

February 22, 2026

First Sunday of Lent

**10:00 a.m. – Black History Month Service**

## ***Welcome***

*Hearing Assistive Devices and Large Print service leaflets are available  
Please ask an usher for assistance*



## The Gathering of the Community

### Poem

*Eating Tomorrow's Yam* by Niyi Osundare

Reader            When cutting a tree in the forest  
                      It is the wise who watch  
                      where it will fall;  
                      the not-so-wise merely enjoy  
                      the conquering edge of the axe.

                      There is only one yam left  
                      in the village barn  
                      the prodigal calls for a knife  
                      'What shall we eat tomorrow',  
                      the people ask,  
                      'if we finish all the yam today  
                      just how shall we feel  
                      when the dunghill has relieved  
                      stomachs of their improvident burden?'

                      And says the prodigal:  
                      tomorrow will take care of itself;  
                      'how can we know the next day  
                      if we die of hunger today?'

                      The people reply:  
                      'how can we see tomorrow  
                      if we eat its yam today?'

                      They then cut the yam into seedlings  
                      and plant tomorrow's harvest:  
                      it is meet to live on herbs and grains today  
                      if that ensures tomorrow's yam.

**Processional Hymn #484 "In Christ There Is No East or West"**

Text by John Oxenham

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|--|--|
| <p>1 In Christ there is no east or west,<br/>in Christ no south or north,<br/>but one great fellowship of love<br/>throughout the whole wide earth.</p> <p>2 In Christ shall true hearts everywhere<br/>their high communion find,<br/>whose service is the golden cord<br/>close-binding humankind.</p> | <p>3 Join hands, disciples of the faith,<br/>whate'er your race may be;<br/>who serves my God in truth and love<br/>is surely kin to me.</p> <p>4 In Christ now meet both east and<br/>west,<br/>in Christ meet south and north;<br/>all faithful souls are joined in one<br/>throughout the whole wide earth.</p> |
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**Greeting and Collect for Purity**

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*Celebrant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

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

*Celebrant* Almighty God,

*People* **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Song "Lift Every Voice and Sing"**

Text by James W. Johnson

- 1 Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,  
ring with the harmonies of liberty.  
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,  
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;  
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
let us march on till victory is won.
- 2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,  
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet

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come to the place for which our parents sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;  
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last  
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

- 3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;  
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;  
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,  
true to our God, true to our native land.

## Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **Eternal light, shine into our hearts,  
eternal goodness, deliver us from evil,  
eternal power, be our support,  
eternal wisdom, scatter our ignorance,  
eternal pity, have mercy upon us; that with all our heart and mind and soul  
and strength we may seek your face and be brought by your infinite mercy  
to your holy presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with the Father  
and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, now and for ever. Amen**

## The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:

Amos 5:21-24

*Reader* A reading from the Book of Amos.

<sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. <sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon.

<sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 1**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,<br/>nor lingered in the way of sinners,<br/>nor sat in the seats of the scornful!</p> <p><b>2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord,<br/>and they meditate on his law day and night.</b></p> <p>3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,<br/>bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither,<br/>everything they do shall prosper.</p> | <p><b>4 It is not so with the wicked;<br/>they are like chaff which the wind blows away.</b></p> <p>5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgement comes,<br/>nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.</p> <p><b>6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,<br/>but the way of the wicked is doomed.</b></p> |
|---|--|

**Giver of life, save us from the desert of faithlessness and nourish us with the living water of your word, that we may bring forth fruit that will last, in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

Second Reading:

1 John 4:15-21

*Reader*      A reading from the First Letter of John.

<sup>15</sup> God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their siblings, are liars; for those who do not love a sibling whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup> The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their siblings also.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

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## An excerpt from Martin Luther King Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream'

I have a *dream* today!

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."

## Hymn "Halle, Halle, Halle"

Text from traditional liturgical text

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

### **Repeat**

Holy Gospel:

Luke 4: 16-21

*Subdeacon* The Lord be with you.

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

*Subdeacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

<sup>17</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

*Subdeacon* The Gospel of Christ.

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

Speaker

Lance Wilson, ODT

### **The Apostles' Creed**

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*Celebrant* Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

*People* **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

### **The Prayers of the People**

*Leader* Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

### **The Peace**

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*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

## **The Celebration of the Eucharist**

### **Offertory Hymn #513 "Guide My Feet"**

Text from African-American spiritual

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|--|--|
| <p>1 Guide my feet while I run this race.<br/>Guide my feet while I run this race.<br/>Guide my feet while I run this race,<br/>for I don't want to run this race in vain!</p> | <p>3 Stand by me while I run this race.<br/>Stand by me while I run this race.<br/>Stand by me while I run this race,<br/>for I don't want to run this race in vain!</p> |
| <p>2 Hold my hand while I run this race.<br/>Hold my hand while I run this race.</p>   | <p>4 I'm your child while I run this race.<br/>I'm your child while I run this race.</p>   |

Hold my hand while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

I'm your child while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

- 5 Search my heart while I run this race.  
Search my heart while I run this race.  
Search my heart while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

**Repeat stanza 1**

- 1 Guide my feet while I run this race.  
Guide my feet while I run this race.  
Guide my feet while I run this race,  
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

**The Prayer over the Gifts**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **Wise and gracious God,  
you spread a table before us; nourish your people with the word of life and the  
bread of heaven. Amen.**

**Supplementary Eucharistic Prayer 1 (S1)**

*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* Holy God, Lover of creation, we give you thanks and praise for in the ocean of your steadfast love you bear us and place the song of your Spirit in our hearts. When we turn from your love and defile the earth, you do not abandon us. Your Spirit speaks through Huldah and Micah, through prophets, sages, and saints in every age, to confront our sin and reveal the vision of your new creation. Joining in the song of the universe we proclaim your glory saying (singing):

*All* **Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Michael  
Leach

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant* Gracious God,

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in the fullness of time you sent Jesus the Christ to share our fragile humanity.  
Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection you open the path from brokenness  
to health, from fear to trust, from pride and conceit to reverence for you.  
Rejected by a world that could not bear the Gospel of life,  
Jesus knew death was near.  
His head anointed for burial by an unknown woman, Jesus gathered together  
those who loved him.

He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his friends,  
saying, "Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave you thanks, and said "Drink this  
all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for  
many.

Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

And now we gather at this table in response to his commandment, to share the  
bread and cup of Christ's undying love, and to proclaim our faith.

*All*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant*

Breathe your Holy Spirit,  
the wisdom of the universe,  
upon these gifts that we bring to you:  
this bread, this cup,  
ourselves, our souls and bodies,  
that we may be signs of your love for all the world  
and ministers of your transforming purpose.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory is yours, Creator of all,  
and we bless your holy name for ever.

*People*

**Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer** [Michael Leach]

**People**      **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sin 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.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Celebrant*    “I am the bread of life,” says the Lord. “Whoever comes to me will never be hungry; whoever believes in me will never thirst.”

*People*        **Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who trust in God.**

### **The Communion**

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

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

### **Lamb of God** [Michael Leach]

*People*        **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.**

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### ***All are welcome to receive communion with us***

*As the ushers pass your pew, please line up in the centre aisle.*

- ***To receive a blessing***, as you reach the priest with the bread, cross your arms over your chest. Return to your seat after receiving the blessing.
  - ***To receive the bread***, hold your hands in front of you, palms up.
  - ***To receive the wine from the cup***, take the bottom of the cup and the base and guide it to your mouth.
  - ***If you prefer to take only the bread***, you may indicate this to the cup bearer by crossing your arms over your chest, or simply walking past them.
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### **Communion Hymn #352 “Amazing Grace”**

Text by John Newton & from a Collection

1	Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found:	4	Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
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- was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!
- 3 The Lord has promised good to me,  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

- 'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand  
years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

### Performance by the Edify Dance Group

#### Prayer after Communion

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **Blessed God,  
help us, whom you have fed and satisfied in this eucharist,  
to hunger and thirst for what is right;  
help us, who here have rejoiced and been glad,  
to stand with those who are persecuted and reviled;  
help us, who here have glimpsed the life of heaven,  
to strive for the cause of right and for the coming of the kingdom of Jesus  
Christ, who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen**

#### Doxology [Michael Leach]

*People* **Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more, infinitely  
more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to  
generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, in the Church and in Christ Jesus,  
for ever and ever, for ever and ever. Amen, Amen.**

#### Blessing

*Celebrant* Go forth into the world in peace;  
be courageous; and protect all that is good; meet evil with justice;  
strengthen the exhausted; support the weak; help the suffering;

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honour everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with you each step of your journey. Amen

*People*      **Amen.**

## **Recessional Hymn #371 “To God Be the Glory”**

Text by Fanny Crosby

1 To God be the glory, who great things  
has done!  
God so loved the world, freely sending  
the Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for  
sin,  
And opened the life gate that all may go  
in.

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of  
blood,  
to every believer the promise of God:  
that when the offender, repenting,  
believes,  
through Jesus’ atonement, God’s pardon  
receives.

### ***Refrain***

***Refrain:*** Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the earth hear God’s voice.  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!  
Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father  
through Jesus the Son,  
and give God the glory,  
who great things has done!

3 Great things God has taught us, great  
things God has done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the  
Son;  
but purer and higher and greater will be  
our wonder, our gladness when Jesus we  
see!

### ***Refrain***

## **Dismissal**

*Subdeacon* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

***Please join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments following the service.***

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Today's Scripture Readings</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Black History Month Service</b>                  Jeremiah 17:5-10;                  Psalm 1                  1 Corinthians 15:12-20                  Luke 6:17-26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Next Sunday's Scripture Readings</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany</b>                  Genesis 45:3-11, 15                  Psalm 37:1-12,41-42                  1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50                  Luke 6:27-38</p>
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<b>We Remember in Prayer Today and This Week . . .</b>
<p><b>Congregation Cycle</b>                  Beverley M, Kevin / Tichafa M / Jannifer N / Shatohk N &amp; Najme K, Raein N / Diana N</p>

Speaker            Lance Wilson, ODT Subdeacon & Intercessor Margie Lyttle Chalice Bearers     Margie Lyttle, Christian Ajubiga	Videographer        Egan Done Altar Guild            Margie Lyttle Usher                    Hazel Perkin, Ann-Marie Waithe Powell Welcome Table &     Ravi Coffee Hour Hosts    Colette Lyttle and Team
Readers                Cheryl Dawkins Izu Umezinne	
Cruicifer                Christian Ajubiga Organist                 Michael Leach	

"All music and texts for hymns and songs is covered under OneLicense A-718829"



**Michele Johnson**

**Associate Dean, Students**

Michele A. Johnson is a Professor of History and Associate Dean, Students in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies at York University. Johnson is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada whose scholarship focuses on Jamaican cultural history in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as well as on gender relations, race/racialization, labour, domestic slavery and domestic service in Jamaica and Canada. Her publications include *Neither Led nor Driven: Contesting British Cultural Imperialism in Jamaica, 1865-1920* and *"They do as they please": The Jamaican Struggle for Cultural Freedom after Morant Bay* (with Brian L. Moore); *Louise Bennett & Jamiakan Langwif: Commemorations and Critical Perspectives* and *Unsettling the Great White North: Black Canadian History* (co-edited with Funke Aladejebi). Johnson has served as Coordinator of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program and Director of the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on Africa and its Diasporas at York University, where she was honoured with a Faculty of Arts Teaching Award and a Faculty of Graduate Studies Teaching Award.

**Territorial Acknowledgement**

The land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee (ho-den-oh-show-nee) and Anishinabek (ah-nish-nah-bek) Nations, and the

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Mississaugas of the Credit First 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. This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase. Today, Toronto is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island.

We recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples connected to and on this land. We are grateful for the opportunity to gather on this territory and work in this community, and we commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.