



## LAETARE SUNDAY

**A Joyful Term.** Laetare is a Latin term for joy, rejoicing, or gladness. The Entrance Antiphon sets the mood. It begins, “Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all you who were mourning; exalt” (see Is 66:10).

**A Joyful Break.** Lent is a somber, penitential season. Laetare Sunday is supposed to be a bright and happy occasion, a one-day breather, not dwelling so much upon our sinfulness but upon the joyful promise of God’s mercy.

**Joyful Progress.** Laetare Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Lent, roughly the midpoint of the season. Three and a half weeks are completed and only three weeks remain.

**A Joyful Outlook.** It is uplifting to know that Easter Sunday is only three weeks from today.

**Laetare Sunday** also corresponds with Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete Sunday is the halfway mark of the Advent season. The priests wear rose-colored liturgical vestments on Gaudete Sunday, as well.

Today is also known as **Mothering Sunday**, a day when traditionally all went back to their mother church, to the place where they were nurtured, loved and formed into the ways of God.



*Please practice Health protocols that make you feel comfortable.  
Please be sensitive to the comfort level of others.*

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## **HOLY EUCHARIST**

**Diocese of Islands and Inlets Liturgy** (*V. I. Liturgy*)

*The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego, Presiding & Preaching*

A Warm Welcome to all who worship with us, especially visitors.

With thanks, please mute your cell phones during the service.

The congregation says or sings the items in **bold** typeface.

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Prelude – *Joanne Lambert*

Welcome

**Gathering Song:** *The Love of Jesus Calls Us* (CP #434, omit V. 3)

**The love of Jesus calls us  
our joyous praise to sing;  
our deeply felt thanksgivings  
we now together bring,  
for all God's many blessings,  
unasked yet still received,  
and for the generations  
who faithfully believed.**

**The love of Jesus calls us,  
that we may always be  
companions on a journey  
where all the world may see,  
that serving Christ is freedom,  
which time does not destroy;  
where Christ's command is duty,  
and every duty joy.**

**The love of Jesus calls us  
in swiftly changing days,  
to be God's co-creators  
in new and wondrous ways;  
that God, with men and women  
may so transform the earth,  
that love and peace and justice  
may give God's kingdom birth.**

### **The Gathering of the Community**

**Lon:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**All:** **And also with you.**

Lon: In this time and place we gather on the ancestral lands of the W̱SÁNEĆ and Coast Salish Peoples.

**All: From many places and Peoples we come to this house in prayer.**

Jackie: In this time and place we are not alone for we meet in the presence of the living God.

**All: For we meet in the presence of the living God.**

Lon: In this time and place we are not alone for the Risen Jesus stands in our midst.

**All: The Risen Jesus stands in our midst.**

Jackie: In this time and space we are not alone for the wind of the Spirit moves in and through us.

**All: The wind of the Spirit moves in and through us.**

Lon: In this time and space we are not alone for we gather with the whole company of heaven. In this time and in this space heaven and earth are one.

**All: In this time and in this space heaven and earth are one.**

Jackie: In this time and place together, one People in Jesus Christ.

**All: In the name of God, Creator, Saviour and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Kyrie (CP #706)*

**Lord have mercy.**

**Christ have mercy.**

**Lord have mercy on us.**

**Kyrie eleison.**

**Christe eleison.**

**Kyrie eleison.**

**Lord have mercy.**

**Christ have mercy.**

**Lord have mercy on us.**

**Centering Stillness:**

Let us hold this moment open to the Spirit of God. *(Silence)*

**Collect for Ash Wednesday: Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen**

**The Prayer of the Day:** Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world, evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE STORY OF FAITH IS PROCLAIMED

### The Readings

Marian Towstego – A Reading from the Book of Joshua 5:9-12

#### Joshua 5:9-12

<sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Joshua, ‘Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.’ And so that place is called Gilga to this day.

<sup>10</sup> While the Israelites were encamped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup> On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup> The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

#### Thanks be to God

**Responsive Psalm 32 BAS** – Marian Towstego

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, \* **and whose sin is put away!**

2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, \* **and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, \* **because of my groaning all day long.**

4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; \* **my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, \* **and did not conceal my guilt.**

6 I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” \* **Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; \* **when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

8 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; \* **you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

9 “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; \* **I will guide you with my eye.**

10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; \* **who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.**”

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; \* **but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; \* **shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Greg Robinson – A Reading from Second Corinthians

## **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Hear what the Spirit of God is saying.

**Thanks be to God**

**Gradual: *If I Didn't Sing*** (*Words & Music by Vera Philip,  
St. Stephen's Parishioner, RIP*)

**I feel You all around me and that leaves me no choice  
O Lord I will praise You with my heart and my voice  
For if I did not sing the very stones would praise the Almighty  
and eternal one.  
For if I did not sing the very stones would praise the Almighty  
and eternal one.**

Lon: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Lon: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus according to Luke

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

## Luke 15:1-3 & 11b-32

15 Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, ‘This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.’

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable:

<sup>11</sup> ‘There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.” So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, “How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> ‘Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.” <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, “Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!” <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”’

Lon: The Gospel of Christ

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gradual: *If I Didn't Sing*

**I feel You all around me and that leaves me no choice  
O Lord I will praise You with my heart and my voice  
For if I did not sing the very stones would praise the Almighty  
and eternal one.  
For if I did not sing the very stones would praise the Almighty  
and eternal one.**

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

Sermon – The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

**The Apostle's Creed:**

Presider: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven  
and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was  
conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the  
Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was  
crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of  
the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the  
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the  
resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People – *Greg Robinson*

**Confession & Absolution:**

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy and welcomes sinners and invites them to the table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

Presider: Most merciful God,

**All: We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word,  
and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our  
neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive  
us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the  
glory of your name. Amen.**



Presider: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Peace** *All stand*

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*The members of the community offer a sign of peace to one another in a manner that feels safe for you.  
Please be sensitive to the comfort level of others.*

**Offertory: Amazing Grace** (CP #352)

**Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!**

**The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come  
This grace that brought me safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.**

**Praise God, praise God, praise God, praise God  
Praise God, praise God, Praise God.  
Praise God praise God, Praise God, praise God,  
Praise God, praise God, praise God.**

**Prayer over the Gifts:** God of mercy and compassion, your Word calls us home to faith and love. Accept all we offer you this day, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

## THE SACRED MEAL IS SHARED

*(Eucharist Prayer C)*

Presider: God is here

**People: The Spirit is with us.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts and minds.

**People: We lift them to God.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to God the Creator.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is indeed right that we should praise you, God of love, our source and our fulfillment, for you create all things and in you we live and move and have our being. Your wonder is manifest in land and sea and sky. You made us in your image. And even though we turn from you, again and again you call us to yourself, and in every age, promise liberation.

As a mother gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own, to nurture them in the way of compassionate love. You sent Jesus among us, incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary. Jesus revealed your love for all Creation, and showed us the way of reconciliation.

Having lived among us - Jesus suffered the cross, Died, And in rising again became the firstborn of the renewed family. And so as we gather around your table, With saints of every age and your beloved creation we raise our voices and sing:

**Sanctus & Benedictus** (*CP #735*) - *Schubert*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might  
Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might  
heaven and earth are full  
full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest,  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider: To you be glory, almighty God, because on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, when he had given thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me. After supper he took the cup; when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said: Drink this all of you. This is my

blood of the new covenant, Poured out for you and for many;  
do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith.

**All: Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Presider: Recalling Christ's death and resurrection, we ask you to accept this, our sacrifice of praise. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son. When all of creation groans, unite us in Christ and give us your hope that we might be strengthened to do your work, as your body in the world. Through Christ our Redeemer, in the power of the Spirit, all praise and glory be yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer** *(said)*

Presider: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
Your kingdom come, your will be done  
On earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread,  
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil,  
For the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours,  
Now and for ever. Amen.**

### **Breaking of the Bread:**

Presider: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

**All: We, being many, are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread**

Presider: The Gifts of God for the people of God

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Administration of Holy Communion

*All are welcome to join us at the Lord's Table.*

*If you prefer not to receive communion but wish to receive a blessing,  
please cross your arms over your chest.*

*Gluten-free bread is available upon request.*

Instrumental Music During Communion

**Prayer after Communion:** Giver of life, you enlighten all who come into the world. Fill our hearts with the splendour of your grace, that we may perfectly love you and worthily praise your holy name, through Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

## **WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD**

### **Doxology**

Prisider: Glory to God

**All:** whose love, 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.

### Blessing

**Sending Hymn: *Lord of the Dance* (CP #531)**

**I danced in the morning  
when the world was begun,  
and I danced in the moon  
and the stars and the sun,  
and I came down from heaven  
and I danced on the earth,  
at Bethlehem  
I had my birth.**

#### ***Refrain:***

**Dance, then, wherever you may be,  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.**

**I danced for the scribe  
and the pharisee,  
but they would not dance  
and they wouldn't follow me.  
I danced for the fishermen,  
for James and John -  
they came with me  
and the dance went on. *Refrain***

**I danced on the Sabbath  
and I cured the lame;  
the holy people  
said it was a shame.  
they whipped and they stripped  
and they hung me on high,**

and they left me there  
on a Cross to die. *Refrain*

I danced on a Friday  
when the sky turned black;  
it's hard to dance  
with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body  
and they thought I'd gone  
but I am the Dance,  
and I still go on.

They cut me down  
and I leapt up high;  
I am the life  
that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you  
if you'll live in me -  
I am the Lord  
of the Dance, said he. *Refrain*

### **Dismissal**

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

CCLI# 245534

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*Please join us for coffee and conversation in the Parish Hall*

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### **READINGS FOR APRIL 6, 2025**

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

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### **CLERGY CONTACT INFORMATION**

The Ven. Dr. Lon Towstego

His Cell Phone: (250) 208-9949

His email: ltowstego@bc.anglican.ca

## INTERCESSIONS

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** We pray for Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo. We pray for Archbishop Anne, our Acting Primate. John Stephens, Metropolitan of The Province of B.C and Yukon We also pray for Archbishop Chris and the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples.

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** We pray for Anna, our bishop; for the Parish of St. Barnabas, Victoria.

**Regional Cycle of Prayer:** We pray for our Parish of Pender and Saturna Islands, for Blair Haggart and other clergy as they minister and for those in their Parish and neighbourhood. We also pray for the people of Saanich Peninsula Catholic Parish

**Our Parish Clergy:** Lon, Logan, Brett, Bob, Paul, Gil and all who minister.

**In our Parish:** We pray for Valerie Park and for Jill Yonge and for their families.

**For those ill or in need of prayer:** Neville & Patricia, Roche, Diana A., Fern & Mark, Ian, Dennis

**For Those with Long-Term Needs:** Cheryl, Ted, Jillian S., Paul J., Phil J., Natalie, Jamie, Jane & Paul, Margery, Courtney, Ron H., Nancy J.

**For friends beyond the parish:** Jennifer, Jo-Jo, Margot, Sharie, John K., Helen, Andrew, Warwick, Sheila, Lynn W., Jim C., David F., Dani R. & family, Hayden, Carlos, Bryan, Karen & family, Drew, Sheila P., Amy, Anna, Betty O., Betty E., Alysha, Sue P., Mike D., Michelle, Rudi, Bishop Geoff Woodcroft, Cassidy, Carl G., Don C., Melanie, Keith & Lillian

**In the greater community:** We pray for our upcoming Federal Election We pray for all victims of sexual misconduct and abuse. We are all called to create communities where all children of God are safe and respected.

We pray for those impacted or endangered by the toxic drug supply crisis and also for their loved ones who are, or have been, impacted.

**EASTER OUTREACH:** You are welcome to remember the Saanich Peninsula Lions Food Bank this Easter. If you would like to bring non-perishable food items, you may bring them to the Church on Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, and place them in front of the Altar

**The Saanich Peninsula Lions Food Bank Most Needed Items Are:**

Canned Beans	Dry Soup
Canned Vegetables	Jam
Canned Fruit	Peanut Butter
Canned Tomatoes	Rice
Canned Meat	School Snacks
Pasta	Juice
Pasta Sauce	Hot / Cold Cereal
Cookies	Laundry Soap / Dish Soap
Crackers	Personal Hygiene Products
Kraft Dinner	Disinfectant Wipes
Sidekicks/Helpers	Boost / Ensure
Facial Tissues	Toilet Paper

*The Food Bank cannot and will not accept any food donations dated older than 6 months.*

**ST. STEPHEN MONTHLY OUTREACH** – For those who do not have offering envelopes, you may bring your outreach offering in a plain envelope, marked “Outreach for Month of \_\_\_\_” with your name and address and, if applicable, your Electronic Collection Plate number.


Mar.	<b>Rector’s Discretionary Fund</b>	This is a dedicated fund under the Rector’s control and discretion which provides (but is not limited to) financial assistance to members of the parish and the wider community.
Apr.	<b>General Outreach</b>	Monies donated for General Outreach are used for one-off grants with most dedicated Christmas outreach.

**Diocese of Athabasca**

**Bible Reading Marathon**

**April 13** (1pm) - **April 17** (5pm)  
Alberta Time

Come read the Bible for 1 hour during the  
100 hr complete continuous reading of the Bible

Worldwide  via Zoom + Facebook

Sign up at

**www.athdio.ca**

Read the Word.....Spread the Word

The Anglican Church of Canada  
Diocese of Athabasca  
Alberta, Canada.

1-780-624-2767

For further information, please contact  
Marcia McMenamie at 778-351-0705

*Note: Worshippers may be photographed or recorded as part of the service. If this is of concern to you, please talk to the Minister or Wardens.*

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