



**ST NICHOLAS**  
ANGLICAN CHURCH, BIRCH CLIFF

**Ash Wednesday**  
Holy Eucharist &  
Imposition of Ashes

March 5, 2025  
10:00am Sung service

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, we are pleased that you are here with us on this solemn Ash Wednesday. If you need anything while you're here, our sidespeople are the friendly people at the back of the church that will help you. 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.



### Better Sight and Sound

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.



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# The Gathering of the Community

**Prelude** Chorale Prelude on Rockingham (C. H. H. Parry)

**Opening Hymn** **Forty Days and Forty Nights** (*Common Praise #175*)  
*As you're able, you're invited to stand.*

**Forty days and forty nights you were fasting in the wild,  
forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled:  
burning heat throughout the day, bitter cold when light had fled,  
prowling beasts around your way, stones your pillow, earth your bed.  
Shall not we your trials share, learn your discipline of will,  
and with you by fast and prayer wrestle with the powers of hell?  
So if Satan, pressing hard, soul and body would destroy,  
Christ who conquered, be our guard; give to us the victor's joy.  
Saviour, may we hear your voice keep us constant at your side;  
and with you we shall rejoice at the eternal Eastertide.**

## Opening Prayer

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray. (*A time of silence is kept.*)  
Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All** **Amen.**

# The Proclamation of God's Word

*You may be seated during the readings.*

**Reading** Isaiah 58:1-12

*Reader* A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. 'Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?' Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

***People*** **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**

Psalm 103:8-18 (with refrains from *Tree of Life*, CP 179 vv. 1 & 3)

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

1. Tree of life and awe-seome mys-tery, in your death we are re -  
 2. We re-mem-ber truth once spo-ken, love passed on through act and  
 4 born, though you die in all of his - tory, still you rise with ev - ery  
 word, ev - ery per - son lost and bro - ken wears the bod - y of the  
 8 morn; still you rise with ev - ery morn.  
 Lord, wears the bod - y of the Lord.

**All** **Tree of life and awesome mystery, in your death we are reborn;  
 Though you die in all of history, still you rise with every morn,  
 Still you rise with every morn.**

*Choir* The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness.  
 He will not always accuse us, nor will he keep his anger forever.  
 He has not dealt with us according to our sins.  
 nor rewarded our wickedness.

**All** **We remember truth once spoken, love passed on through act and word;  
 every person lost and broken wears the body of our Lord,  
 wears the body of our Lord.**

*Choir* For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
 so is his mercy great on those who fear him.  
 As far as the east is from the west, has he removed our sins from us.  
 As a father cares for his children,  
 so does the Lord care for those who fear him.  
 For he himself knows whereof we are made.

1. Tree of life and awe-seome mys-tery, in your death we are re-  
 2. We re-mem-ber truth once spo-ken, love passed on through act and  
 born, though you die in all of his - tory, still you rise with ev - ery  
 word, ev - ery per - son lost and bro - ken wears the bod - y of the  
 morn; still you rise with ev - ery morn.  
 Lord, wears the bod - y of the Lord.

**All**      **Tree of life and awesome mystery, in your death we are reborn;  
 Though you die in all of history, still you rise with every morn,  
 Still you rise with every morn.**

*Choir*      He remembers that we are but dust; our days are like grass.  
 When the wind goes over it, it is gone.  
 But God's mercy endures for those who fear him.  
 For those who remember his commandments and do them.

**All**      **We remember truth once spoken, love passed on through act and word;  
 every person lost and broken wears the body of our Lord,  
 wears the body of our Lord.**

**Reading:**      Philippians 4:4-9

*Reader:*      A Reading from Paul's letter to the church in Philippi.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is

any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

*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:** (♪) **Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life. (x2)**

*Reader* (♪) The Lord be with you.

***People* And also with you.**

*Reader* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

***People* Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Reading** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*Reader* Jesus said, "Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes

and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

*Reader* (♪) The Gospel of Christ.

**People** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**All:** (♪) **Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God’s holy name.**  
**Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.** (x2)

**Homily** Fr. Andrew

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

## Invitation into Lenten Penitence and Reflection

*The celebrant addresses the congregation with a call to observe a holy season of Lent, which begins on this day as we mark ourselves with ashes.*

### Litany of Penitence

*As you’re comfortable, you’re welcome to sit or kneel for the prayers.*

*Celebrant* Most holy and merciful father,

**All** we confess to you, to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

*Celebrant* We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**All** Have mercy on us, Lord.

*Celebrant* We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**All** Have mercy on us, Lord.

*Celebrant* We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

**All** We confess to you, Lord.

*Celebrant* Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

**All** We confess to you, Lord.



*Celebrant* Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**All** **We confess to you, Lord.**

*Celebrant* Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**All** **We confess to you, Lord.**

*Celebrant* Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**All** **We confess to you, Lord.**

*Celebrant* Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**All** **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

*Celebrant* For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**All** **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

*Celebrant* For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**All** **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

*Celebrant* Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

**All** **Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

## **Psalm 51**

*As we sing this Psalm, you may remain seated or kneeling.*

**Create in me a clean heart, Lord, renew my spirit in the right;  
Take not your Spirit from my life nor cast me out, Lord, from your sight.**

**With your free Spirit strengthen me, help me again, my joy renew,  
The wicked shall I teach your ways, and sinners shall return to you.**

**Save me from death and I will sing your righteousness through all my days;  
Open my lips, my saviour God, my mouth shall then proclaim your praise.**

**If sacrifice were your desire, Lord, I would bring it for my part;  
But what I bring you will not scorn: a troubled spirit, contrite heart.**

## Blessing and Imposition of Ashes

*Celebrant* Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**All: Amen.**

*If you wish to receive the sign of ashes on your forehead, you're invited to come forward to the chancel step.*

## Music during Imposition of Ashes

**Hymn** *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee* (Common Praise #617)  
*You may remain seated this hymn is sung.*

**Jesus, the very thought of thee, with sweetness fills the breast;  
but sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.**

**No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the memory recall  
a sweeter sound than Jesus' name, the Saviour of us all.**

**O hope of every contrite heart, O joy of all the meek;  
to those who ask, how kind thou art, how good to those who seek!**

**But what to those who find? Ah, this nor tongue nor pen can show;  
the love of Jesus, what it is none but his lovers know.**

**Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize wilt be;  
in thee be all our glory now, and through eternity.**

*When everyone who wishes has received ashes, the service continues...*

*Celebrant* Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**People** **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

*Celebrant* By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,  
**People** **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**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.*

## The Celebration of the Eucharist

**Offertory Hymn** *Giver of the Perfect Gift* (Common Praise #180)

*As you're able, you're invited to stand.*



### **Offertory**

If you'd like to make an offering today, just place it on the offertory plate as it comes around, or at the back of the church as you leave. Gift envelopes can be found in the pews. You can also give via CanadaHelps using this QR code. We'll issue tax receipts for donations over \$20. Your gifts sustain our parish ministry, and our presence as the neighbourhood Anglican church in Birch Cliff.

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**Giver of the perfect gift, only hope of human race,  
hear the prayer our hearts uplift, trembling at thy throne of grace.**

**Though the accusing voice within speaks of many a wrong to thee,  
thou canst cleanse from every sin; thou canst set the conscience free.**

**Who can save us, Lord, but thou? Let thy mercy show thy power.  
Lo, we plead thy promise now, now, in this the accepted hour.**

**Oh! may these our Lenten days, blest by thee, with thee be passed,  
that with purer, nobler praise we may keep thy feast at last.**

**God the holy Trinity, grant the mercy we implore  
Gode the one, all praise to thee, through the ages evermore.**

*Celebrant* Merciful God, turn us from sin to faithfulness. Accept our offering, and prepare us to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you now and forever.

*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.**

*Celebrant:* Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth, because you bid your faithful people to cleanse their hearts and to prepare with joy for the paschal feast; that reborn through the waters of baptism and renewed in the eucharistic mystery, we may be more fervent in prayer and more generous in the works of love. Therefore we raise our voices to you in praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All:** (♪) **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be thee, O Lord most high. Blessèd is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.**

*As you're comfortable, you may stand, sit or kneel.*

*Celebrant:* We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

**People:** Therefore, Father, according to his command,  
**we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.**

*Celebrant:* and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

**People: Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Celebrant* As our Saviour Christ has taught us, let us pray,  
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* We break this bread,

**People** **Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

*Celebrant* Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.

**People** **If we have died with him, we shall live with him;  
if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.**

*Celebrant* The gifts of God for the people of God.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

**All**    (♪) **O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: grant us thy peace.**

## The Communion



Everyone is welcome to receive communion.



You may receive both bread and wine, or just the bread, if you wish.



Gluten-free wafers available upon request.



Cross your arms to receive a blessing instead.



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

## Music during Communion

**Choir:** Christ be with me (Oliver Tarney)

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me,  
Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet,  
Christ in danger, Christ in the hearts of all who love me,  
Christ in the mouths of friend and stranger.

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me,  
Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.

**Hymn:** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is* (Common Praise #520)

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

**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!

## Sending of God's People

### Prayer after Communion

*As you're comfortable, you may stand, sit or kneel for these prayers.*

*Celebrant:* All your works praise you, O Lord;

**All:** And your faithful servants bless you.

**Gracious God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**

**May we, who share his body, live his risen life;**

**we, who drink his cup, bring life to others;**

**we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.**

**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,**

**so that we and all your children shall be free,**

**and the whole earth live to praise your name;**

**through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### A Lenten Blessing

*Celebrant:* May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give you a  
contrite heart.

**All: Amen.**

*Celebrant:* May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the cross, heal you by his  
wounds.

**All: Amen.**

*Celebrant:* May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of  
pardon and peace.

**All: Amen.**

*Celebrant:* And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among  
you remain with you always.

**All: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**    *Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower* (Common Praise #441)  
*As you're able, you're invited to stand.*

**Thee will I love, my strength, my tower; thee will I love, my joy, my crown;  
thee will I love with all my power, in all thy works, and thee alone;  
thee will I love till sacred fire fills my whole soul with pure desire.**

**I thank thee, uncreated Sun, that thy bright beams on me have shined;  
I thank thee, who hast overthrown my foes, and healed my wounded mind;  
I thank thee, whose enlivening voice bids my freed heart in thee rejoice.**

**Uphold me in the doubtful race, nor suffer me again to stray;  
strengthen my feet with steady pace still to press forward in thy way;  
that all my powers, with all their might, in thy sole glory may unite.**

**Thee will I love, my joy, my crown; thee will I love, my Lord, my God;  
thee will I love, beneath thy frown or smile - thy sceptre or thy rod;  
what though my flesh and heart decay, thee shall I love in endless day.**

#### **Dismissal**

*Celebrant*    Let us bless the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**    Christ, du Lamm Gottes (BWV 619, J. S. Bach)

*You may be seated as the procession passes by you.*

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**We are blessed that you have joined us today.  
May God's grace surround you through this holy Lent.**

#### **Assisting in today's service:**

**Readers:**                    Pauline Glasgow, Jill Cruse  
**Server:**                     Cheryle Pollock  
**Chalice Bearers:**        Cheryle Pollock, Aimee Delavigne  
**Livestreaming Tech:**    Martha Holmen  
**Congregational Voice:** Sonia Halloran  
**Sidespeople:**             Stephanie Ford, Ron & Betty Kimball