***Collect***

Almighty God, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

May your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the

radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to

the ends of the earth; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

***Prayer over the Gifts***

Living God, you have revealed your Son as the Messiah. May we hear his

word and follow it, and live as children of light. We ask this in the name

of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn**

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood,   
From Thy wounded side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure,

Cleanse me from it’s guilt and power

Not the labours of my hands  
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to Thy cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress;  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly;

Wash me Saviour, or I die

While I draw this fleeting breath,

When mine eye lids close in death,

When I soar through tracts unknown

See thee on thy judgement throne,

Rock of ages cleft for me,

Let me hide myself in thee

**Welcome to the Anglican Parish of**

**St. John The Evangelist**

**Conception Bay South, Newfoundland**

January 17, 2020

[www.stjohntheevangelistnl.com](http://www.stjohntheevangelistnl.com)

Facebook: SJTE Topsail

Twitter: @StJohnEvang

Office email: [sjtetopsail@nfld.net](mailto:sjtetopsail@nfld.net)

Office phone number: (709) 834-2336

Priest-in-Charge Email: archdeacon.gregory@anglicanenl.net

Cell: (709) 325-2366



The Bulletin is given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of:

Departed Members of our Parish

**Our Parish Mission Statement We believe in nurturing a community of faith dedicated to inclusion, support and sharing the story of God's love with all people regardless of the stage of their spiritual journey**

Diocesan Bishop: The Right Reverend Samuel Rose

Diocesan Administrator: The Venerable Charlene Taylor

Priest-in-Charge: Archdeacon Gregory Mercer

Parish Deacon:  The Reverend Lisa Cox

Organist/Choir Director : Stephanie Gavell

Parish Wardens: Sharon Smith and Rex Hillier (Acting)

Office Administrator: Madonna Scott

**Dear Friends in Christ,

Some would say that we have been living through some dark times with this Pandemic. Those who have experienced illness or isolation or death because of Covid-19 would certainly attest to that. Darkness defies definition to some degree since it depends on the personal circumstances. We know that for some people it can be terrifying. There is a loss of hope, you collapse into despair. There is an absolute terror in the soul. We don’t like those kinds of experiences and yet they happen to us all – the bad news of some terrible illness, the sudden loss of a loved one, and worse still – tragic news of some significant loss like that of a young person. These are experiences that lead to terrible darkness.

The soul has a great capacity for both darkness and light. The soul also contains a great capacity to know and to love God, to become virtuous, to learn truth, and to live by moral conviction. The soul is elastic like a balloon. It can grow larger through episodes of darkness. While there is no denying that darkness can enlarge the soul’s capacity for anger, depression, despair, and anguish – all natural and legitimate emotions – it is also capable of experiencing greater joy, strength, peace, and love. The soul has the capacity to experience opposites, even at the same time.

“Nicholas Wolterstorff, a philosopher who teaches at Yale, lost his adult son in a tragic mountain-climbing accident a number of years ago. He kept a journal of his experience of grief, which he later published under the title *Lament for a Son.* At one point in the book, he comments on his experience of pain: And sometimes, when the cry is intense, there emerges a radiance which elsewhere seldom appears a glow of courage, of love, of insight, of selflessness, of faith. In that radiance we see best what humanity was meant to be… In the valley of suffering, despair and bitterness are brewed. But there also character is made. The valley of suffering is the valley of soul-making*.” (Excerpt from A Grace Disguised, by Gerald Sittser.)*

We don’t become less through moments of darkness – unless we allow the darkness to make us less.

In His Service,

Archdeacon Greg+

**Tri-Diocesan Intercessions**

**Parish of Bay d’Espoir**

Rector – The Rev. Hubert Vallis

**Parish of Bay de Verde**

Priest-in-Charge – The Rev. Michael Carruthers

**The Sick**

Michael, Salem, Paul, Horace, Michael C, Randy S., John H., Eleanor M., Fred T.

**\*\*\*\***

**Sunday Bulletins**

If you would like to give the bulletin in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving of an event in your life please call the parish office (834-2336) to book a date.

**A Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Queens College is offering an online virtual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity beginning on Monday, January 18. For access to the link please contact Archdeacon Greg Mercer @ [gmercer@anglicanenl.net](mailto:gmercer@anglicanenl.net)

**Ordination Announcement**

God Willing, The Right Reverend Samuel Rose, Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador, will Ordain to the Sacred Order of Priests the Reverend Dale Careen on Sunday, January 24, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at the Church of St. Cyprian and St. Mary on Bell Island*.  Due to COVID-19 regulations this service will be by invitation only.*

Please keep Rev. Dale, his family, and the Parish of Bell Island in your prayers.

**2021 Envelopes**

Your 2021 contribution envelopes are available in the church office. Please call the office if you would like to pick them up or if you would like to them placed at the registration desk for pick up. If you currently do not have envelopes but would like to contribute financially to our parish in this way please email the office [sjtetopsail@nfld.net](mailto:sjtetopsail@nfld.net) or call 834-2336. A reminder that we also have the option of Pre-Authorized payment or e-transfer. To find out more about these options please call the office.