

Fourth Sunday of Easter Holy Eucharist

April 21, 2024 10:30am Communion & Music

Alleluia, Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed!

Responding to God's love for us and all people, the parish of St. Nick's seeks to know Christ and make him known in worship, friendship and service with our neighbourhood and in the world.

Everyone is welcome to join us in our common life of faith, doubt, trust, challenge and love.



Welcome to St. Nick's!

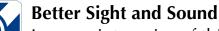
Whether you're here virtually or in-person, for the first time or the hundredth time, it's a blessing to have you praying with us today. Our sidespeople are the friendly people at the back of the church who can help you with anything you need. Everything you need today is in this leaflet. We hope you'll participate as you feel comfortable.

Washrooms

Our washrooms are downstairs, which you can get to by the staircase near the left-side chapel, or by the elevator, also in the chapel. For help with the elevator, speak to one of our sidespeople.

Accessibility

If you need extra space for a walker or wheelchair, our sidespeople will show you to the accessibility pew near the front of the church. If you need communion brought to you in your pew, let one of the sidespeople know.



Large-print copies of this leaflet are also available: just ask a sidesperson. If you have difficulty hearing, we have audio-assistive devices that will help you hear the service better.

Children and Families

Young kids and their parents are free to roam the church throughout the service. There are activity bags at the back for older children – just ask a sidesperson. Families can also hang out in our Nick's Nook, the big open space on the right side of the church, where parents can still hear and participate in the service.

Territorial Acknowledgment & Commitment to Reconciliation

We acknowledge that the land on which our parish sits is the traditional territory of the



Wendat, the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Mississaugas of Scugog, Hiawatha and Alderville First Nations and the Métis Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the

Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. The treaties that were signed for this particular parcel of land are collectively referred to as the Williams Treaties of 1923. We also recognize, and pray for the continual grace to honour the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples on this land.





stnicholas_ang



The Gathering of the Community

Prelude Abridge (C. S. Lang)

Opening Hymn *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (Common Praise #520) *As you're able, you're invited to stand.*

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine for ever.

Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth, and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me, and on his shoulder gently laid, and home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me; thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth; and O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never; good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever!

- Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- *People:* The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- *Celebrant:* May his grace and peace be with you.
- *People:* May he fill our hearts with joy.

Celebrant: Almighty God,

All: to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song of Praise

All: (sung) Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards all. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty. O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord, God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect (Prayer) of the Day

Celebrant: Let us pray. (A time of silence is kept.)

Shepherd of all, by laying down your life for your flock you reveal your love for all. Lead us from the place of death to the place of abundant life, so that, guided by your care for us, we may rightly offer our lives in love for you and our neighbour.

All: Amen.

The Proclamation of God's Word

You may be seated during the readings.

Reading Acts 4:5-12

Reader: A reading from the book of Acts

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

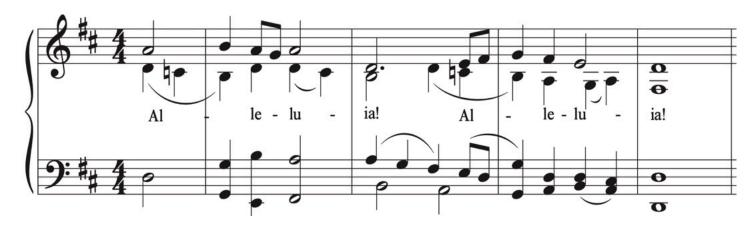
Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

Psalm

The choir will sing the verses, and everyone is invited to join in the refrain.



All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Choir: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want. * You make me lie down in green pastures, and lead me beside still waters. You revive my soul,

* and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

All: Alleluia, alleluia!

- Choir: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil.
 * For you are with me, your rod and your staff they comfort me.
 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me.
 * You have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- All: Alleluia, alleluia!
- Choir: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life * and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.
- All: Alleluia, alleluia!

Reading 1 John 3:16-24

Reader: A reading from the first letter of John

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

- *Reader*: The Word of the Lord.
- *People*: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

As you're able, stand and face the procession as it moves down the aisle.

All: [sung] Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia! [x2]

- *Reader:* The Lord be with you.
- *People:* And also with you.
- *Reader:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.
- People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Reading** John 10:11-18
- *Reader*: 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay

down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All: [sung] Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia! [x2]

Homily Fr. Andrew

After an opening prayer, the preacher will invite you to be seated.

Confession of Faith

As you're able, you may stand.

Celebrant: Let us confess the faith of our baptism as we say, I believe in one God,

All: the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

> I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

As you're comfortable, you're welcome to stand, sit or kneel for the prayers. At the end of each prayer, the leader will offer this invitation...

Leader: ...let us pray to the Lord. People: Hear us, Lord of Glory!

Confession and Absolution, and Sharing of Christ's Peace

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy: he welcomes sinners, and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

A brief silence is kept. As you're comfortable, you're invited to kneel or sit.

Celebrant: Most merciful God,

- All: We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.
- *Celebrant:* Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- People: Amen.

As you're able, you may stand.

- *Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.
- *People:* And also with you.

You may turn to friend and neighbour, and share a sign of God's peace.

Welcome & Announcements

You may be seated as we hear about ministries & events coming up at St. Nick's.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn *The Lord's My Shepherd* (Common Praise #519) *As you're able, you're invited to stand.*

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want: he makes me down to lie in pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by. My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make within the paths of righteousness, even for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill; for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes; my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me, and in God's house for evermore my dwelling place shall be.



Offertory

If you wish to make a monetary gift while you're here, you can place your offering on the plate as it comes around, or on your way out today. There are guest envelopes in the pews you can use. Tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$20. You can also make an e- offering through Canada Helps, using this QR code.

Prayer over the Gifts

- *Celebrant:* God of loving care, you spread before us the table of life, and give us the cup of salvation to drink. Receive all we offer you this day, and keep us always in the fold of your Son Jesus Christ, our Saviour and our shepherd.
- All: Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

- *Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.
- *People:* And also with you.
- Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
- *People:* We lift them to the Lord.
- *Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- *People:* It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- *All:* (*sung*) Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true paschal lamb who has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us eternal life. Therefore, joining our voices with the whole company of heaven, we sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.
- All: (sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

- *Celebrant:* O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.
- People: Come, Holy Spirit.
- *Celebrant:* Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
- *People:* Come, Holy Spirit.
- *Celebrant:* With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.
- People: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, Our Father in heaven,

All: hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

- *Celebrant*: Lord, we died with you on the cross. Now we are raised to new life. **People:** *Celebrant:* We were buried in your tomb.
- Now we share in your resurrection. **People:**
- Celebrant: Live in us,
- **People:** that we may live in you.
- *Celebrant:* The gifts of God for the people of God.
- **People:** Thanks be to God.
- (sung) Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us. All: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace.

The Communion





You may receive both Everyone is welcome bread and wine, or just to receive communion. the bread, if you wish. available upon request. receive a blessing instead.





Communion can be brought to you if needed: just ask a sidesperson.

Gluten-free wafers

Cross your arms to

Ministry of Anointing and Prayers for Healing

Anyone who wishes to receive prayers for healing in body, mind or spirit, and anointing with holy oil may go to the side chapel immediately after receiving communion.

Music during Communion

Hymn God, You Have Caused to Be Written (Common Praise #476)

God, you have caused to be written your word for our learning; grant us that, hearing, our hearts may be inwardly burning. Give to us grace, that in your Son we embrace life, all its glory discerning.

Now may our God give us joy, and all peace in believing all things were written in truth for our thankful receiving. As Christ did preach, through all the world love must reach: grant us each day love's achieving.

Lord, should the powers of the earth and the heavens be shaken, Grant us to see you in all things, our vision awaken. Help us to see, though all the earth cease to be, your truth shall never be shaken.

Hymn We Walk by Faith, and Not by Sight (Common Praise #244)

We walk by faith, and not by sight; no gracious words we hear from him who spoke as none e'er spoke; but we believe him near.

We may not touch his hands and side, nor follow where he trod; but in his promise we rejoice and cry, "My Lord and God!"

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound, to call on you when you are near, and seek where you are found:

that, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light we may behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

Sending of God's People

Prayer after Communion As you're comfortable, you may stand, sit or kneel for these prayers.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

God of steadfast love, watch over the Church redeemed by the blood of your Son. May we who share in these holy mysteries come safely to your eternal kingdom, where there is one flock and one shepherd. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: Glory to God,

All: Whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God, from generation to generation, In the church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

Final Blessing

- *Celebrant:* May the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.
- People: Amen.

Closing Hymn Sing Hallelujah to Our God (Common Praise #492) As you're able, you're invited to stand.

> Sing hallelujah to our God, sing out in glad and glorious praise; Let "Holy, holy" be your song with all your heart, through all your days, for holy is the name we know in highest heaven and earth below, Creator, Father, Mother blest in whom all parents end their quest.

Sing hallelujah to the Son, by word and deed his love proclaim, in whom all sons their sonship find and every daughter knows her name. O praise with loud and joyful songs the Child to whom each child belongs, the Lamb, who to the Father brings all living, dying, helpless things.

Sing hallelujah, raise the hymn to Holy Spirit, God of grace, who, binding all the church in one, awakens hearts in every place; that every family may find in unity of humankind the only truth that sets us free, the love that serves eternally.

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!*People:* Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude Postlude on Nous chanterons pour toi, Seigneurn (Denis Bédard) *You may be seated as the procession passes by you.*

Thank you for praying with us today!

The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Paul Naraindas by Joan Wilson.

Assisting in today's service:

Readers:	Suzanne Lehtinen, Jill Cruse
Intercessor:	Sonia Halloran
Servers:	Aimee Delavigne
Chalice Bearer:	Aimee Delavigne, Wendy Barber
Livestreaming Tech:	Dennis Newman
Congregational Voice:	Vicky Morgan
Altar Guild:	Joan Johnson, Betsy Jones, Jane Roberts, Pauline Glasgow,
	Jan Main
Sidespeople:	Ann McClymont, Sonia Halloran, James Hancock,
	Ellie McPhearson, Dennis Newman

Upholding in prayer this week....

For all suffering in the midst of war, civil unrest or disaster
The Anglican Church of Australia
The Diocese of Ontario, Bishop William Cliff
Pray for healing and reconciliation among all people
Vocations for Ministry: Ordained, Lay and the Religious Life
Hospital Chaplains & Spiritual Care Workers in our deanery &
ministerial
St. Paul's United
The ministry of our Lay Anointers
Betty Eley, Margaret Endugesick, Sharon Endugesick,
David & William Davison
For all who are sick or in any need. For all those living with chronic problems, our housebound parishioners and their caregivers.

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer." Romans 12:12

Readings for next Sunday: Fifth Sunday after Easter Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8



Wedding Invitation

This Saturday, we'll be celebrating the marriage of Phil Gearing and Lorraine Pollard, and everyone is warmly invited to attend. The ceremony will be at 1pm, followed by a reception in the parish hall. Congratulations, Lorraine and Phil!

Wanted: A Softball Coach

A few weeks ago, there was some chatter about starting up the St. Nick's Knights and putting a team together. Would you be interested in coaching and organizing the team? If so, let Laura in the office know, 416-691-0449, or laura@stnicholasbirchcliff.com

Prayer Walks for Parish Ministry

As we continue to renew and reimagine our parish ministry for the next few years, Fr. Andrew is planning some walks through the neighbourhood, and pray about what opportunities might be waiting for us. Now that the weather is getting nicer, anyone interested in going for a nice evening walk from time to time is more than welcome to join. Want to be a part of this? Let Fr. Andrew know.

Dr. Roz's - Mother's Day Drive

The Outreach Committee is partnering with Dr. Roz's Healing Place, a centre working toward the eradication of violence against women and children, to make Mother's Day a little brighter for women who are staying in the shelter there. At any given time there are 16-20 women staying at Dr. Roz's. You can help by donating new gifts and Mother's Day cards and leaving them in the bin at the back of the church. Some items you might consider donating are large- and medium-size pyjamas, slippers, face and body creams, scarves or makeup. We'll be accepting gifts until Sunday, May 5, and then we'll wrap and deliver them to the shelter on May 11, the day before Mother's Day. If you have any questions, email Ken Campbell at kcampbell2712@gmail.com.

Invitation to photo exhibit

Spring Spired, a photo exhibit by community lunch guest Daphne Hunt is showing until May 30, 2024 at Taylor Memorial Library (Kingston Rd at Warden) during opening hours. Members of the Birch Cliff community Facebook group will be familiar with her beautiful photos of our neighbourhood. Visit the library and see this great exhibit.

Cour Vision – May 2022 School families programs programs programs place place young blace place pla



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Clergy Team The Rev. Andrew MacDonald Incumbent fr.andrew@stnicholasbirchcliff.com 416-672-0489 (pastoral)

The Rev. Joan Wilson Honorary Associate

Parish Musician Ms. Christine Hanson christine@stnicholasbirchcliff.com

Faith Community Nurse Cheryle Pollock, RN parishnurse@stnicholasbirchcliff.com Parish Office Office Hours: Mon, 8-11; Tues-Fri 9-12 Ms. Laura lamundo Parish Administrator laura@stnicholasbirchcliff.com 416-691-0449

Parish Leadership Brian Todd, Sonia Halloran Wardens Katherine Ferrante, Sharon Endugesick Deputy Wardens wardens@stnicholasbirchcliff.com

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