

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”



*John 15:12*

# ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

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Laura Burton  
Sandra Mogensen

Ministers  
Pastor  
Visitation Minister  
Minister of Music  
Organist  
Pianist

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**EASTER 6**

May 9, 2021

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## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,  
The fountain of living water,  
The rock that gave us birth,  
Our Light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Let us come into the light, the revealing and healing light of God.

God of grace and mercy,  
You have brought us through the night of sin into the light of Jesus' resurrection.  
Yet our lives are still shadowed by sin.  
Make us alive in Christ, O God.  
Make us new as you make all things new.  
Rescue us from evil and the gloom of sin, renew us in grace,  
And restore us to living in your holiness,  
Through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. **Amen.**

Rejoice with all creation around God's throne!  
The light of the risen Christ puts to flight all evil deeds, washes away sin,  
Casts out hate, brings peace, and humbles earthly pride.  
Jesus Christ loves you and + frees you from your sins by his blood.  
To him be glory and dominion forever and ever! **Amen.**

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING:** *Acts 10:44-48*

A reading from the Book of Acts.

*While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>44</sup>While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, <sup>46</sup>for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup>So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM:** *Psalms 98*

Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>**O LORD, you have made | known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup>You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

<sup>4</sup>**Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;  
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup>Sing to the LORD | with the harp,  
with the harp and the | voice of song.

<sup>6</sup>**With trumpets and the sound | of the horn  
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup>Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,  
the world and those who | dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup>**Let the rivers | clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to | judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup>The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness  
and the peo- | ples with equity.

## **SECOND READING:** *1 John 5:1-6*

A reading from the First Letter of John.

*God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.*

<sup>1</sup>Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. <sup>2</sup>By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. <sup>3</sup>For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, <sup>4</sup>for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. <sup>5</sup>Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

<sup>6</sup>This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL:** *John 15:9-17*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>9</sup>“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON:**

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5YZa1iTOhhwZkww-DnTr2>

(Click on the link above to view Pastor Jeff’s sermon (or you can find it on the website under the separate heading “Sermons”)

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. Today we pray for the Moravian Church, giving thanks for the life and witness of Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, renewer of the church and hymnwriter. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Faithful Saviour, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering (especially Elsie, Mary, Ardath, Doreen, Margaret, Paul, Lynnette, Glenn, Maria, Beryl, Robb, Jack, John, Ralph, Katana, Ralph, Rose Marie, Nya, Muriel, Ron, Karen, Brian, and Kolby). Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Be with the dying. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives (especially Pastor Dale Finch). Keep us united with them in your lasting love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those**

who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## **BLESSING**

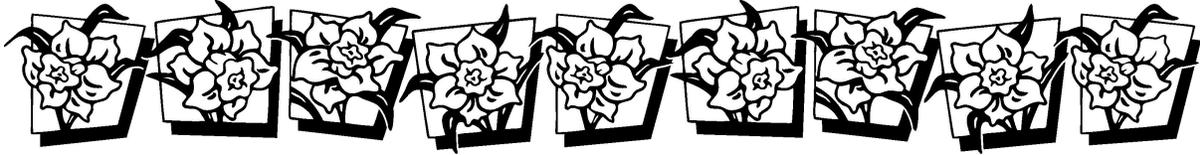
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favour and + give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**



**ALL EVENTS  
REMAIN CANCELLED**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## WORSHIP CANCELLATION NOTICE

ON APRIL 7, 2021  
THE PREMIER OF ONTARIO, DOUG FORD, ANNOUNCED A  
PROVINCE-WIDE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY AND  
STAY-AT-HOME ORDER BEGINNING AT 12:01 A.M. ON  
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021.

RESTRICTIONS WILL BE IN EFFECT FOR 28 DAYS.

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IT IS BISHOP MICHAEL'S STRONG COUNSEL THAT EASTERN  
SYNOD CONGREGATIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO  
CEASE ALL IN-PERSON GATHERINGS UNTIL EMERGENCY  
AND STAY-AT-HOME ORDERS HAVE BEEN LIFTED.

AS A RESULT,

WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT  
ALL "IN-PERSON" GATHERINGS,  
INCLUDING WORSHIP, ARE  
CANCELLED UNTIL THE EMERGENCY AND STAY-AT-HOME

**ORDERS HAVE BEEN LIFTED.**  
**PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE AT**  
**www.zionstratford.com**

**FOR UPDATES !!**

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**COVID-19 VACCINATIONS - UPDATE**

Huron-Perth, ON – In alignment with provincial direction, Huron Perth Public Health (HPPH) is expanding COVID-19 vaccine eligibility. As of Thursday, May 6, the following groups will be able to make an appointment at a future HPPH vaccination clinic:

- Individuals turning 50 and over in 2021 (born 1971 or earlier);
- People who cannot work from home (remotely) who fall under Group One of Ontario’s vaccine rollout plan.
  
- People who cannot work remotely who fall under Group One include:
  - Elementary and secondary school workers (including educators, custodial, school bus drivers, administrative staff)
  - Workers responding to critical events (including police, fire, special constables, children’s aid society workers, emergency management, critical infrastructure, restoration workers)
  - Enforcement, inspection and compliance roles (including by-law enforcement, building inspectors, food inspectors, animal welfare inspectors, border inspection officers, labour inspectors/WSIB field workers)
  - Foster care agency workers (including customary care providers)
  - Food manufacturing and distribution workers
  - Agriculture and farm workers
  - Funeral, crematorium and cemetery workers.

For a full eligibility list, please see [www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking](http://www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking). Please remember that once someone is eligible, they are always eligible.

“We are making good progress with vaccinations in Huron Perth,” says Dr. Miriam Klassen, Medical Officer of Health. “The province set a target of 40% of the eligible population aged 18 and over to have at least one vaccine dose by May 1. We achieved 39.8% coverage in Huron Perth. I am very pleased that Ontario’s vaccine supply is increasing this month, allowing us to protect even more of our population against COVID-19.”

HPPH will be closing our booking system (both website and telephone booking) temporarily at

4:30pm on Wednesday, May 5 for maintenance, and will reopen it sometime on Thursday, May 6. At that time, newly eligible and previously eligible groups will be able to book appointments for future HPPH community clinics. Anyone eligible for a vaccination can make an appointment on the HPPH booking system at [www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking](http://www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking) or by calling 1-833-753-2098. Online booking is encouraged due to call volume. We are currently booking appointments into late May.

HPPH will announce when the booking system re-opens through website notifications and social media. You can subscribe to page updates for [www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking](http://www.hpph.ca/vaccinebooking) (button on the right hand side of the page) if you would like to receive an email notification when bookings open.

“We know that many people have been waiting for their turn to be vaccinated. We expect the booking system to be very busy when it reopens and ask that anyone trying to make an appointment be patient,” says Dr. Klassen. “There will be enough vaccine for all Ontarians. Everyone who wants to be vaccinated will eventually have the opportunity to be vaccinated.”

In addition to HPPH community mass vaccination clinics, Ontario is also offering the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to individuals aged 40 and over at pharmacy locations, including certain pharmacies in Huron-Perth. The entire list of participating pharmacies can be found at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations>.

\*\*Correction to this media release made May 5/21: Under People who cannot work remotely who fall under Group One, Individuals working in unlicensed childcare settings were listed in error.

Workers in unlicensed childcare settings will not be eligible for vaccination on Thursday, May 6. They are not included in the province’s first group of people who cannot work from home. Huron Perth Public Health will expand eligibility to child care workers in unlicensed child care settings once this direction has been provided by the Provincial Government. We apologize for the inconvenience, and will communicate widely once this group is eligible for vaccination.

For more information:

[www.hpph.ca/coronavirus](http://www.hpph.ca/coronavirus)  
[www.ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus)

Follow us at [www.facebook.com/HuronPerthPublicHealth](http://www.facebook.com/HuronPerthPublicHealth) and [www.twitter.com/HPPublicHealth](http://www.twitter.com/HPPublicHealth)  
Call HPPH at 1-888-221-2133

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**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Just a reminder for those on the Finance Committee that there is a Zoom meeting on **Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

# *A Mother's Day Prayer*

Lord, today, we pray for mothers everywhere.

Bless moms who are expecting a baby.  
Calm their fears and keep their new little life safe.

Bless mothers who have babies and toddlers and are in a busy season of bottles, sippy cups, and endless laundry. Give strength to moms of little ones. They need it, Lord.

Bless mothers who have busy school-aged children.  
Gift them an extra measure of wisdom to answer questions, model maturity, and mold young hearts.

Bless mothers who parent teens. Allow them the grace to let go when needed and the courage to provide firm boundaries when required.

Bless mothers of adult children that they would savor the joy of friendship with their child.

Bless single mothers with the strength to fulfill many roles.  
Provide them with supportive people in their lives.

Bless moms who are married that they would care for their children by making their husbands a priority.

Bless grandmothers who have the double blessing of being both mother and grandmother.  
May they spoil their grandkids with abundance.

We pray peace for mothers who have lost a child and for women who are grieving because of infertility.

Give us eyes to see women around us who struggle to mother well.  
Help us be the hands and feet of Jesus to them.

Thank you for our mothers. They gave us life and for that gift we are forever grateful.

We pray for mothers everywhere.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL MOTHERS & GRANDMOTHERS  
MAY YOU HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY DAY !**