

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

February 25, 2018

*O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto
thee even as thou wilt.*

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer:

✠ Psalm 51 | Genesis 32:1-30 | Hebrews 10:19-end

9:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

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| Introit: Psalm 25:1-7: | page 358 |
| <i>The Gloria is omitted during Lent</i> | |
| The Collect: | page 143 |
| The Old Testament Reading: | Jeremiah 17:5-10 |
| Salvator Mundi: | <i>please see the bulletin insert</i> |
| The Epistle: | page 144 |
| Gradual Psalm 123: | page 498 |
| The Holy Gospel: | page 144 |
| The Creed: | page 71 |
| The Homily | |
| The Prayers of the People: | L: Lord, in thy mercy; C: Hear our prayer |
| The Consecration: | page 82 |
| Collect for Lent: | page 138 |

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

10:30 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

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| ♪♪ PROCESSIONAL HYMN: | 589 (Breslau) |
| <i>The Gloria is omitted during Lent</i> | |
| The Collect: | page 143 |
| The Old Testament Reading: | Jeremiah 17:5-10 |
| ♪♪ SALVATOR MUNDI: | <i>please see the bulletin insert</i> |
| The Epistle: | page 144 |
| ♪♪ GRADUAL HYMN: | 544 (Repton) |
| The Holy Gospel: | page 144 |
| The Creed: | page 71 |
| The Homily | |
| ♪♪ OFFERTORY HYMN: | 571 (All for Jesus) |
| The Prayers of the People: | L: Lord, in your mercy; C: Hear our prayer |
| The Consecration: | page 82 |
| ♪♪ HYMN DURING COMMUNION: | 233 (St. Agnes) |
| Collect for Lent: | page 138 |
| ♪♪ RECESSIONAL HYMN: | 241 (Albano) |

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



From the Rector _____

The desperate Canaanite woman in this morning's Gospel is described by one very remarkable four word phrase that tells us all that we need to know about why she refuses to give up even when faced with terrible humiliation: "Great is your faith".

Faith not to give up, at that horrible moment when Jesus refuses to even hear her cry; faith not to give up when the disciples shun her and ask Jesus to have her sent away; faith not to give up when Jesus tells her that He was not sent to heal strangers but, rather, the children of Israel; faith not to give up when He makes that horrid reference to the children's bread not being given to the

dogs; faith to persevere, to go on, even when personal dignity and common sense would tell any of us to walk away and forget it.

We can almost hear the disciples nod in agreement with Christ's rejection of this poor woman's plea. We can almost hear their smug satisfaction as Jesus mouths their thoughts and words; as He validates the assumptions of their culture and time. But can we also hear their shock; can we hear them swallow hard and shuffle uncomfortably, as Jesus says to this foreign woman what He has not to this point said to any of them: "Great is your faith"?

Can we hear anything of the doubt that must have crept into their minds as they witnessed the unbelievable; the impossible?

Or can we hear the walls of their glass house shatter as Jesus throws his verbal stones at it?

It seems to me that there are two distinct messages in this morning's Holy Gospel that find their common foundation in a better understanding of our own relationship with God.

The first talks about the necessity of hearing what God would call us to do rather than just assuming that we already know the message; rather than just assuming that our values and our principles are His values and His principles. It is an easy matter to project on God our personal fears and agendas; human history is full of such things. But real faith requires that we listen carefully and self-critically, to make sure that it's God's Will and not just our own that we're upholding.

And the second talks about the value of hanging on even when everything else tells us to walk away; the value that prayer has even when God does not seem to be answering our prayers as we would want; the role that faith plays in bringing wholeness and peace to our lives.

In both cases it all comes down to trust; trusting God's love so much that we are willing to surrender our cultural and social assumptions, even those we hold most dear; and trusting God enough to carry on, even in the face of the emptiness of silence; to know that God could no more refuse to hear our cries than He could cease to be God.

The hero of today's gospel is a poor Canaanite woman who acts out of her faith in the power of Jesus; who asks out of love for her daughter; who perseveres because of her hope in the goodness of God. Faith, hope, and love opened for her the closed door of the house of Israel.

What are the closed doors that faith, hope, and love can open in your life?

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



Matthew 15:21-28
Canaanite Woman's Faith

Our task, as image-bearing, God-loving, Christ-shaped, Spirit-filled Christians, following Christ and shaping our world, is to announce redemption to the world that has discovered its fallenness, to announce healing to the world that has discovered its brokenness, to proclaim love and trust to the world that knows only exploitation, fear and suspicion.

N.T. Wright, *The Challenge of Easter*

Priest and Rector

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

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Parish Notices and Updates

PLEASE JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH, following the 10:30 a.m. Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, for our monthly *Shared Meal*. Members of both congregations are encouraged to gather with their sisters and brothers in Christ as we share the peace and joy which are have in Jesus Christ.

OUR LENTEN FAITH AND FILM series begins tomorrow, *Monday, February 19th*, with a showing of *All Saints*, a recent film about the work of a Parish to transform its community. We plan to start at 7:00 p.m. **at the Rectory**; and for those who can join us, we warmly invite everyone to come along for a light supper of soup and rolls starting each Monday at 6:00 p.m. Our film series will explore the intersection of faith and life, providing a place where we can discover how God's Grace is shaping our own lives. **So, feel free to come along each Monday for supper and a movie; or, if it's better for you, just supper or just the movie!**

DON'T FORGET ABOUT LENT MADNESS if you're looking for fun and informative way to keep the Season of Lent: Peter vs Paul? Isaac watts vs. Catherine Winkworth? John Wesley vs. Edith Cavell? Read and learn and vote for your favourite saints! **Have a look at lentmadness.org**

A NUMBER OF USEFUL BOOKS, in addition to multiple copies of a new Lenten reading guide from Christianity Today entitled *Journey to the Cross*, are available on the table at the back of the Church for any members of the Parish might wish to use as a daily exercise throughout Lent. Have a look to see if there is anything that interests you. (Please speak to the Rector if there is something else you might like to read).

ST. MARY'S WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY is held every *Friday, starting at 10:00 a.m.* at the Rectory. We've started a new study of 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 when you can.

EACH FRIDAY THROUGHOUT THE SEASON OF LENT, at 7:00 p.m., we pray the *Stations of the Cross*, a quiet reflective service in which we journey through Christ's steps on the road to the Cross. This brief service is an excellent and hopeful mediation on what Christ was accomplishing on our behalf by His sacrificial death and glorious resurrection;

THE ANNUAL WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE, written by the Women of Suriname, will be held on Friday, March 2nd, at All Saints' Anglican Church, Marysville, at 7:00 p.m. The storm date is Sunday, March 4th at 2:30 p.m. This year's theme is: All God's Creation is Very Good. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow. Everyone is welcome.

COPIES OF THE ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2017 are available on the table in the Narthex. To help save on paper and copying costs, the reports have also been shared via email. If you did not recent a copy in an email and would like one please speak to the Rector.

FOLLOWING UP ON LAST YEAR'S very successful Bowling Tournament, our friends in the Parish of Marysville are challenging the people of St. Mary's, and other neighbouring parishes, to share in their 2nd annual Tournament, this year in support of **Striking out Child Hunger in New Brunswick**. The event will be held on Saturday, April 21st, at Bowl-a-Drome (301 Main Street) starting at 12:30 p.m. It's hoped that St. Mary's can again organise a team, so please speak to the Rector if you're interested. The funds raised at the Fredericton event will go to the Fredericton Community Kitchen to help with their student hunger programme. To help with organisation, our friends at All Saints' would like to know the names of the participants by the beginning of March. **A signup sheet is available on the table in the narthex. Plan to help make this excellent project a success!**



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FEBRUARY 28: ST. DAVID OF WALES, Archbishop

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

MARCH 1: LENTEN FERIA

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

Followed by time for personal prayer in the Church

11:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, *Alleira Assisted Living*

MARCH 2: LENTEN FERIA

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – The Stations of the Cross

MARCH 3: THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

MARCH 4: THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

9:45 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages!

10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist