL GOOD GIFTS

I really enjoy **We Plough the Fields and Scatter**. The hymn reminds me of growing up in England and harvest festival at school and also of my farm on Wilson Road which dates back to the 1830s. There have certainly been many harvests there and many blessings to celebrate



Michael Korn

IN ENDLESS SONG

My favourite Thanksgiving hymn is "**My Life Flows on in Endless Song**", #401 in our hymn book. Why? Because it speaks to a life that is not perfect, a life that has many ups and downs, as the hymn says "tumult and strife, darkness, sickness and fear," but through all this we have so much to be thankful for. We have the beauty of creation. We have the comforts of home and good food from bountiful harvests. We have family and friends. We have a Saviour who guides us, loves us and a promise of salvation. With all this "How can I keep from singing?" *Deacon Fran Langlois*



IN GLAD ADORATION

I think that Hymn 384 **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty** offers a fine range of voices united in praise and thanksgiving for the bounty from our Lord. It is also fun to sing. *John Brett*



LORD OF MY HEART

I have two hymns I have always liked: **Great is Thy Faithfulness** and **Be Thou my Vision**.

Ross Saunders



GOD'S ALMIGHTY HAND

My favourite Thanksgiving hymn is "**We Plough the Fields and Scatter**". The lyrics' empowered language enables a heartfelt and grateful connection with our Creator and the world around us at harvest time - a season that is entirely one of my favs as well. I have sung the hymn book version at Harvest Thanksgiving time for as long as I can remember.



Joan McBride

HEART and HANDS and VOICES

When our daughter was married, the bridal party - who are all talented singers and/or musicians - turned to face the wedding guests and led them in a rousing rendition of '**Now Thank We All Our God**.' It has always been a family favourite Thanksgiving hymn and singing it now brings back other fond memories.

Wendy LeBlanc



Autumn leaves and summer flowers,

Harvest fields of gold and green,



New Treasurer at St. MM

'This is where I want to live' was the thought running through Angela Adams' mind during a visit with friends in Bloomfield. And, after discovering her dream home on the internet, she made the move to The County from Oakville in 2012. 'It was meant to be,' she says, 'and I've never looked back.'



Angela Adams

Leaving her beloved St. Simon's Anglican Church in Oakville was difficult. Angela's plan to find a new church where she felt comfortable led her to St. Mary Magdalene, the first church she attended after her move. Immediately she felt at home and welcomed by the church members. 'I love the people,' she says fondly, 'They make the church.'

After beginning life in her new home with full-time employment as an accountant in Belleville, eight years later she is now working as part-time bookkeeper/accountant for Prince Edward County's *The Grange Winery*.

Admitting that she does not handle boredom well, Angela's busy life includes walking with the Prince Edward County Walkers Club (a typical Saturday walk covers 6 to 10 kilometers), knitting, cooking, gardening, and cycling.

As an active member of St. Mary Magdalene, she arranges transportation to church for those needing it. And, now following the death of Art Hewer 'who did an amazing job', Angela notes, she is taking on the responsibilities as our new Parish treasurer.

The Churchwardens were pleased to announce in late August that after serving as interim treasurer for several weeks, Angela accepted the position permanently. On behalf of the congregation, they expressed, 'We couldn't be more pleased. Congratulations, Angela, and thank you!'



DG



*Winter snowscapes
so serene,*

Contributions from Our Readers

Shared by *Philip Robins*:

My grandson was
visiting one day
when he asked,
"Grandma, do
you know how you
and God are
alike?" I mentally
polished my halo,
while I asked,
"No, how are we
alike?"
"You're both old,"
he replied.

Have a short story, poem,
or cartoon clipping that you
would like to share? Please
send it to Maxine. We'll do
our best to fit it in a future
edition of *The Vine*.

HUGS

*It's a wondrous thing what a Hug can do,
A Hug can cheer you when you're blue,*

*A Hug can say, "I love you so",
Or, "Gee I hate to see you go,"
A Hug is, "Welcome back again!"
And, "Great to see you!" or
"Where 've you been?"*

*A Hug can soothe a small child's pain,
And bring a rainbow after rain.
The Hug! There's just no doubt about it,
We scarcely could survive without it.
A Hug delights and warms and charms,
It must be why God gave us arms.*

*Hugs are great for fathers and mothers,
Sweet for sisters, swell for brothers,
And chances are some favourite aunts
Love them more than potted plants.*

*Kittens crave them. Puppies love them.
Heads of state are not above them.
A Hug can break the language barrier,
And make the dullest day seem merrier.
No need to fret about the store of 'em.
The more you give, the more there are of 'em*

*So stretch those arms without delay
And give someone a hug today!*

... something to look forward to when
social-distancing is a thing of the past!

Submitted by **Lorraine Gilbert**



Beauty shining
all around,



This Edition's Feature Artists

Andrew Innes's wonderful paintings are well-loved and well-known by our congregation and far beyond. In this edition, he shares with us the front cover feature which is in a private collection and the delightful painting shown on right, '*Dappled Light*', which is available at The Mad Dog Gallery. The lovely boats in the water painting in the Thanksgiving Prayer is also one of Andrew's works.



Photos featured in the Thanksgiving Prayer were captured by **David Gilbert, Penny Kitchen, Joe Parisi, and Wendy LeBlanc** and are acknowledged with their initials.

A Page From Our History (142 years ago)

A new bell for the Church of St. Mary Magdalene was brought to Picton on October 11th, 1878 on board the steamer 'Kincardine'. The bell weighed 1,610 pounds and was inscribed "Holiness unto the Lord. Zechariah 14:20 September 1878". The bell was purchased from the bell foundry of Meneeley's in Troy, NY and the church treasurer's book records that the company was paid \$482.76 for the bell, lake freight was \$15.60, insurance \$1.50 and cartage, etc. \$2.66 for a total of \$505.52. The bell is about four and a half feet high and about four feet in diameter. (1878).

It was reported at Easter 1913 that 'the cost of moving the bell from the old church to the new was \$15.00'. (1913)

From 'A Goodly Heritage' by Alan R. Capon




*Lilac scent and
robin sound,*

● From the St. MM Bulletin Board ●

Volunteer Opportunity!

After serving for five years as the co-ordinator for our **Memorial Flower Roster**, Joan McBride, will step down at the end of this year. The role involves about two hours each month calling the people on the roster for confirmation of dates and dedication information. Please consider taking on this role. For more information, contact Joan at 613-885-2994



FOOD BANK NEEDS

During the COVID-19 restrictions, we will not be collecting our usual donations for the Food Bank. Please consider writing a cheque or including cash in a specially-marked envelope to assist with this important community mission.

THANK YOU!

Be kind, be calm, be safe!



*Stars that twinkle high above,
And all the people that I love.*



Worship Services

Sunday: 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m. View livestream service via stmpicton.ca

Wednesday: 10:30 a.m. Zoom Bible Study

If you do not receive COVID-19 update emails from St. MM, go to the bottom of the webpage to find out how to subscribe.

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Happy Thanksgiving, Amen