

# June 9, 2024

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

*Welcome to everyone gathered here today.  
Please make yourself known to the greeters.*

### Today's Readings

1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20; Psalm 138;  
2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1; Mark 3:20-35

### Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Church of the Apostles, Halifax  
~ The Rev'd Mark Marshall, Rector, and Daphne  
St. Paul's, Halifax  
~ The Rev'd Canon Dr. Paul Friesen, Rector, and Janet

### Provincial Prayer Care

Diocese of Fredericton – Archbishop David Edwards

### Council of the North

Diocese of Yukon ~ Bishop Lesley Wheeler-Dame

DCS Cycle of Prayer – St. George's, Montague

Prayer Partner - Parish of Timberlea-Lakeside

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## June 16 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (green)

**Readings:** 1 Samuel 15:34 – 16:13; Psalm 20;  
2 Corinthians 5:6-17; Mark 4:26-34

**Readers:** Grafton C, Jim E; Jim D, Doreen Childs; Martyn C, Barb C

**Prayers of the People:** Sandra H, Amy M, Savannah M

**Worship Times:** 9 am – St. Thomas' MP  
11 am – St. Stephen's HE  
11 am – St. Mark's MP

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**THANK YOU** to everyone who helped to make St. Mark's Yard, Plant, and Bake Sale a success! Thanks to all who donated, set up, baked, bought, and helped out in any way. Please stay tuned for more information on a 2<sup>nd</sup> yard sale to be held later in the summer.

### Council Meetings

June 17 – 7 pm – St. Mark's Church Council  
June 19 – 7 pm – Parish Council at St. Mark's Church

### Sunday, June 30th Anniversary Celebrations

Plans are well underway for the 250th Anniversary celebrations. Invitations have been sent to the Parish list; please contact the office if you did not receive one, and spread the word to others. Please hold the date for the Parish Service at St. Thomas' Church at 11 am led by Bishop Sandra Fyfe, with lunch to follow. Community activities will continue from 1:30 – 4:30 in the afternoon. If you are willing to help out as the date looms closer or on the day, please contact the Church Office. We're now looking for artifacts for displays. If you have anything you are willing to donate for the day, please contact the Rectory office.

### SAVE THE DATE...

**Friday, June 28: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**St. Thomas' Annual Ice Cream Social and Bake Table.**

If anyone would like to make a donation to help cover costs, it would be appreciated.

**A Day to Draw Closer to God...** A retreat will be held on Saturday, June 15, 9:30-1:30 at St. Stephen's Church Hall. Led by Rev. Shirley and LLM Dennis Cole & LLM Kim Gallant, we will use various prayer practices to draw closer to God. Coffee, tea, and snacks will be provided; please bring your own bag lunch. All are welcome! For more info, contact Rev. Shirley.

### Vacation Bible School 2024 – "Camp Firelight"

July 8-12 from 9 am-11:30 a.m. at the Murray Christian Centre. Ages 4-12. Cost is \$25 per child (3rd child registers for free!) You can register on-line at: <https://forms.gle/vn4pQ21frUPGZtH46>. Registration is filling up fast! Contact the church office.

**COLLECT** (p 360)

O God,  
you have assured the human family of eternal life  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
Deliver us from the death of sin  
and raise us to new life in him,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS** (p 361)

Merciful God and Father,  
in Adam's fall we were born to death;  
in the new Adam we are reborn to life.  
In all we offer you this day  
may we share a taste of your eternal kingdom.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** (p 361)

O God, we have shared in the mysteries  
of the body and blood of Christ.  
Nourish us by this feast,  
that we may live the risen life  
and serve you faithfully in the world.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

### **A READING FROM 1 SAMUEL 8:4-11, 16-20**

So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.” But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. And the LORD told him: “Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights.” Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. He said, “This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. Your male and female servants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the LORD will not answer you in that day.” But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.”

### **A READING FROM 2 CORINTHIANS 4:13 -5:1**

It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands.

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK 3:20-35**

Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.”

And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, “He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons.”

So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: “How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. In fact, no one can enter a strong man’s house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man’s house. Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin.” He said this because they were saying, “He has an impure spirit.”

Then Jesus’ mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, “Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you.”

“Who are my mother and my brothers?” he asked.

Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”