

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

With the warm weather and melting snow, I have noticed in the backyard the mess of dead and decaying vegetable matter that was left in the garden when the first snow fell. When it's a little warmer, I'll go into the garden and clear away all the debris from last year's growing season so I can plant something new in its place. It's clear to me that what is left will not be reinvigorated and therefore will bear no fruit so it will have to be dug up and burned.

It's strange that this is the week when it got warm enough to finally melt the last bit of snow that was covering the garden. As the ugly scene of decay was revealed, I found myself in the midst of reflection on the readings for this week. The gospel, of course, contains a parable of Jesus about the fig tree.

The crowd that has gathered around Jesus wants to know about things like judgement and mercy. We missed the set-up for this week's reading, but if you go back and read chapter twelve and then the first nine verses of chapter thirteen (which are this week's gospel reading), you can get a sense of the tone and content of the conversation. Jesus has been explaining to the crowd parables on preparation, discipleship, anxiety, and now judgement. In response to the crowd's complaint about the Galileans that Pilate executed and whose blood mingled with the blood of their sacrificial offering, Jesus does not give them the answer they wanted.

Rather, he asks twice (once relating to the people Pilate killed and once relating to a group of people who appear to have been killed when part of the wall of Jerusalem near Siloam fell on them), "Do you think they suffered/were killed in this way because they were worse sinners/offenders than all other Galileans/Jerusalemites?" Jesus rebuts a commonly held misconception about God—one that still persists to this day—that God is the immediate cause of all events, which leaves no room for events that happen because we choose to make them happen or which happen randomly. For Jesus the question about the Galileans or the people who were killed by the crumbling wall is not about "why". Instead, he says to the crowd that their real concern should be that they are prepared for the judgement, that is, that none of us will ever know when we are going to die (if we knew the "why" then we might be able to figure out the when) so we should always be prepared.

The reality is, according to Jesus, that repentance is urgent. We could be called to account tomorrow so we'd better be ready to answer. And it doesn't matter if we're the holiest saint or the worst sinner, every one of us will be called before the judgement seat.

So, as he tells the story of the fig tree, it reminds us all that there is a gardener who is looking out in his yard for what is dead and decaying and will not give further fruit. And it will be uprooted and tossed on the fire. Have no doubt about that. Let each of us be prepared, then, for the judgement by being faithful, fruitful disciples and by trusting that God our gardener will show us love and mercy.

Our mission, for the glory of God in Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit, is to:

- Celebrate all that God has done for us through worship and witness with others.
- Respond to our call to be disciples of Christ by sharing our faith, rooted in the Word of God, with others and encouraging others to become followers of Christ through word and action.
- Practice good stewardship of our human, financial and environmental resources, working to ensure that all of God's Creation is viable for future generations.
- Grow ourselves and others by reaching out to our communities, following Jesus' example of generous caring, giving, and welcoming.

REGULAR SERVICES

All Saints', Tyendinaga

Sunday Celebration—8:30 a.m.

Christ Church, HM Chapel Royal of the Mohawk

Sunday Celebration—10:30 a.m.

Third Sundays Combined Parish Service

April to September—Christ Church—10:30 a.m.

October to March—All Saints'—8:30 a.m.

PARISH PRIEST

The Rev'd Brad Smith

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WARDENS

All Saints'

Bill Brant 967-1129

Bev Hill 962-5183

Christ Church

Doug Green 396-2337

Tammy Doreen 396-4663

PARISH CENTRE

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Website: <http://www.parishoftyendinaga.org>



THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF TYENDINAGA

DIocese of Ontario

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA



CHRIST CHURCH

HER MAJESTY'S CHAPEL ROYAL OF THE MOHAWK



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

TYENDINAGA

Vision Statement

To be a Spirit-filled and life giving place where strangers become friends and friends become disciples.

**Sunday 7 March 2010
Third Sunday in Lent**

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Opening Hymn CP 404
 Apostolic Greeting BAS 185
 Summary of the Law
Presider Amen.
People **Lord, have mercy.**

Comfortable Words
 Exhortation, Confession, and Absolution
Presider ...and make your humble confession to almighty God.
All **Eternal God, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.**

Trisagion CP 707
 Collect of the Day

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading Isaiah 55:1-9
 Psalm 63:1-8 BAS 783



Second Reading 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
 Gradual Hymn CP 179 (verse 6d)
 Gospel Luke 13:1-9
 Homily
 Nicene Creed BAS 188
 Prayers of the People
 Peace

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn CP 606
 Prayer over the Gifts
 Eucharistic Prayer 2 BAS 198
 Sanctus and Benedictus (Holy, Holy, Holy) CP 735
 Lord's Prayer BAS 211
 Breaking of the Bread 7 213
 Agnus Dei (O Lamb of God) CP 747

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us. Jesus, Bearer of our sin, have mercy on us. Jesus, Redeemer, Redeemer of the world, give us your peace, give us your peace.

Communion
 Music: CP 478, SB 55

All are welcome to join in the Eucharistic feast. As you come forward for Communion, please take a moment to clean your hands with the sanitiser found at the front of the church. If you do not wish to drink from the common cup, please be assured that receiving the bread alone is considered making a full Communion. Please do not dip your bread into the wine.

COMMISSIONING AND DISMISSAL

Prayer after Communion BAS 214
 Blessing
 Closing Hymn CP 531
 Dismissal BAS 215

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LITURGIES

Mon 29 Mar to Thu 1 Apr—Holy Week Morning Worship
 7:00 a.m., Rectory
 Maundy Thursday (1 Apr)—Commemoration of the Lord's Supper
 6:00 p.m., Queen Anne Parish Centre
 Please bring a potluck dish to share (avoiding meat and "treats" if we can) as well as necessary dinnerware and utensils.
 Good Friday (2 Apr)—The Crucifixion of our Lord
 10:00 a.m., All Saints' Church
 Holy Saturday (3 Apr)—The Great Vigil of Easter
 8:00 p.m., Christ Church
 Easter Sunday (4 Apr)—The Resurrection of our Lord
 8:30 a.m., All Saints' Church
 10:30 a.m., Christ Church

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Baptism—Anyone wishing to be baptised or who knows someone who might wish to be baptised is invited to speak to Brad to arrange preparation for baptism at the Great Vigil of Easter on Sat 3 Apr.

Lenten Almsgiving—As the exhortation on Ash Wednesday reminds us, Christians are called to augment their financial support of the work of the Church in Lent. Alms will be collected on Easter Sunday. Don't give 'til it hurts: give 'til it feels good!

Lenten Study—Our study of Psalm 23 continues Tue 9, 16, 23 March at 7:00 p.m. at the QAPC.

Gifts of the Spirit Workshop—Led by Canon David Smith at St Paul's, Sandhurst. See posters for more info.

Selby Theatre Night—Join Love in Action for an evening of comedy and fun at Lennox Community Theatre, Selby. "Breath of Spring" by Peter Coke plays Wed 14 Apr, 8:00 p.m. Featuring a lady, her maid, and many stolen furs . . . Tickets available soon! Speak with Paul Robertson (396-5496) or members of *Love in Action*. All proceeds go to outreach in our community.

"Stewardship in Perspective: Turning Spiritual Vision into Practice"—Stewardship Conference presented by the Dioceses of Ontario and Ottawa, Fri 7-Sat 8 May, Kemptville Agricultural College. Keynote speaker Bp Michael Curry. Cost: \$125 (a subsidy will be available from the parish). For more info call Canon David Smith, (866) 524-4774 x 32, visit www.stewardship2010.ca, or speak to Brad.



BIBLE TRIVIA

Last Week's Answer

Abriam and Dathan rebelled against Moses (Numbers 16:12).

This Week's Question

Who affirmed to Jesus her belief that her brother would rise again?

Prayers this Week

Anglican Communion
 Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui
 The Most Rev'd Paul Kwong, Primate

Diocese of Ontario
 The Rt Rev'd George Bruce
 Cursillo

Companions
 St Ann's Episcopal Church, Amsterdam; the Rev'd Christopher Smith
 HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, the Rev'd Denis Mulliner

Parish of Tyendinaga
 Custodians
 Families of: Dewayne & Wonita Maracle, Diane Maracle, Elmer & Shirley Maracle, Glen & Donna Maracle

Readings for Next Sunday

Joshua 5:9-12 Psalm 32
 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32