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## **A SERVICE MORNING PRAYER: FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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*Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Anglican Church of Canada is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.*

*We are an affirming church, and we offer a warm welcome to people of all walks of life. This is a safe space for everyone as we are all created in the image of God.*

*We gratefully acknowledge that we are in the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.*

### **Good Shephard Sunday**

Today is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.



#### **Good Shepherd Sunday (Fourth Sunday of Easter)**

O God of peace,  
who brought again from the  
dead our Lord Jesus Christ,  
that great shepherd of the  
sheep by the blood of the  
eternal covenant, make us  
perfect in every good work  
to do your will, and work in  
us that which is well-pleasing  
in your sight; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord.

**Gathering Hymn:** You are the Healing

## **The Gathering of the Community**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
May his grace and peace be with you.  
**May he fill our hearts with joy.**

*Officiant*      The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all

*People*          **And also with you.**

*Officiant*      Let us pray.

## **Prayer of Reaffirmation** *(from the Iona Community)*

Minister: With the whole church

**All: We affirm that we are made in God's image, befriended by Christ,  
empowered by the Spirit.**

Minister: With people everywhere

**All: We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more  
deeply than all that is wrong.**

Minister: With all creation

**All: We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life; the unfolding purposes of  
God, forever at work in ourselves and the world.**

## The Collect of the Day

**O God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
by the blood of the eternal covenant,  
make us perfect in every good work to do your will,  
and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Proclamation of the Word

**First Reading:** ACTS 4: 5-12

*Peter's speech describes Jesus as the savior and healer of the crippled man—which can function today as a gloss on the shepherd imagery. An alternate image in this excerpt is the metaphor of the cornerstone, Christ on whom the church is built.*

**T**he next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

Reader: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church*

All: **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 23** (*read responsively by the verse*)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

**You make me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

You revive my soul and guides me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

**Second Reading:** 1 John 3: 16-24

*We are reading in semicontinuous fashion through 1 John. Today's passage echoes the gospel selection that speaks of Christ laying down his life for us. Our baptism calls us now to follow our shepherd by offering ourselves to others.*

**W**e know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Reader: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church*

All: **Thanks be to God**

**Gradual Hymn:** CP 465 Here in this place, new light is streaming

**The Holy Gospel:** John 10: 11-18

Reader The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to . . .

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

Reader: The Gospel of Christ

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon The Rev. Dr. Cathy Simpson

## **An Affirmation of Faith:**

Hear, O People the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul,  
with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.**

**This is the first and the great commandment.**

**The second is like it:**

**Love your neighbour as yourself.**

**There is no commandment greater than these.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

**We pray for:** Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby; Archbishop Linda Nicholls, Primate; Archbishop David Edwards Metropolitan and Bishop Sandra Fyfe, Bishop of Nova Scotia and PEI.

### **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Christ Church, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia**

The Reverend Kyle Wagner and Dr. Julie, The Reverend Bonnie Baird, Pastoral Visitor **St. Andrew's, Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia** The Reverend Katherine Bourbonniere and Brian, The Reverend Walter Beazley, Associate Parish Priest, and Brenda, The Reverend Gary Giles, Associate Parish Priest, and Dawn-Marie **Eastern Passage, Nova Scotia** The Reverend Cate Ratcliffe, St. Peter's, Eastern Passage, Christ Church, Cow Bay

**Christ Church Prayer List:** Glen Nieforth, James Nieforth, Nicola Norton-Ashley & Family, Carla MacDonald, Trevor, Alexandra, Elena & Heidi Nuyen, Darlene & Malcolm O'Donnell.

**For the Dearly Departed:** Carol Galbraith

Today as we continue the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord, we give thanks for the gift of life. We give thanks for the extraordinary man, and son of God—Jesus. We give thanks for all who assume leadership in this parish—all of the baptised. We give

thanks and lift up members of our staff today: John Gallant, Tessa Short, Joey Dowell, Andrew Smith, Rev. Kyle, and Rev. Bonnie.

**God in each one of us: Hear our prayer**

We pray for all who, like the Holy Family, cannot find room in the inn; for those millions without a home or food, safety, health, or freedom to worship as they wish, and for the poor who work, sometimes at several jobs, without earning sufficient for the needs of their families.

**God in each one of us: Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those we know who are sick or in need of prayers: Joan Halsey , Glen, Gloria, Bruce, Nancy, Les, Rick , Rainer, Melba, Shelia Jollimore, Edith, Bob, Christine, Susan, Shelagh, Bev & John Zinck, Faye & Brud Thornham, Allan, Ross and Residents of the Admiral, Oakwood, Oceanview, Parkland, and all in Care Homes.

**God in each one of us: Hear our prayer**

We give thanks for those who keep us safe during this time of COVID-19: Government officials, Doctors, Nurses, Caregivers, Laboratory technicians, those who answer the phone (811), all care givers in nursing homes and hospitals, those who educate—our teachers, and all who seek to bind our community together in good health.

**God in each one of us: Hear our prayer**

We pray that this new year will be a time of reconciliation and healing of the many divisions in our world, for building bridges to bring nations and people together, for sharing the wealth, for creating ways to help heal our planet

**God in each one of us: Hear our prayer**

Give us, Great Spirit, a vision for our world as your love would make it – where the weak are protected and none are hungry or poor; where the goods of this life are shared and everyone can enjoy them; where different nations, races and cultures live in

harmony and with mutual respect; where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love; and give us the courage and inspiration to build it. AMEN

### **Offering Hymn:** The Eyes and Hands of Christ

*We have listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness and shared in the peace. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, and in the treasures we give.*

You can donate your offering online if you wish by visiting:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/parish-of-christ-church-dartmouth/>

*Leader:* Yours, Lord, is the greatness,  
the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.  
All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Officiant* And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*All* **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 trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Doxology**

*Officiant*      *Glory to God*  
**whose power, working in us,  
can do infinitely more  
than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

**Closing Hymn:** I Feel the Winds of God Today - organ

## **Dismissal**

*Leader*      Let us bless the Lord.  
*People*      Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Our mission at Christ Church is to be a welcoming Christian community committed to enabling each other to grow through worship, spiritual fellowship and service, following the example of Christ.

*We are an affirming church, and we offer a warm welcome to people of all walks of life. This is a safe space for everyone as we are all created in the image of God.*

*We gratefully acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.*

## Directory of Parish Officers

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### Rector

The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner, BA, MDiv, DMin

### Pastoral Visitor

The Rev. Bonnie Baird, BJ, MDiv

### Parish Administrator

John Gallant

### Music Ministry

Tessa Short, Joey Dowell, John MacDonald

### Sexton

Andrew Smith

### Honorary Assistants

The Rev. Canon Dr. Jody Clarke  
(Theologian in Residence)

The Rev. Canon David Greenwood

### Lay Reader

Vanessa Turner

### Wardens

Steve Smith, Don Murray, Cathy Connors

### Altar Guild

Marg Seaman

### Chair of Finance

John MacDonald

### Youth Ministry

The Rev. Kyle Wagner

### Parish Contacts:

**Office Phone:** (902) 466-4270

**Email:**

christchurch@christchurchdartmouth.com

**Web:** www.christchurchdartmouth.com

**Parish Office Hours:** Monday–9am-4pm\*

Tuesday-Thursday 1pm-5pm\*

\*Please call as hours may vary

**Church Hall:** 61 Dundas Street

**Postal:** 61 Dundas Street, Dartmouth, Nova  
Scotia, B2Y 4H5

### Pastoral Ministry

Carolyn Chenhall

### Historical

Janice Silver

### Property

Larry Graham

### Anglican Church Women

ACW Isabel Creighton Unit: Lindsay  
Patriquin; ACW Ethel F. Stevens Unit:  
Carolyn Chenhall

### Perpetual Care Committee

Marg Seaman

### Food and Clothing Ministry

Christine Hoehne

### Heritage Oak Columbarium

902-466-2443

Sales@heritageoak.com

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