***Collect***

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

***Prayer over the Gifts***

Loving God, before the world began you called us. Make holy all we offer you this day, and strengthen us in that calling. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

***Prayer after Communion***

Gracious God, our hands have taken holy things; our lives have been nourished by the body of your Son. May we who have eaten at this holy table be strengthened for service in your world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn**

Jesus calls us! O’er the tumult

Of our life’s wild restless sea,

Day by day his sweet voice soundeth,

Saying, “Christian, follow me!”

As of old Saint Andrew heard it

By the Galilean lake,

Turned from home and toil and kindred,

Leaving all for his dear sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship

Of the vain world’s golden store,

From each idol that would keep us,

Saying, “Christian, love me more.”

In our joys and in our sorrows,

Days of toil and hours of ease,

Still he calls, in cares and pleasures,

“Christian, love me more than these.”

Jesus Calls us! By thy mercies,

Saviour, may we hear thy call,

Give our hearts to thine obedience,

Serve and love thee best of all.

**Welcome to the Anglican Parish of**

**St. John The Evangelist**

**Conception Bay South, Newfoundland**

January 24, 2021

[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



**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

****WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Traditionally, beginning with The Confession of Saint Peter (January 18) and ending with The Conversion of Saint Paul (January 25), the Church has set aside for The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Many thanks to organizations and religious communities such as the World Council of Churches, The Canadian Council of Churches, Monastic Communities, and others for their ecumenical work and for keeping the spirit of prayer as unity before us.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa once referred to Anglicans as the “Rainbow People of God.” He was speaking of the diversity within the Worldwide Anglican Communion with its many colours, yet united by our Common Prayer and Liturgy. The metaphor can easily be applied to the One Holy Catholic Church. Catholic here meaning “Universal” Church. We are indeed a rich diversity of people under the one Head, Jesus Christ. Yet we are all different, spiritually; we all have different spiritual needs.

When Jesus was asked by his disciples, “Lord teach us to pray,” he responded, “When you pray, say, **OUR** Father…” The Lord’s prayer is a prayer of and for unity. Unity is God’s gift. Jesus himself prayed that his disciples may be one and that future generations of Christians may be one, just as “the Father and I are one.” How important is that?

But what, exactly, does that mean? Does it mean that we should all worship the same way, or think the same way? Does it mean that we should all follow the same system of church governance, or adhere to the same doctrines. Sadly, these are the things that divide us. Moreover, not everyone is charismatic in their spirituality, or in the case of the Roman and Anglican churches, liturgical in their spirituality. Fact is, our diversity is actually a blessing. God is his wisdom has created us all different.

But how does one reconcile this when we see the things that has been happening lately, especially in the United States, one of the largest Christian countries in the world? When we see people holding up signs that say “Jesus is my Saviour,” and at the same time using that to justify their bias, be that political or racial? Or so it seems!

Part of our prayer has to be for forgiveness, past and present – everyone included. We also have to pray for an end to the destructive forces that separate us and isolate us from one another, or for the arrogant pride that says my way is right and yours is wrong. But we also need to recognize, celebrate and give thanks to God for those things that foster unity.

Prayerfully,

Archdeacon Greg+

**Tri-Diocesan Intercessions**

**Parish of Bay L’Argent**

Rector – The Rev. Renee Eason

**Parish of Bay of Islands**

Priest-in-Charge – The Rev. Effie Organ

**Parish of Bay Roberts/Coley’s Point**

Priest-in-Charge – The Rev. Christine Lynch

**The Sick**

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

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**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.***

**FAMILY SERVICE/CANDLEMAS**

Next Sunday we will be having a Family Service (No Eucharist) and we will be using the “Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple.”  The service associated with this Feast is the ancient service of Candlemas.  A beautiful service.  Let’s all do our part and invite a family to join us.

**2021 Envelopes**

Your 2021 contribution envelopes are available at the registration desk. 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.