



Ash Wednesday
February 18th, 2026—7:00 p.m.

Welcome.

This church is a place of prayer and encounter with God. The stones of these walls have sheltered people seeking the presence of the Holy One for almost two centuries. This place of worship has been made hallowed by the prayers of generations and you are welcome to join your heart and voice to theirs.

St John's is an inclusive community of faith in the Anglican tradition: we welcome saints and sinners, people of faith and of no faith, people who are sure they know everything and those who are full of questions. All persons may share equally in the life and leadership of our church and we worship with and serve people of different ethnicities, politics, gender identities and sexual orientations, economic circumstances, and abilities. This church belongs to God, so all of God's children are welcome here.



Peterborough's Oldest Church—Established 1826
99 Brock Street, Peterborough Ontario K9H 2P2
705-745-7624 www.stjohnspeterborough.ca



THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

We gather in this place in person and virtually and we acknowledge that we are in Nogojiwanong, the traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabe, the Original inhabitants and stewards of this part of the Creation, on whose land and by whose waters we gather by the Williams Treaty to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

The Congregation stands as the procession enters.

The Greeting

Presider 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.**

The Exhortation

Presider Dear friends in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting. By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

Trisagion *(sung 3 times)*

CP 707

Ho - ly God, ho - ly and migh - ty, ho - ly
im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday

Presider May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully. *Silence*

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we,

worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Congregation sits at the conclusion of the prayer.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

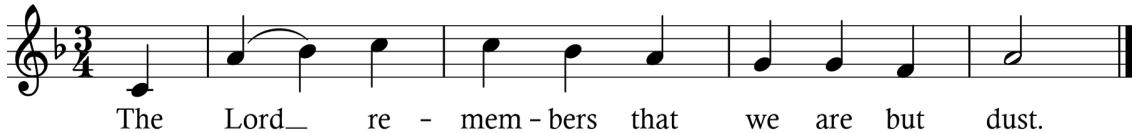
Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Choir sings the verses. The Congregation joins in the refrain (R).



The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness. He will not always accuse us, nor will he keep his anger for ever. **R**

He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is his mercy great upon those who fear him. **R**

As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our sins from us. As a father cares for his children, so does the Lord care for those who fear him. **R**

For he himself knows whereof we are made; he remembers that we are but dust. Our days are like the grass; we flourish like a flower of the field; when the wind goes over it, it is gone, and its place shall know it no more. **R**

But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him, and his righteousness on children's children; on those who keep his covenant and remember his commandments and do them. **R**

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Reader A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Congregation stands.

Hymn 614—Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

Dundee

Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Gospeller May God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Saviour Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

Gospeller Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The Gospel of Christ.

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

The Congregation sits.

Sermon

A silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Psalm of Penitential Reflection

51:1-18

Litany of Penitence

Presider Most holy and merciful Father,

All **we confess to you, to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

Presider We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

All **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Presider We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

All **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Presider We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

All **We confess to you, Lord.**

Presider Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

All **We confess to you, Lord.**

Presider Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

All **We confess to you, Lord.**

Presider Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comfort, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

All **We confess to you, Lord.**

Presider Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

All **We confess to you, Lord.**

Presider Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

All **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Presider For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

All **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Presider For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

All **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Presider Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

All **Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

Presider Almighty God, you create us from the dust of the earth: grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our penitence and a symbol of our mortality; for it is by your grace alone that we receive eternal life in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

Imposition of Ashes

Those who desire to receive ashes come forward and the ashes are applied to the forehead of each person with the following words:

Presider Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

After all who desire ashes have received them, the Presider leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession.

Presider Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.

All **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Presider By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,

All **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Presider The Lord enrich you with his grace, and nourish you with his blessing; the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil; the Lord accept your prayers, and absolve you from your offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

A sign of peace is exchanged with those nearby.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

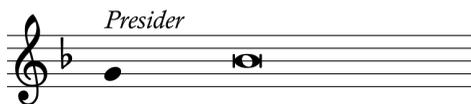
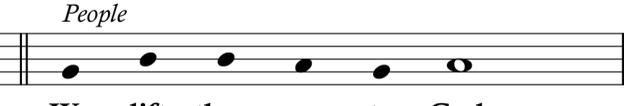
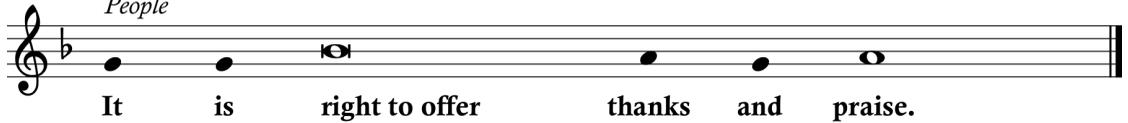
Hymn 170—The Glory of These Forty Days

Eisenach

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider Merciful God, turn us from sin to faithfulness. Accept our offering, and prepare us to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever .

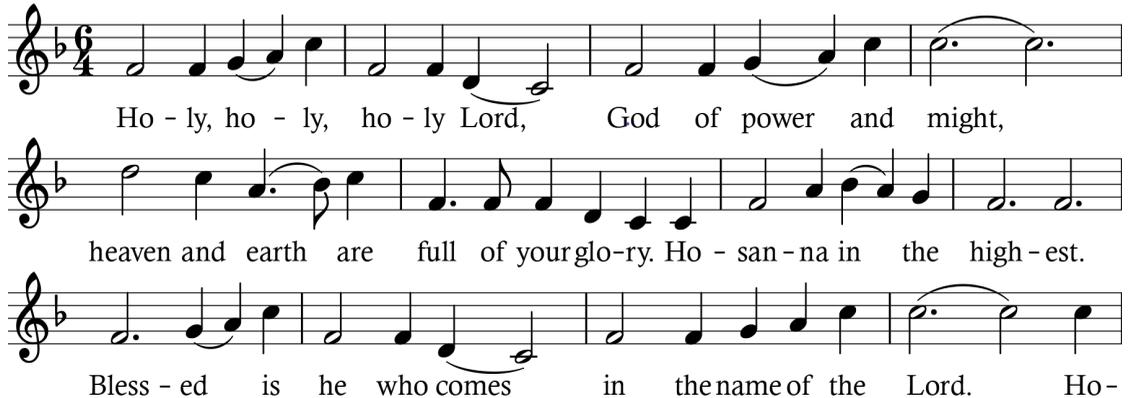
All **Amen.**

<p><i>Presider</i></p>  <p>May God be with you.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>And also with you.</p>
<p><i>Presider</i></p>  <p>Lift up your hearts.</p>	<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>We lift them up to God.</p>
<p><i>Presider</i></p>  <p>Let us give thanks to God our Cre - ator.</p>	
<p><i>People</i></p>  <p>It is right to offer thanks and praise.</p>	

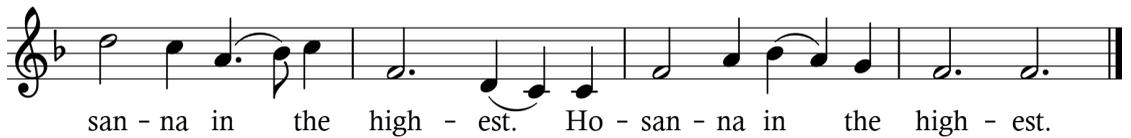
Presider We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through whom you have created all things. By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

In fulfilment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so he won for you a holy people. He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death, and banish the darkness of sin and despair. By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence. Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

All



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



Presider

Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ. All glory and honour are yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

744

Presider As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

Musical notation for the Lord's Prayer. It consists of five staves of music in a treble clef, one flat key signature, and 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Our Fa - ther in heaven, hal - lowed be your name, your king - dom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil." The music is simple and melodic, using quarter and eighth notes with some slurs.

For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,
now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Breaking of the Bread

Presider We break this bread,

All **Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

Presider Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.

All **If we have died with him, we shall live with him;
if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.**

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Presider Dear friends, I invite you in this moment, wherever you may be, to receive Christ, in communion with the saints, and the gathering of God's people, unseen and yet present with us now. In this Eucharist, many are made one.

Fraction Anthem

CP 747

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, bear - er
of our sins, have mer - cy on us. Je - sus re - deem - er, re -
deem - er of the world, give us your peace, give us your peace.

Communion

For those who are present in person, all baptised persons may receive Communion. Please come forward to the Chancel step via the centre aisle and return to your seat via the side aisles. Gluten free Hosts are available upon request. Those who find walking difficult may request that Communion be brought to them. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of Communion may indicate their desire by crossing their arms over their breast when they approach the Presider.

Anthem Remember Words and music by Larry Harris
Remember now that from dust you came. And to dust you shall return. Remember, remember, that short are your days upon the earth. Come back to the Lord with all your heart. Leave the past in ashes; and turn to God, turn to God with prayer and fasting. For he is slow to anger, and ready to forgive. Remember. Remember now that from dust you came. And to dust you shall return. Remember, remember, that short are your days upon the earth. (Para. Gen. 3:19, Joel 2:13)

COMMISSIONING AND SENDING

Please stand when the Presider returns to the altar.

Closing Prayers

Presider This is love, not that we loved God,
All **but that God loved us and sent the Son.**

Presider He is the sacrifice for our sin,
All **that we might live through him.**

Presider If God loves us so much
All **we ought to love one another.**

Presider If we love one another
All **God lives in us.**

Blessing

Hymn 564—Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us

Mannheim

Dismissal

Presider Go in the peace of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Acknowledgements

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To the right are some commonly-asked questions by visitors. If you have a question that is not answered here, please do not hesitate to ask one of the greeters or clergy for assistance.



The Rev. Canon Brad Smith
Rector

The Rev. Ruth Adams
The Rev. Mary Bell-Plouffe
The Rev. Steve Smith
Honorary Assistants

Mr. Robert Grandy
Director of Music

Dr. Andrew Vreugdenhil
Mr. Colin Walsh
Churchwardens

Mrs. Tammy Delahey
Deputy Churchwarden

Mrs. Carolyn Porteous
Parish Administrator

Ms. Jennifer Passmore
Custodian

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Welcome!

Children's Ministry

We welcome children and youth, who may remain with you to worship and do not have to remain perfectly still and quiet! Please feel free to allow them to roam if they wish. Families are most welcome to use the activities in the children's area in the church and to bring colouring sheets, toys, and snacks for their children.

On Posture in Worship

It is customary that we stand to pray and sing and sit to hear God's Word proclaimed and interpreted. Some people prefer to kneel to pray. Please adopt the posture that helps you to worship.

Visitor's Cards

If you're visiting, please do take the time to complete a visitor's card, which can be found in the rack on the bookcase in the Chapel. We would love the opportunity to stay in touch with you.

Making an Offering (Donation)

To support the ministry of the parish, an offering may be made by placing cash or a cheque in an envelope available where you picked up this order of service. Please write your name and address on the envelope, then place it on the brass offering plate. Tax receipts are issued for gifts of \$25 or more. We also have a convenient pre-authorised giving program for monthly donations that are debited from your bank account or we accept e-transfers to office@stjohnspeterborough.ca. Please visit www.stjohnspeterborough.ca/donate for more information.

Accessibility

The facility is entirely accessible through the Brock St entrance, from where all levels of the facility are accessible via elevator.

Washrooms/Change Table

Accessible washrooms are located down the hall from the narthex (lobby). A change table is in the nursery at the end of the hall.

Fragrances

We ask that you refrain from wearing strong fragrances in order to accommodate those with breathing sensitivities.