

The Parish Light

The Parish of the Northern Lights Newsletter - March 2018



We welcome Reverend Andrew Hoyte

We are pleased to announce that our wait for a new Priest/Pastor for the Parish of the Northern Lights has come to an end. Rev. Andrew Hoyte will be joining us starting March 15th. He hails originally from Barbados and has an extensive history of ministry, study and teaching in Barbados, Trinidad and the USA. He comes to us most recently from Edmonton where he has been studying at Taylor College.

Rev. Hoyte, we look forward to getting to know you personally and to what we hope will be a long and fruitful partnership in the Service of God, one another and our communities.

Selection Committee, Parish of the Northern Lights.



He Suffered for You

When Jesus Christ was on the Cross, His blood draining the life from His body, He knew what it was like to be alone and wracked with pain. But Jesus' pain was far more than just physical pain, for He was suffering God's judgment on all the sins of the ages – the greatest darkness of the soul ever known. As the divine Son of God, He was perfect and without sin. But all our sins were placed on Him and He took the judgment and Hell we alone deserve. He died in our place.

Why did Jesus suffer? For you. For me. That we might have eternal life and have His peace in the midst of life's storms. That we might know that He understands our pain and suffering and stands ready to help.

Why did Jesus suffer? Because God loves us. Because God loves *you*, and Christ willingly went to the Cross for *you*. There was no other way for sin's penalty to be paid, and for us to be redeemed. The Cross is the measure of God's love.

How will *you* respond to His love, poured out on the Cross for you?

Breaking the Silence

The Monastery of Silence was led by an ancient Abbott, who took the brothers' vow of silence very seriously. When Brother John entered the monastery and took his silence vow, The Abbot reminded him, "You are welcome here as long as you like, but you may not speak until I direct you to do so."

Brother John lived in the monastery for a full year before the Abbot said to him, "Brother John, you have been here a year now, you may speak two words."

Brother John said, "Hard bed." So the Abbot got him a better bed.

The next year, Brother John was called by the Abbot, "You may say another two words, Brother John." "Cold food," announced Brother John, so the Abbot promised the food would improve.

On his third anniversary at the monastery, The Abbot again called Brother John into his office. "You may say two more words today." "I quit," announced Brother John

"It is probably for the best," said the Abbott. "All you have done since you got here is complain."



Was it I?

The disciples at the table
Ate the bread, drank the wine;
The Master in their midst foretold
His betrayal and the sign.

*There was shock and horror and doubt
A tear in every eye,
As those at the table murmured,
Questioned, "Lord, is it I?"*

Yet men have always betrayed Him
Since Judas first dipped bread,
Disappointed, crucified Him,
By the kind of lives they've lived

*Today I sat at His table,
And I thought I heard Him sigh
As I asked for His forgiveness,
Whispered, "Lord, was it I?"*

~~~~~

### **Don't Forget to Smile**

A little girl walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that day was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to the elementary school.

As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up along with thunder and lightning. The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school and she herself feared the electrical storm would harm her child.

Following the roar of thunder, lightning, like a flaming sword, would cut through the sky. Full of concern, the mother quickly got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school. As she did so, she saw her little girl walking along, but at each flash of lightening, the child would stop, look up and smile. When her mother's car pulled up alongside the child, she lowered the window and called to her.

"What are you doing? Why do you keep stopping?"

The child answered, "I'm trying to look pretty. God keeps taking my picture!"

## **Being a Disciple of Christ means Walking, not just Talking**

“Shut up and put your money where your mouth is.” We’ve all heard something like that. Usually, I don’t feel so good afterwards. I usually feel that my accuser has just made a valid point – at least somewhat. I can talk the talk, but I also have to walk the walk.

Of course, this is highly poignant for us Christians. Sunday by Sunday we say, “We believe in one God, the Father...We believe in one Lord...We believe in the Holy Spirit...” A couple of Sundays a year we respond with “I will, with God’s help” to questions about continuing in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, proclaiming the good news of God in Christ, and seeking and serving Christ in all persons. We talk the talk. But, “put your money where your mouth is.”

Ok, I get it. If I am a disciple of Jesus, then my Jesus-like life has to be seen in what I do, as well as heard in what I say. What I say in worship on Sunday has to be made visible in what I do (and say) in the rest of the week – at work, in relationships, and in how I spend my discretionary time. “Put your money where your mouth is.”

But I also realized that I have to take this sentence literally – “Put your money where your mouth is.” It is an integral part of my discipleship that I put my money where my mouth is. Part of how I walk the walk is how I spend my money.

In our house, it’s pretty easy: the paycheque comes in, we move the decimal point one digit to the left and we write a cheque to our parish church for that amount. It’s funny, in a way - the only thing for which we still use cheques is our church offering. But we do because we know we need to walk the walk for our own sake. “Put your money where your mouth is.”

“Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” That’s what we say and it is up to us disciples to be the channel through which our own prayers are answered. “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth through us.” Living what we say we believe in tangible, visible and audible ways is what it means to be a disciple of Christ. As disciples (read “apprentices”) of Christ, we become the primary source of gospel for others as we express and proclaim our own faith through our words and actions.

Maybe someday people around me will remark, ‘Say, You really put your money where your mouth is – both literally and metaphorically!’ I would like that – and so would Jesus.

.....The Ven. Terry Lear, Archdeacon for Mission Development Diocese of Athabasca



# Youth Group News



Happy March!

Spring is around the corner or so they say.

A couple of information items:

- The Parish has hired a new Priest - Rev. Andrew Hoyte, he will be starting in the Parish on March 15. I look forward to meeting him and introducing him to all our amazing youth!
- Cathie and I will be attending the Diocese of Athabasca Youth Leaders Gathering in Slave Lake - March 16-18 so only one youth group for March as the following weekends fall during Spring Break and Easter.
- We are hoping to go see the movie "I Can Only Imagine", together as a youth group, the movie will be released this spring. Watch for details.

Below are the upcoming dates for youth group, mark your calendars, book off work and plan to join us. If you need a ride let us know. Let me know if you can provide snack.

Upcoming youth group dates (we start at about 12:30 pm):

April 8 2018

April 22 2018

If you have any questions or need more information please contact Cathie ([cathie.mmaestro@gmail.com](mailto:cathie.mmaestro@gmail.com)) or Joanna ([joannamuzyka@hotmail.com](mailto:joannamuzyka@hotmail.com))

All youth grade 7 and up (Age 12+) are welcome so grab a friend and join us!

HAVE YOU  
TALKED  
TO GOD  
TODAY?