



Anglican Parish of St. Peter's Church,

Hackett's Cove, Nova Scotia

Priest in Charge: The Rev'd Taunya J. Dawson, MA, MDiv

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Lent 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

I am very blessed to be spending my second Lent as an ordained Priest as your Priest-in-Charge, here in the parish of St Peter's. The Lenten season has been described as a journey: beginning with Christ in the wilderness; continuing along the road to Jerusalem; and ending with both death and resurrection! The last year has been a difficult journey for all of us with COVID-19; some have commented that it feels as though Lent has never ended. Thankfully, we have had a pretty, mild winter. Perhaps God knew just how much we could handle!

Lent is often seen as a dark time. Our crosses are shrouded in purple, and we are presented with images of Christ facing temptation in the wilderness, betrayal in Gethsemane, and humiliating death on Calvary. And yet it is during this time that the seed that will become the Christian faith is planted. And under the winter snow, it begins to grow.

Last year we endured the suspension of public worship, and the cancelation of many other community gatherings that bring us closer with our fellow humans. They were unfamiliar circumstances for many of us, but we endured, and are beginning to return to the "new normal". We have resumed public worship since Christmas, have recently celebrated an infant Baptism and held a successful "Messy Church" on Saturday March 20th. We will again be able to celebrate Easter in our beloved churches this year. The spirit of the Church hasn't died at all – it is springing forth!

The Lenten season is – profoundly – a time of hope. Because, amidst the bleakness of the time of year, the trials and tribulations of our lives, and the sombre liturgies – **we know how it ends**, in a way that Christ's followers could not. We, who have been baptized in water and faith, reborn in the Holy Spirit, and given the promise of eternal life, know that our Lord will not abandon us.

Lent is a time for looking at ourselves and our lives, and preparing for the great celebration of Easter. Looking at the weather over the last three days, it seems

appropriate that – at least in this hemisphere – Easter comes at this time of year! We can hope we have had the last lash of Winter’s tail. Let us pray that this Easter will be a time of new life and spiritual renewal, and that our sense of community will continue to grow.

As Christ journeyed towards Jerusalem, he attracted many followers, including his Apostles. After his time in the wilderness, he did not travel alone. And his promise to us is that we will not be alone. Christ is not affected by “social distancing;” if we welcome Him into our houses and our hearts, he will remain with us on our journeys.

In the two Great Commandments, we are told to love God and our fellow human. As we transition towards the “new normal” let us remember to stay safe and to keep in touch with each other by whatever means we have. With God’s help we can “bear each other’s burdens, and thus fulfil the law of Christ”.

We should be inspired by God’s promise, beautifully expressed in our Communion prayer for Lent and Holy Week: “If we have died with him, we shall live with him. **If we hold firm, we shall reign with him.**” Now is the time to hold firm: to each other, to God’s teachings, and to his Church. So, please continue to support our Church. The buildings have re-opened and your encouragement is needed to help maintain her heart and ongoing work.

May God bless all of us.

Taunya+

The Rev’d Taunya J. Dawson, MA, MDiv
Priest-in-Charge