

The Parish of St. Peter (Upper Gullies)

1219 Conception Bay Highway
Conception Bay South, NL A1X 4E9
(709) 744-2648 - admin@stpeterscbs.ca

www.stpeterscbs.ca

“You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church.” Matthew 16-18

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

February 4, 2018



Diocesan Bishop:

The Right Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Peddle

Rector:

The Reverend Jean Smith (On Leave)

Interim Administrator

The Reverend Irving Letto

Parish Deacon:

The Reverend Dr. Bonnie Morgan (On Leave)

Organist/Choir Director

Andrea Powell

Parish Wardens

Ralph Drover and Robert Hilliard

Office Administrator:

Jack Morgan

8:30am Book of Common Prayer: 10:30am Book of Alternative Services

LECTIONARY: Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 84; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

COLLECT Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you have sent us your salvation. Inspire us by your Holy Spirit to recognize him who is the glory of Israel and the light for all nations, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS Almighty God, accept the joyful offering of your Church, and grant that your Son may shine in us as the light that lightens every nation. We ask this in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION God for whom we wait, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon, who did not die till he had welcomed the Messiah. Complete in us your perfect will, that we in Christ may share in your eternal kingdom; for he is Lord for ever and ever. Amen

HYMNS FOR 10:30 SERVICE

Opening: (#393) Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
Gradual: **I am the Light of the World** (Printed below)
Offering: (#486) **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**
Communion: **Only a Shadow**
Choral Benediction: **Make Me a Servant**
Make me a servant; humble and meek
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.
Closing: (#460) **Shine, Jesus, Shine**
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*I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!"*
*If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.*

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun: **(Chorus)**

To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above! (**Chorus**)

To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere! (**Chorus**)

To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,
to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth! (**Chorus**)

Today's Short Message

On February 2nd, 40 days after Christmas Day, the church celebrates "The Presentation of the Lord." **"When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord"** (Luke 2:22).

Mary was observing two requirements of the Mosaic Law. A woman who had given birth was considered unclean and was not allowed to touch anything holy until she was purified (Leviticus 12). Another law required that the firstborn male child was to be presented to the Lord, and after the presentation of a sacrifice he was received back to be cared for by his mother (Exodus 13). On reading this, some of you will recognize the origin of "The Churching of Women" which was observed everywhere in the Anglican Church until recently.

I don't remember any religious significance to this day in the community where I grew up. But nevertheless February 2nd was a special day. In my home, it was the first day of the new year that we had supper before dark. It was a practical thing as well, making it unnecessary to light the lamp for a while and thus save kerosene.

From England we get this old saying:

If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,
Winter has another flight.
If Candlemas Day brings clouds and rain,
Winter will not come again.

In Canada and the United States many people observe February 2nd as Groundhog Day. If it is sunny and the groundhog sees his shadow it means there will be six more weeks of winter.

The word "Candlemas" itself refers to the practice of bringing the candles to be used during the rest of the year to the church to be blessed on February 2nd. Obviously this tradition is related to the words of Simeon in the *Nunc Dimittis*. "**Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel**" (Luke 2:29-32).

What customs do you recall being observed on February 2nd?



This week we are praying for:

All Church Leaders, especially +Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; +Fred, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada; +Ronald, Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, +Geoffrey, our Bishop; Jean+, our Rector; Bonnie+, our Deacon, and Irving+, our interim administrator.

In the Anglican/Lutheran Cycle of Prayer, ACC The Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, ELCIC The dean, council, and congregations of the Ottawa, Ottawa Valley and Seaway Areas of the Eastern Synod.

In the Tri-Diocesan Cycle of Prayer, the people and Clergy of the Parish of Belleoram and the Parish of Bell Island.

In the CBS Ministerial Cycle of Prayer we pray for the unity of all Christians; and for all clergy and members of the church communities of Conception Bay South.

We pray for our Alongsiders, Eva Adams and Evelyn Morgan.

We pray for those who are sick or otherwise in need, especially: Rodney Andrews, John Bradbury, Janet Butler, Mary Dawe, Muriel Fowler, Brian Gosse, Deneal Haines, Mackenzie Jones, Marion Morgan, Glenys O'Brien, Pat Reid, Lucy Thistle, Mary Bussey, Eileen Shaw (N.B.), Violet Batten, Les McDonald, Fred Kelly, Lyndon Letto, Rev. Jean, Elizabeth Crews, Frances Hilliard, Payton Best, Charlie Morgan, Rod Ward, Edna Warford and Cecil Warford.

Today's Bulletin is given in loving memory of:

Jack and Betty Dawe. By Daphne, Alicia, June, Jack and families.