**“*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prune  to make it bear more fruit.” John: 15. 1-2***

In Our First Lesson this morning from Genesis, God’s First Covenant is often described as being with Noah, but a careful reading reveals two things. First, it is a covenant made between God and ALL OF CREATION, of which humans are a part. Second, and God repeats it SIX times just in case we missed it the first, second, third, fourth or fifth times. It’s important. It’s important to God. It’s important to Creation. It’s important to humankind as PART OF Creation.

Our New testament lesson from Revelations reminds us that the Bible begins and ends with stories that contain the beautiful image of the “tree of life.” It is found in the middle of the Garden of Eden in Genesis and it is there again in John’s powerful vision of Eden restored with a tree of life bearing twelve fruits and whose leaves are “for the healing of the nations.”

In between the tree of Genesis and the tree of Revelation are the stories of God’s people keeping and then breaking, keeping and then breaking, covenant, over and over again. And there is the story of Jesus who, in his life, death and resurrection keeps covenant with and for us and ALL OF CREATION.

In John’s Gospel we hear of The Vine and the Branches. Jesus uses agricultural imagery to remind us, once again, that we are part of God’s created order: God is the vine grower, Jesus is the vine and we are the branches.

In order to keep covenant, in order to live faithfully, in order to “abide” in Jesus, we must do two things: bear fruit and be pruned.

Today we remember PWRDF’s partners throughout the world who with us, are working to keep covenant with ALL OF CREATION. *Canon Jotie, TSSF*

*For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies. Amen*

|  |
| --- |
| ***Worship Calendar*****Sunday, February 4, Epiphany 5**, 10:30 a.m. (White) Christingle Family Service followed by a Cup O’ Tea in the Parish Hall**Sunday, February 11**, **Presentation of Christ in the Temple**,  10:30 a.m. (White) Candlemas Procession & Holy Eucharist**Wednesday, February 14, Ash Wednesday,** 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist With the Imposition of Ashes**Sunday, February 18, Lent 1** 10:30 a.m. (Purple) Holy Eucharist  |

**2024 Envelopes -** If you need a new box of envelopes for 2024, please contact the parish office by email sjtetopsail@nfld.net or call 709-834-2336. We also have the option of Pre-Authorized payment or e-transfer. To learn more about these options please call the Parish Office.

**A Note from the Treasurer:** Please ensure your **envelope number is on** all financial **correspondence** so that we can credit your account for income tax purposes.

**Parish Office hours are Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**2024 Bulletins -** If you’d like to give a weekly bulletin to commemorate the life of a loved one or in Thanksgiving for an event in your life, please contact David in the office for the dates available.

**Parish E-mail List** – We have begun e-mailing the Sunday Bulletin on the previous Thursday and will be sending other information of Parish Life from time to time. If you would like to add your name to this Parish List, please call the Office or email us at **sjtetopsail@nfld.net**

|  |
| --- |
| Bishop: The Right Reverend Samuel RoseDiocesan Administrator: The Venerable Charlene TaylorRector: The Reverend Jotie Noel, T.S.S.F.(Third Order, Society of St. Francis)Parish Deacon:  The Reverend Lisa CoxOrganists/Choir Director: Stephanie Gavell, Amanda Dawe-LedwellParish Wardens: Rex Hillier & Leanne SquireOffice Administrator: David Kelland |

This Bulletin is given to the Glory of God

and in Loving Memory of:

Beloved Father and Grandfather,

**John Gilbert Hillier**

Remembered by

Daughter Glenda Tapp & Grandson Stephen Tapp

**Set Sail - Life on Board** - A Bible Study Series based on suggested Lessons for Season of Creation 2023, “Let Peace and Justice Flow Down like a River,” will take place on **Wednesday morning, January 31, at 10:30 a.m**. Join us for an hour of conversation and discernment.

**Lent is Coming - The Discipline of Reckless Prayer**

The word **reckless** refers to a person or their action without thinking or caring about the consequences of an action. If we say that someone is **reckless**, we mean that they act in a way which shows that they do not care about danger or the effect their behavior will have on themselves or other people. Well indeed, you might ask **what this has to do with prayer?**

It is a good question. Many of us in our faith community pray using the prayers and forms set out in Anglican Books of Prayer, much like we do on Sunday when the community gathers. These prescribed and approved Orders of Service and Prayers keep us within a boundary and direct exactly what we say, think and believe.

**Reckless Prayer** references stepping outside these boundaries of words and form into a wilderness, an unfamiliar borderland. We seek to encounter the *“holy”* without the walls of prescribed words or actions. We seek to listen, to hear, to know, completely on our own without the filters (approved forms and words). Without the safety net of the censoring norms of the faith community we dare to bask in the presence of *‘the source of our being, the eternal word and the Holy Spirit’.*

**Our Mid-Week Lenten Observance,**

**Wednesdays in Lent, 7:00 p.m.:**

Wednesday, February 21 – ***Reckless Prayer through Daily Devotions***

Wednesday, February 28 – ***Reckless prayer through Lectio Divina (Reading the Bible)***

Wednesday, March 6 – ***Reckless Prayer through The Jesus Prayer***

Wednesday, March 13 – ***Reckless Prayer through Beathing***

Wednesday, March 20 – ***Reckless prayer Through Silence***

**We invite prayers for those who are sick -** Patricia B., Elaine M., Benjamin C., Doug T., Tammy H., Jeanette P., Wally H., Trudy T., Brad L., Ruby H.

**Parish Home Visits** – The dynamic of the times still provides many issues for clergy home visit ministry. As we continue to emerge out of the pandemic and still live with it, Canon Jotie is ready, willing, and able to visit you in your home. Under the circumstances, this offer comes with the understanding that he will respond to invitations. Please call him to invite him to visit your home if you wish for conversation, prayers, or Home Communion.

**The Laying on of Hands** – In preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation, **Sunday, May 26,** **2024**, 10:30 a.m. we plan to start Confirmation Classes in late January. Confirmation Candidates should currently be in Grade 6 or older. Please contact the Church Office to register or for more information (709-834-2336 or sjtetopsail@nfld.net).

We are ready, willing and able to prepare adults for Confirmation if you may be interested. Please contact Reverend Jotie for details.

***Family Ukulele Group*** – **UPDATE – Please note change of Sundays** - The Family Ukulele Group is a music ministry of the parish and is open to ALL ages. No prior musically knowledge or experience is needed. Practice lessons are the **second** and **third** Sundays of each month immediately following the 10:30 service. We resume lessons in January 2024.  Ukuleles are available for purchase through the office for approximately $50. To register for the group call David at the office. Be sure to let him know if you will be needing a Ukulele. If you are unable to purchase one, please contact Canon Jotie.

**Volunteers Needed -** If you’re interested in becoming more involved in the life of your Parish, why not consider volunteering to serve on a **“Counting” Team** or as a **Technician** in the **Sound Room**.? Training is provided, and the time commitment would only be an hour or two, every month to 6 weeks. Many hands make light work! If this sounds like something you’d like to do, contact David in the Parish office at sjtetopsail@nfld.net or at 709-834 2336.

**Annual Meeting –** The annual meeting for the parish will be scheduled shortly; This is reminder for all groups and organizations to prepare their reports and submit them to the office as soon as is possible.

**ACW SHROVE TUESDAY SUPPER**

**(EAT-IN)**

(Sausages, Baked Beans, Roll and Pancake Dessert, Tea & Coffee)

**Tuesday, February 13, 2024**

***Eat-in at 6:00 pm***

Cost: Adults $15.00 Children Under: 12 years $7.00

To reserve able your table please call: Shirley @ 709-368-9504 or Louise @ 709-834-7385 – no later than Friday, February 9th!

Thank you for your support!

**QUIET TIME –**

Our ACW invite you - to join us **Saturday morning Feb. 17** for a **Quiet Time** in prayer, reflection and singing as we prepare for our Lenten Journey.

This will begin at 10:30 in the church and be followed by a soup lunch in the Hall.

Our theme, **“Shaped By Love”** will be demonstrated through props and dialogue and will reaffirm and reassure us that God’s love for us has no boundaries.

Both male and female are most welcomed to come along. Enjoy some time away from phones, TV’s and the busyness of everyday life.

Contact Shirley (709-368-9504) or Betty (709-834-4736) to let us know if you are attending so that we have plenty of soup and cookies to go around!