



The Anglican Parish of
Saint Barnabas

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March 22, 2020 ~ 4th Sunday in Lent

Collect of the Day: Almighty God, through the waters of baptism your Son has made us children of light. May we ever walk in his light and show forth your glory in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

A reading from the First Book of Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Psalm 23

Refrain: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters. Refrain

He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his 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. Refrain

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. Refrain

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 9:1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to

him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Readings for March 29: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Intercession:

We pray for our Diocese: St. Leonard-on-the-Hill, Red Deer: The Rev. Chris Roth, The Rev. Barb Borle, The Rev. Ethel English. St. George, Harmattan

We pray for members of our parish family: Myrtle Fisher, Rebecca Foster and Joe Jacobs, Mark Francis

We pray for those in need of God's healing gifts: Lydia Bagstad, Chad, Marion Greene, Margaret, David James, Frank Schneider, Gerry Morris, Geoff Payton, Joyce Erickson

We pray for Christ's Holy Catholic Church: ACC: Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson, the people, and clergy of the Diocese of Montreal. ELCIC: The Assistant to the Bishop and the staff of the Manitoba-Northwestern Ontario Synod

We pray for our Companion Diocese of the Windward Isles: Grace Church, Riviere Doree, with St. Paul and Christ-the-King, on St. Lucia: The Rev. Eleanor Glasgow

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors
Remember those who are vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.
May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those who have no safe place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the market
Remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.
As fear grips our country
Let us choose love.
During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other
Let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbour.
Amen.

Gospel reflection for children of all ages: What do you remember about today's reading?

Jesus makes a paste, puts it on the blind man's eyes and tells him to wash in a pool. When the blind man does this, he can see.

How do you think the blind man felt at being able to see for the first time?

The Pharisees (some of the religious leaders of the time) question the man and his parents to find out how Jesus gave him his sight. The man tells them but they do not believe it and grow angry.

Jesus tells the Pharisees that they are blind because they cannot see that he is the Son of God.

While there is nothing wrong with their eyes, the Pharisees do not open their hearts to see the truth of who Jesus is. While the blind man is able to see and to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God.

God has given us five senses to learn about the world that is around us. Do you know what those five senses are?

We can see all the beautiful and wonderful things that God has created like birds, trees, flowers, fish, family and friends.

We can hear lovely music and the birds singing.

We can smell flowers, and the sea, and grass when it has just been cut.

We can taste yummy food and drink.

We can feel the sun warm on our skin, the soft fur of a pet when we stroke it, and the hands of our friends when we do a high five.

Can you tell me some of the wonderful things in our world that you have seen, heard, smelt, tasted or felt today?

But we also need Jesus to help us to see the truth about the world around us and how we should treat one another. As well as our five senses we need to open our hearts to others so that we can reach out and help them when they need us. Sometimes there are problems or things that are not right in this world. We can take notice of these problems and try to make them better. We can see that it is not fair for some people in the world to have lots of money, power and things while others of us are poor or hungry or do not have a safe place to live.

We can see that we are polluting the planet. Floods, droughts and natural disasters are happening more often and affecting more people around the world. But we can also see what is possible when people work together to solve problems.

Together we can help people around the world to rebuild their homes after war or natural disaster, to grow their own food, to get clean water, to find new ways to earn money, and to care for the earth at the same time.

God calls us to use our gifts and not to ignore the problems that we see. We can try instead to make a difference, to care for our earth and to help people who are poor to change their lives for the better. Look out for all the good things that you can see in the world this week. If you see anything that is wrong or unfair, think about what you could do to help to change it.

Parents: You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.

We ask God to help us open our senses to the world as we pray together...

We pray for world leaders: that the Holy Spirit may open their eyes to see the problems that face them and find ways to help all people, especially those who are poor. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for people who are hungry: that they may not be ignored and that with God's help we can work together to make sure all people have enough to eat. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that the Lord may guide us to notice the problems of others and together we may do all that we can to make a difference. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of hope, inspire us to look out into the world, praising and thanking you for all that is good, and seeking your help as we try to change what is not fair or right. Amen.

Activity suggestions:

Play a blindfold game with the children so that they can think about what life might have been like for the blind man in the reading. Get the children to take turns to wear a blindfold. While blindfolded ask them to identify one or two objects from a covered box by feel or smell

where appropriate. The box could include objects such as a banana, apple, wooden spoon, hairbrush, keys, etc.

Ask the children to write a prayer thanking God for all the good things that they see/hear/feel/taste/smell in the world.

(From the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development)

Announcements:

The sanctuary will be open for personal prayer on Mondays from 6:30 to 7:30 PM and Thursdays from noon to 1:00 PM. We will practice a "social distance" of a pew length or more, and offer wipes and hand sanitizer for people to use. The sanctuary, washrooms and doors/handles etc. will continue to be professionally cleaned.

Kersi will keep office hours on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and will work remotely, Sunday through Thursday. Gloria will work remotely most of the time. The office phone 403-283-3035 will be checked daily.

Worship from St. Barnabas will be broadcast via our website, www.stbarnabas.ca, on a weekly basis. New video will be made available each week for Sunday morning. You can download the youth bulletin from the Bulletin page of the website.

Email to the office any photos of you and your family showing innovative ways of coping with social distancing. We'll share them on the website and Facebook page.

One of the realities of this situation is that the parish has ongoing expenses which need to be addressed. It would be greatly appreciated if members of St. Barnabas would commit to maintaining their financial support despite the distance. Contribution envelopes can be mailed in, or dropped off during the aforementioned times that the church is open; the form to sign up for automatic withdrawal is on the diocesan website, www.calgary.anglican.ca; online contributions can be made on the parish website, and we have a volunteer who has offered to pick up envelopes if parishioners are unable to leave their homes. Call the office and we will put you in touch. Thank you very much!

We are still planning to publish the newsletter which will be available online. Deadline for submission of articles remain March 29; please email and contributions to David Parker at info@davidparker.ca.

Zoom meeting: you are invited to join a web-based gathering via the Zoom platform on Monday night at 7:00 PM. This is an informal meeting to say hi to one another and offer a time of prayer. The instructions on how to use it are below.

If this is your first time using Zoom:

At about 6:55 PM, copy this link into your browser: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7825637683>. You'll have to download a small piece of free software, but you don't need an account. You may be asked for the "meeting ID" - it is: 782 563 7683. Please use your first name to identify yourself.