

VISION: To be a radically welcoming servant church.

MISSION: A community of believers, exploring our faith in Christ and embracing our neighbourhood through

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Our Prayers

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the Okinawa-Japan, The Rt Rev David Eisho Uehara.

Tri-diocesan Prayers: Pray for the Church of Labrador Wes, Rector The Rev Julie Brace with congregation's in St. Paul, Labrador City. Please pray for the Parish of Lake Melville, Rector, The Rev Ven. Nellie Thomas, TA with congregation's in St. Andrew, Happy Valley and St. Francis, North West River.

Remember the sick and those who have asked us for our prayers: June C., John C., Dorothy H., Emily, Hawa and family, Lillian W, Roger R, Sandra, Eva H, Genevieve H, Krista P, Howard H, Erin M, William H, Barbara and Ella, Jeremy R, Nita S, Dorothy H, Mary K, Janet C, David C, Gilbert B, Neil C, Doreen M, Payton B, Emily B, Walter O, Edna D, Joan B, Larry C, Ony B, Peter H, Roy G, Kathryn F, Jean McGrath; Daisy C, Janice U, Viola McBay Chenoweth, Margie Eastman, and Joan Boland.

Visioning Committee Prayer: *Heavenly Father, we pray that St. Thomas' may be renewed for its mission in this city. Inspire our minds with a vision of your kingdom in this time and this place. Draw us by faith so that we may live to serve you here in this parish and to look to life eternal.*



July 9, 2017 ORDER OF SERVICE FOR HOLY EUCHARIST (BCP) Proper 14

From the Rector's Desk (The Fruits of Prison Ministry)

Dear Friends in Christ,

St. Thomas' Parish is a vital part of the overall outreach ministry and chaplaincy to HMP. Working with and alongside other denominations they are changing lives. Here is but one story of how they helped a former inmate come to faith. For purposes of confidentiality we will call him Jake.

Jake not only came to faith because of the care and support of the HMP Pastoral Care Team and programs such as Alpha, he also learned to play the guitar while in prison (Guitar lessons is also a program of Prison Ministry). And there is nothing more he enjoyed doing than singing and playing to the Lord. But Jake had his doubts that he would ever have "his own" guitar. It was brought to my attention and through the chaplain who was working with him I promised Jake that I would give him a guitar as soon as he got out. Well, when he finally finished his sentence and the chaplain presented him with the guitar, he was overjoyed. He had a couple of 'friends' alongside, who thought it was "really cool" that someone...me...would care enough about Jake to GIVE him a guitar....and a hand-crafted one at that.

As soon as Jake took the guitar in his hands he started playing like a champ. According to the chaplain it meant more to him than a wallet-full of cash. When the chaplain asked if he would like a ride he said, "No, I'm going to sit outside and play." And he did! As the chaplain drove off Jake was on the side of the building, playing his guitar to an audience of three. At the time Jake still had six months to serve in the Halfway House where he planned to play his guitar, an instrument not only of music, but of God's love... and a sign to him when he needs it most. But the story doesn't end there.

While a resident of the Halfway House Jake's guitar suddenly went missing one evening. He immediately suspected who had taken it and that it wasn't one of the men at Halfway House. What could he do? Call the police? Really? After being in trouble for most of his life and just getting out of HMP after 4 years, he had a fear and mistrust of the RNC/RCMP, and was very uncomfortable in phoning them. But his love of that guitar and what it meant to him overcame his apprehension and scruples in calling the cops. He wanted that guitar back! Long story short, the police were able to retrieve his guitar for him. Jake later told the chaplain, "Can you believe it? I called the cops on someone else just to get back my guitar. I never thought I would ever do that but it worked! I have my guitar!"

It seems that Jake has not only come to faith in God, but his faith and trust has been restored in the cops.

Epilogue: The guitar is also fitted with electronics so it can be played through an amplifier. Jake hopes to purchase an amp someday and take his music to new heights as he continues his walk with the Lord.

Praise the Lord, Canon Greg+

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMNI heard the voice of Jesus say

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COLLECT

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of your children we do also for him. Give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, who gave up his life and died for us, but lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

ROMANS 7:15-25A

Reader: The word of the Lord*People: Thanks be to God.*

PSALM

REFRAIN Nations shall praise you for ever and ever.

"Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; forget your people and your father's house. The king will have pleasure in your beauty; he is your master; therefore do him honour. The people of Tyre are here with a gift; the rich among the people seek your favour." **R**

All glorious is the princess as she enters; her gown is cloth-of-gold. In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; after her the bridesmaids follow in procession. With joy and gladness they are brought, and enter into the palace of the king. **R**

"In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; you shall make them princes over all the earth. I will make your name to be remembered from one generation to another; therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever." **R**

PSALM 45:11-18

GOSPEL SONGCome to me, O weary traveler

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' For John came

neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

MATTHEW 11:16-19, 25-30

Reader: The Gospel of Christ

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

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DISMISSAL

Thanks be to God. Alleluia.