

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 10, 2019

*The Lord has manifested his glory;
O come, let us worship!*

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:

✠ Psalms 148 & 149 | Isaiah 59:12-20 | Ephesians 5:15-6:9

9:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit: Psalm 97:1-6:	<i>page 454</i>
The Gloria:	<i>page 86</i>
The Collect:	<i>page 129</i>
The Old Testament Lesson:	Amos 8:4-8, 11-12
Surge Illuminare:	<i>page 28</i>
The Epistle:	<i>page 129</i>
Gradual: Psalm 126:1-7:	<i>page 500</i>
The Holy Gospel:	<i>page 130</i>
The Creed:	<i>page 71</i>
The Homily	
The Prayers of the People:	L: Lord, in your mercy; C: Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	<i>page 82</i>
Post-Communion Prayer:	<i>page 85</i>

9:45 a.m. – Sunday School: Parish Hall
Time with Fr. Stockall

10:30 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

♪ PROCESSIONAL HYMN:	92 (Forest Green 82)
The Gloria:	<i>page 86</i>
The Collect:	<i>page 129</i>
The Old Testament Reading:	Amos 8:4-8, 11-12
♪ SURGE ILLUMINARE:	<i>page 28</i>
The Epistle:	<i>page 129</i>
♪ GRADUAL HYMN: Eternal, Unchanging, We Sing to thy Praise	please see the bulletin insert
The Holy Gospel:	<i>page 130</i>
♪ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia (Lasst uns Erfruen 398)	
The Creed:	<i>page 71</i>
The Homily	
♪ OFFERTORY HYMN:	96 (St. George)
The Prayers of the People:	L: Lord, in your mercy; C: Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	<i>page 82</i>
♪ HYMN DURING COMMUNION:	705 (Eudoxia)
Post-Communion Prayer:	<i>page 85</i>
♪ RECESSIONAL HYMN:	100 (Alleluia Dulce Carmen)

*Please join us in the Parish Hall
following the 10:30 Celebration for
Coffee & Conversation.*

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From the Rector _____

“Where, then, did these weeds come from?” Who has not at some point asked that question? You may not have used those same words and you may not have spoken it aloud but I’ll bet everyone has, at some time or another, asked the

question. Maybe you've read or watched the news and wondered, "How did our world get to this point?" Or maybe life's circumstances have left you asking yourself, "How did my life get like this? What has become of me?"

We often live with the assumption that if we work hard and be nice everything should work out as we want. That's the illusion with which the slaves in today's parable live. "Master," they ask the farmer, "did you not sow good seed in your field?" Of course he did. That's why they're so surprised when they discover the weeds. This isn't supposed to happen.

There is an urgency to their question. They want to know who is responsible. So do we. That's what we want to know when we discover weeds in our fields. We want someone that we can blame, hold accountable, and even punish. Far too often we see that in our political bickering, our Facebook posts, and our privately held opinions. Jesus, however, seems less interested in this approach than we are. "An enemy has done this," he says. That's it. He doesn't identify or name the enemy. He doesn't give instructions to find, drive out, and punish this enemy.

The reality, according to Jesus, is that our lives and our world are a field in which good and evil, life and death, joys and sorrows, that which we want and that which we don't want grow and live side by side. The wheat and the weeds stand together in our world and in each of our lives. That, Jesus says, is what the kingdom of heaven is like. That's good news for us. It means that despite the weeds in and around us the kingdom is still here. The weeds do not overcome or make absent God's kingdom.

But what about those weeds? Surely we should do something. Not according to Jesus. "Let them grow together until the harvest," he says. That makes no sense. The weeds are bad and the wheat is good. We must do something. We need to take a stand, draw a line in the sand. "Don't you want us to pull up the weeds," the slaves ask their master. "No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them." The parable speaks of a particular weed called *zizania*. It grows with the wheat. It looks like wheat. Its roots intertwine with the roots of the real wheat. The difference between the two is not always readily apparent. So, it seems the separation between the wheat and the weeds is not as clear-cut or black and white as Facebook, the media, our politicians, and our personal opinions would often have us believe. But Jesus shows more interest in growth than extermination. He's willing to wait and to be patient.

So do we do nothing? No, that's not what Jesus is saying. There's plenty to do and it will be a challenge. The words that are translated as "let them" in Jesus' statement, "Let them grow..." can also be translated as "forgive them". It's the same words Jesus spoke from the cross account when he says, "Father, forgive them". Even then, even on the cross, Jesus is unwilling to pull up the weeds. So, there is no place in Jesus' gospel for vengeance, by word or by action, against another or against ourselves. Instead, Jesus commands love. Love your enemy. Love your neighbour. Love yourself. Love God. Maybe that's how the wheat begins to disentangle its roots from the weeds and show itself to be wheat and not weeds. Maybe love and forgiveness are what life in the mixed field of God's kingdom and this world is like.

The Anglican Church of Canada
The Diocese of Fredericton
THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK



We see through a glass darkly, but God is working. He's using your failures and your mistakes, and he's bringing a harvest that you can't even imagine. Last summer, I went to Kenya and met a 54-year-old sponsored child. Jackson was an orphan who was sponsored in 1974 by a family that probably said, "Well, we can't solve global poverty, but we can help one little boy." In 2016, Jackson Ole Sapit was named the sixth archbishop of the Anglican Church of Kenya. We were just trying to feed some hungry kids; God was growing an archbishop. There's a famous Mother Teresa quote: "God has not called me to be successful. He has called me to be faithful." And that's important to remember when you're dealing with problems that seem hopeless. We just have to be faithful with what is in front of us—to do the best we can and trust God for the outcome.

Richard Stearns, past President, World Vision
Christianity Today, July/August 2018

Priest and Rector

The Revd. Canon Kevin M. Stockall, B.A. (Hons), M.Div.

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Parish Notices and Updates

YOUR RESPONSES FOLLOWING THE RECENT PRESENTATION on the proposed renovation has been both constructive and positive. As the Parish Corporation continues to develop the plan, the next step will require us to explore ways to fund the project. *The Parish Corporation is asking anyone interested in working as part of a small group to help develop a funding plan to speak to the Rector or one of the Parish Wardens as soon as possible.* Please consider now whether you are being called to use your gifts to help us ensure a safe and effective facility for our ministry for years to come.

ST. MARY'S BRANCH OF ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN will be meeting on tomorrow, **Monday, February 11th**, beginning with lunch at the north side Pizza Delight at 12:00 noon. A business meeting will follow in the Parish Hall. The women of St. Mary's are warmly invited to join them. For more information please speak to Doreen Lawrence at 458-5402 or the Rector.

ST. MARY'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY is held each **Friday, at 10:00 a.m.** at the Rectory. We're looking at the Gospel according to St. Luke. Everyone is warmly invited to join us; and if your schedule only permits you to attend occasionally, please plan to join us whenever you can. For more information please speak to the Rector.

A NEW EDITION OF THE ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE is due to be produced soon and everyone is invited to think about whether or not they're being called by God to share their gifts and talents in this joyful ministry. Each week the members of St. Mary's Altar Guild faithfully prepare the Church for our services and celebrations. On average, members serve in teams of two for two month-long shifts each year; and if scheduling conflicts arise, other members are always more than willing to help out. The work is not difficult and easily learnt by beginners. Please speak to the Rector if you are interested or if you have any questions.

BEWAR BARZANI, HIS WIFE ATENA AND THEIR SON DANIEL, are recent arrivals in Canada from Kurdistan and we have been pleased to welcome them to services here at St. Mary's. They have been learning English through classes at the Multicultural Centre and are learning what life is like here in Fredericton. Bewar has been looking for a job and has asked that we post his resume in case any members of St. Mary's are looking to hire someone for help with odd jobs. His resume has been posted in the Narthex; please have a look. If you have any questions please speak to the Rector.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK, will be held next **Sunday, February 17th**, at approximately 12:15 p.m., following our weekly Coffee & Conversation. All members of the Parish are encouraged to take part in the meeting as we review our work as a Parish in 2018 and

make plans for 2019. **In anticipation of the meeting, we are looking for your assistance in filling leadership roles within the Parish for the coming year.** The Parish Corporation serves a critical role in developing and supporting our mission as the Church; and we are always looking to add new voices to the conversation. Please give very prayerful consideration to how God may be calling you to share your gifts and talents; and speak to the Rector if you have any questions.

✠ **Copies of the audited financial report** are available on the table in the narthex; the report is also available as a pdf on the Parish website. If you've not received an electronic copy of the financial report please speak to the rector who will happily email one to you.

ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD, TOGETHER WITH THOUSANDS of Canadians across the country, Cathy Laskey will be walking and fundraising to support hungry, homeless, and hurting people and families in our communities. Again this year she is part of Anglican Energy walking in Fredericton in support of Youth in Transition and the John Howard Society. Please, pray for these organizations and for all who are employees, volunteers and clients. Please also consider sponsoring her by going to cnoy.org and searching for her name.



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FEBRUARY 13: ST. VALENTINE, Bishop & Martyr
6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer
7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

FEBRUARY 14: ST. VALENTINE, Bishop & Martyr
8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer
Followed by time for personal prayer in the Church

FEBRUARY 16: SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY
4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer
5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

FEBRUARY 17: SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY
8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer
9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist
*Followed by Coffee & Conversation in the Parish Hall
and the Annual Meeting of the Parish of St. Mary, York*