

**Enews to the St. Mark's Pews**  
**74th Edition August 27, 2021**  
**St. Mark's Anglican Church est. 1792**  
**Niagara-on-the Lake, ON**

***Hear the Good News! Hear the Good news!***

On Sunday morning, we will hear some verses from the Song of Solomon. Part of this particular pericope was set to music by Healey Willan: the famous motet *Rise Up My Love* often sung at weddings. Of course the Song of Solomon contains readings particularly suitable for weddings, since it's all about love and—dare I say it—sex!

For a long time, the Song of Solomon was read in allegorical terms. But by the nineteenth century, Biblical scholars came to a general consensus: the book had its origin as a collection of songs sung at weddings. Such a discovery was of little value or help to many preachers and teachers who were then left with the vexing question of why such a book should have even been included in the canon of scripture.

Hugh S. Pyper, Professor of Biblical Studies at Sheffield University, writes,

“Twentieth-century thought on the Song was coloured by a new awareness, sometimes obsessive, of the importance of sexuality and the body in human existence. The Song has been reclaimed by commentators as a celebration of sexuality enshrined in the very bible which has been the instrument of repression.”

Such critics, living and working within the highly charged contemporary climate of sexuality, therefore imply that the tradition of allegorical interpretation betrays the desire of Christians to repudiate the body and human sexuality.

Perhaps the takeaway for you and me for this mysterious, troubling—and even embarrassing—Song of Solomon, is that God, the great cosmic lover, gazes upon us with longing. So often he looks upon us through the window of our own resistance, estrangement and hostility. So often he looks upon us even though our gaze is averted from his and fixed on some other desire. So often he calls to us and we shut our ears to his love song.

But, if we unlatch the windows of our soul, if we turn to meet his gaze, if we answer his call, he will summon us to his great banquet—the feast of his Body broken and Blood outpoured—by which he comes into us and transforms us. And in that great act we will know ecstatic joy beyond all human joys, for we will know ourselves the beloved of the one who is himself Love.

Faithfully yours

Leighton

## PARISH UPDATES

### *Keeping in Touch On-line*

*Now that we are back to Church in-person our Sunday morning services are **live streamed** on Facebook and YouTube at 10:30 am. Simply go to St. Mark's Niagara-on-the-Lake Facebook page.*

Please use these URLs to watch:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Marks-Anglican-Church-Niagara-on-the-Lake-235477056649804/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-vVgNf0GbuxrfIjW4sOXzQ>

*Our Enews and Order of Service can also be accessed through new website:*

*Enews:* <https://stmarksnotl.org/news/news>.

*Order of Service:* <https://stmarksnotl.org/worship-ministry/order-of-service-bulletin>

## WORSHIP:

### Sunday Prayers with Bishop Susan in the Summer

**End Date:** September 6, 2021

We invite you to join Bishop Susan and people from across the diocese and beyond for a time of worship, prayer, fellowship, and teaching.

Each Sunday during the summer our diocesan service will begin at 10:00am on our [diocesan Facebook page](#) and then will be posted on our [YouTube channel](#). We'll have a number of special guest preachers to open up the Word of God for us.

## **WARDEN'S LETTER**

The good news is that Donald Combe did celebrate a 90th birthday on Sunday Aug. 22 with hundreds of emails, cards and we are sure there was a dinner there somewhere. Fr. Leighton returned from his East Coast vacation and has been preparing for the September activities of Monday Bible Study and Wednesday Morning Prayer. We continue to work to permanently resolve the sound problems with our Sunday services online. We realize how frustrating it is for EVERYONE to struggle to hear the services clearly.

The church floor is completed and we have had many compliments in preserving the original pine wood using very old boards that were saved from demolition and restoration work. The removal of the last row of pews has provided additional space for entering and leaving the church especially when the weather slows the flow of people. Additional greeters as well as one or two counters are still needed. Please contact the office if you can assist on a team. It requires only once-a-month availability. Training is provided and you will work alongside others.

We end this Wardens letter with the announcement of the death of The Reverend Canon Peter Ford, our tenth rector (1986-1991), who died in hospice in England after a short and difficult illness. Peter was a friend of many of us, a humble and gracious gentleman who positively influenced so many of us in St. Mark's and community. We also mourn the loss of Tony Dolynski, husband of Arlene, a member of our parish.

A reminder to advise the office of anyone who needs assistance in any way, including a phone call, food picked up and delivered or some companionship through phone, Facetime or over the fence.

## Attitude -

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearances, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company...a church....a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past....we cannot change the fact that people will act a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% of what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. And so it is with you.....we are in charge of our attitudes."

By Charles Swindoll

Stay safe – keep well

**Called to Life – Compelled to Love**

Your Wardens

**READINGS FOR FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**[Sunday, August 29, 2021 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost](#)**

**Song of Solomon 2:8-13** This book is a collection of love songs. They are dialogues between a man – the bridegroom – and a woman – the bride. In our passage, the woman speaks first.

**James 1:17-27** This book is an exhortation to conduct befitting Christians. We are aliens in a world which has become evil, and are also heirs of God's relationship with Israel. We are called to be doers of the word, and not just hearers of it.

**Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23** Mark has told us that Jesus has gained an audience among the common people, who have sought sustenance and have responded to his compassion in healing. Now we hear of his opposition to the legalism and pickiness of the Pharisees.

**Prayers of the People** (submitted by John MacBeth)

For all people in their daily life and work; we give thanks for the presence in this community of George and Jane Robinson, Joy Rogers, Patty Rowland, and James Schuster and pray for them and their families.

**For our families, friends and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.**

For this community, our country, and the world; for the Niagara Diocese we pray for Grace Church, Waterdown, The Reverend Sue-Ann Ward, Rector, The Reverend Dr. Paul Bates, Deacon and the people of that parish.

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; we pray for the sick, especially remembering Gillian MacKay, Terry, Don Dicarolo, Jan Brown, Lisa, Dorothy Walker, Sharon, Dick, Doug Garrett, Bev Garrett, Jodey Porter, Sean, Jackie Johnson, and Joshua. And for those shut in their homes, Fred Habermehl, Fred Dixon, Joy Ormsby, Selina Appleby, and Joan Draper. We pray for those who have gone before us, Ross Tomlinson, Peter Ford, and Tony Dolynski.

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.**

For Susan our bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers; in the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Rt. Rev. Chris Harper, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Saskatoon, and Bishop Greg Mohr, the people and rostered ministers of the British Columbia Synod.

**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For our own needs and those of others

**(in silence)**

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**