



ST NICHOLAS
ANGLICAN CHURCH, BIRCH CLIFF

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Holy Eucharist

April 28, 2024
10:30am Communion & Music

Alleluia, Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed!

Responding to God's love for us and all people,
the parish of St. Nick's seeks to know Christ
and make him known in worship, friendship and service
with our neighbourhood and in the world.

Everyone is welcome to join us in our common life
of faith, doubt, trust, challenge and love.

Welcome to St. Nick's!

Whether you're here virtually or in-person, for the first time or the hundredth time, it's a blessing to have you praying with us today. Our sidespeople are the friendly people at the back of the church who can help you with anything you need. Everything you need today is in this leaflet. We hope you'll participate as you feel comfortable.

Washrooms



Our washrooms are downstairs, which you can get to by the staircase near the left-side chapel, or by the elevator, also in the chapel. For help with the elevator, speak to one of our sidespeople.

Accessibility

If you need extra space for a walker or wheelchair, our sidespeople will show you to the accessibility pew near the front of the church. If you need communion brought to you in your pew, let one of the sidespeople know.



Better Sight and Sound

Large-print copies of this leaflet are also available: just ask a sidesperson. If you have difficulty hearing, we have audio-assistive devices that will help you hear the service better.

Children and Families

Young kids and their parents are free to roam the church throughout the service. There are activity bags at the back for older children – just ask a sidesperson. Families can also hang out in our Nick's Nook, the big open space on the right side of the church, where parents can still hear and participate in the service.



Territorial Acknowledgment & Commitment to Reconciliation

We acknowledge that the land on which our parish sits is the traditional territory of the Wendat, the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Mississaugas of Scugog, Hiawatha and Alderville First Nations and the Métis 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. The treaties that were signed for this particular parcel of land are collectively referred to as the Williams Treaties of 1923. We also recognize, and pray for the continual grace to honour the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples on this land.



stnicksbirchcliff



stnicholas_ang

The Gathering of the Community

Prelude Bunessan (Alan Bullard)

Opening Hymn *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* (Common Praise #606)
As you're able, you're invited to stand.

**There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.**

**There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.**

**There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.**

**Foolish hearts, why will you scatter like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Fainting souls, why will you wander from a love so true and deep?**

**For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind,
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.**

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

***People:* The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Celebrant: May his grace and peace be with you.

***People:* May he fill our hearts with joy.**

Celebrant: Almighty God,

***All:* 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 of Praise

***All:* (sung) Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace, good will towards all.**

**We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord, God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect (Prayer) of the Day

Celebrant: Let us pray. *(A time of silence is kept.)*

O God, you give us the Son as the vine, apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, so that we bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy; through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Proclamation of God's Word

You may be seated during the readings.

Reading Acts 8:27-40

Reader: A reading from the book of Acts

Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About

whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm Psalm 22:25-31

The choir will sing the verses, and everyone is invited to join in the refrain.



Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Choir: My praise of God is in the great assembly.

* I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship the Lord.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied.

* And those who seek God shall give praise, "May your heart live for ever!"

All: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Choir: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord

* And all the families of the nations shall bow before God.

For sovereignty belongs to the Lord who rules over the nations.

* To God alone all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship.

All: **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Choir: My soul shall live for God; my descendents shall serve God.
* They shall be known as the Lord's for ever.
They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn.
* The savings deeds that God has done .

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reading 1 John 4:7-21

Reader: A reading from the first letter of John

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 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. 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. 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. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

As you're able, stand and face the procession as it moves down the aisle.

All: *[sung]* **Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!** *[x2]*

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

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

Reading John 15:1-8

Reader: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

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

All: *[sung]* **Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!** *[x2]*

Homily Fr. Andrew

After an opening prayer, the preacher will invite you to be seated.

Confession of Faith

As you're able, you may stand.

Celebrant: Let us confess the faith of our baptism as we say,
I believe in one God,

All: **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

*As you're comfortable, you're welcome to stand, sit or kneel for the prayers.
At the end of each prayer, the leader will offer this invitation...*

Leader: ...let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Hear us, Lord of Glory!**

Confession and Absolution, and Sharing of Christ's Peace

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy: he welcomes sinners, and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

A brief silence is kept. As you're comfortable, you're invited to kneel or sit.

Celebrant: Most merciful God,

All: **We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

As you're able, you may stand.

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

People: **And also with you.**

You may turn to friend and neighbour, and share a sign of God's peace.

Welcome & Announcements

You may be seated as we hear about ministries & events coming up at St. Nick's.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life* (Common Praise #592)

As you're able, you're invited to stand.

**Where cross the crowded ways of life, where cries of tribe and race resound,
amid the noise of selfish strife, O Christ, your word of love is found.**

**In haunts of wretchedness and need, on shadowed thresholds, dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed, we catch the vision of your tears.**

**From children's wounded helplessness, from men and women's grief and toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress, your heart has never known recoil.**

**The cup of water given for you still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long the multitudes to view the strong compassion of your face.**

**O Jesus, from the mountainside make haste to heal these hearts of pain.
Among these restless throngs abide; O tread the city's streets again,**

**till all the world shall learn your love, and follow where your feet have trod;
till glorious from your heaven above shall come the city of our God.**



Offertory

If you wish to make a monetary gift while you're here, you can place your offering on the plate as it comes around, or on your way out today. There are guest envelopes in the pews you can use. Tax receipts will be issued for donations over \$20. You can also make an e-offering through Canada Helps, using this QR code.

Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant: Gracious God, you show us your way and give us your divine life. Receive all that we offer you this day, granting that everything we do may be directed by the knowledge of your truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.

All: Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

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: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise for the glorious resurrection of you Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true paschal lamb who has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us eternal life. Therefore, joining our voices with the whole company of heaven, we sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All: (sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

As you're comfortable, you may stand, sit or kneel.

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

People: Therefore, Father, according to his command,
we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.

Celebrant: and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Our Father in heaven,

All: **hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Lord, we died with you on the cross.

People: Now we are raised to new life.

Celebrant: We were buried in your tomb.

People: Now we share in your resurrection.

Celebrant: Live in us,

People: that we may live in you.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace.

The Communion



Everyone is welcome to receive communion.



You may receive both bread and wine, or just the bread, if you wish.



Gluten-free wafers available upon request.



Cross your arms to receive a blessing instead.



Communion can be brought to you if needed: just ask a sidesperson.

Music during Communion

Hymn *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me* (Common Praise #522)

Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Not the labours of my hands can fulfil thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone: thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to thy cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Saviour, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
when I soar through tracts unknown, see thee on thy judgement throne,
Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

Choir *Fill Your Hearts with Joy and Gladness* (Sarah Quartel)

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness, sing and praise your God and mine!
Great the Lord in love and wisdom, might and majesty divine!
He who framed the starry heavens knows and names them as they shine!

Praise the Lord, his people, praise him! Wounded souls his comfort know;
those who fear him find his mercies, peace for pain and joy for woe;
humble hearts are high exalted, human pride and pow'r laid low.

Praise the Lord for times and seasons, cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;
spring to melt the snows of winter till the waters flow again;
grass upon the mountain pastures, golden valleys thick with grain.

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness, with joy and gladness,
declare his judgments, walk in his words and ways;
he the Lord and we his children: praise the Lord, the Lord,
praise the Lord, all people, praise!

Sending of God's People

Prayer after Communion

As you're comfortable, you may stand, sit or kneel for these prayers.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

God of love, in this eucharist we have heard your truth and shared in your life. May we always walk in your way, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: Glory to God,

**All: Whose power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God, from generation to generation,
In the church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Final Blessing

Celebrant: May the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is

pleasing in his sight: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

Closing Hymn *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* (Common Praise #322)

As you're able, you're invited to stand.

**All Hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.**

**Hail him, the heir of David's line, whom David Lord did call,
the God incarnate, life divine, and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.**

**Let every tongue and every tribe, delivered from the fall,
to Christ all majesty ascribe, and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.**

**O that, with heaven's sacred throng, we at his feet may fall,
lift high the universal song, and crown him, crown him, crown him,
crown him Lord of all.**

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude Allegretto (Felix Mendelssohn)

You may be seated as the procession passes by you.

Thank you for praying with us today!
Please join us for coffee hour in the parish hall,
hosted by Freda Gearing.

The altar flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Hildie and Anthony Wood and Claude and Bettie McLaughlin by Claudia and Duncan.

Assisting in today's service:

Readers: Janet Baron, Joan-Mary Spencer

Intercessor: Janet Baron
Servers: Wendy Barber
Chalice Bearer: Wendy Barber, Elaine Fisher
Livestreaming Tech: Sharon Endugesick
Congregational Voice: Sonia Halloran

Upholding in prayer this week....

The World: For all suffering in the midst of war, civil unrest or disaster
The Church of Bangladesh

Canada: Territory of the Peoples, Assisting Bishop Jane Alexander, Bishop-Elect
Clara Plamondon
Pray for healing and reconciliation among all people

Diocesan Cycle: Durham & Northumberland Deanery

The Deanery: The clergy & people of the Church of the Resurrection; the Rev. Canon
Julie Burn

Ministerial: Scarborough Baptist

Parish Ministry: The ministry of our Livestreamers

Parish Families: MaureenRose & Jewel Everatt, Owen & Megan Ewers, Katherine &
Michael Ferrante

The Sick: For all who are sick or in any need. For all those living with chronic
problems, our housebound parishioners and their caregivers.

Sunday Prayer List

If you would like someone included in the prayers on Sunday mornings, you can either contact the office and ask for them to be added, or there is also a list at the back of the church to which you can add names. Because these are public prayers, we ask that you respect people's privacy and ask their permission first. Names submitted to the office will be included in the prayers for two weeks.

Daily Prayer Chain

If you or a family member or friend needs prayer for any reason, you can pass those names along to the church office. The names will be given to the members of the St. Nick's Prayer Chain, who will uphold those people in their daily prayers for 30 days.

"Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer." Romans 12:12

Readings for next Sunday: Sixth Sunday after Easter

Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17



Lunch 'n Learn

Save the Date! Thursday, May 30th is our next Lunch 'n Learn. Bring along a friend to hear Constable George Polychronis from 42 Division speak on Senior Safety. Pack your lunch. Tea/Coffee will be provided. Doors open at 11:15am, speaker begins at 12:00pm.

Peggy Vaughan – Celebration of Life

This week we received a note from Jennifer, the daughter of Peggy Vaughan, notifying us that there will be a Celebration of Life service for Peggy on Saturday May 4th at Pine Hills Cemetery from 2-4pm. Anyone who wishes to attend is warmly invited.

Dr. Roz's – Mother's Day Drive

There's still one more week to make a donation for the Mother's Day drive for Dr. Roz's Healing Place. At any given time there are 16-20 women staying at Dr. Roz's. You can help by donating new gifts and Mother's Day cards and leaving them in the bin at the back of the church. Some items you might consider donating are large- and medium-size pyjamas, slippers, face and body creams, scarves or makeup. If you have any questions, email Ken Campbell at kcampbell2712@gmail.com.



ST NICHOLAS
ANGELICAN CHURCH, BIRCH CLIFF

Clergy Team
The Rev. Andrew MacDonald
Incumbent
fr.andrew@stnicholasbirchcliff.com
416-672-0489 (pastoral)

The Rev. Joan Wilson
Honorary Associate

Parish Musician
Ms. Christine Hanson
christine@stnicholasbirchcliff.com

Faith Community Nurse
Cheryle Pollock, RN
parishnurse@stnicholasbirchcliff.com

Parish Office
Office Hours: Mon, 8-11; Tues-Fri 9-12
Ms. Laura lamundo
Parish Administrator
laura@stnicholasbirchcliff.com
416-691-0449

Parish Leadership
Brian Todd, Sonia Halloran
Wardens
Katherine Ferrante, Sharon Endugesick
Deputy Wardens
wardens@stnicholasbirchcliff.com

1512 Kingston Road Scarborough ON M1N 1R7
www.stnicholasbirchcliff.com