



The Epistle

The Deans Note— May 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Peace River Community Choir** **May 11**
- Mother's Day** **May 13**
- There's Music in the Water** **May 30**

“The Peace of the Lord be with you”. It is how Jesus greets his disciples for the last time in the Easter season and right before he is taken up to heaven. He has come to lead them out to the Mount of the Ascension and he is going to be taken up into heaven from them. But the question might be, “Where did he go?” According to the Creeds, he ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. From there he will come again to us, to judge both the living and the dead.

And then things got interesting. Two men dressed in white robes asked the 11 disciples why they were standing there, looking up into heaven when they should be focused on what's next. Imagine how daunting that must have been. Jesus has been taken up and the disciples must have been wondering “What do we do now?” So, what they did next is more interesting. The Eleven went back into the city and to the Temple worshiped and prayed. They went back to the Temple and to the City and they worshiped and prayed some more. And that's it when it hit me: at the start of the Gospel of Luke, Zachariah would not thank God for the gift of a child, believing that it was not possible and so could not bless people for nine months; not until John was born and he acknowledge what God had told him and did as he was directed. That is a stark contrast to Jesus who is taken up from his disciple and continues to bless them as he is removed from their sight. Scripture witnesses to the fact the Jesus keeps on blessing as he keeps on proceeding to his rightful place, beside his Father. Jesus, according to the Scriptures continues even today to bless the Church. It has happened from that moment to this moment. Jesus is blessing his one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. But what does it mean for us to be blessed?

Well, for one, when you know that you are blessed, there needs to be a response starting with thanksgiving. Praise and thanksgiving are an important part of God's economy. The peace that draws us into God's presence also enables us to move from fear to faith; from misery to mercy and from bewilderment to fascination, awe and wonder at what God can and is doing. We need to give thanks that he has ascended with our scars. Worship helps us to focus on God and to let go of the things that hold us down and keep us back from him and all that he desires to give us and to do through us in the world.

Secondly, we need to know when to get to worship and to be resupplied and when to get out of the house. It has been said that “timing is everything.” It may be, but it is not the only that needs to happen. When it was time, things moved forward. The Spirit came upon the Church, Peter preached, people responded, and the Church grew because the community had been both blessed and empowered for the work that was ahead.

So this then, raises questions like, “Can you wait? Can you wait faithfully and keep on praise and worshipping God? Can you celebrate being left behind?” If you want to, then lift your heart, lift up your life and allow God to direct it as he sees fit and may the Lord continue to bless you in the things he has called you to.

Peace of the Lord be with you.

Jason+





On Eagle's Wings Northern Ministries is an ecumenical Christian ministry, proclaiming Jesus Christ and serving the Church and individuals in remote and isolated areas of Northern Canada.

Each summer, volunteers go to these Northern communities and provide summer Bible camps for children. You can help with this important ministry by providing the needed craft supplies. The list is available at the Greeters table at St. James. The deadline for collecting supplies is May 25.



Happy Mother's Day
to all you Mother's
out there!!

Please find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/stjamesanglicanPR/>



There's Music in the Water



Wednesday, May 30
7:00 p.m.
St. James Anglican Church

Admission by Donation to the One Drop Foundation,
a Montreal-based charity dedicated to providing sustainable
access to clean water around the world.



The Peace River
Community Choir

presents
An Evening of Canadian Choral Music

Friday, May 11
7:30 p.m.

St. James Anglican Church

Admission by Donation to the Soup Kitchen
or Non-perishable Items for the Food Bank

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST.
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ATHABABASCA

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We are proud that our mission is to
welcome, accept and encourage all
people in the name of Christ