

Holy Week and Easter
2026

St. George's Anglican Church

News from the Pews



From the Rector

Easter 2026: Christ Is Risen! Christ Is Risen Indeed!

Over the past few years it has sometimes felt as though the world has been living through one shadow after another. War continues in Ukraine with absolutely no end in sight. Tariffs and threats to our sovereignty are ever present. Violence and suffering fill the headlines from the Middle East. Economic uncertainty weighs on many families. And perhaps some of us know that darkness in our own lives as well: in grief, in worry, in loneliness, or in questions we do not know how to answer.

So when we read the news or watch the reports, it can sometimes feel overwhelming and downright depressing. And at moments like this, it is easy to wonder what difference faith makes when life can seem so fragile and uncertain.

Perhaps that is why I have always been struck by the way the Gospel of John begins the Easter story. John writes: "Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb."

You see, the first moment of Easter happens in the dark. Not after the sun has risen. Not when everything is safe and clear. But in the darkness, when grief is still heavy, when the future is uncertain, and when the followers of Jesus have no idea what comes next.

And yet it is precisely there, in that darkness, that everything begins to change. The empty tomb reveals that death and violence do not have the final word. Because the resurrection of Jesus is God's great declaration that life is stronger than death, that love is stronger than hatred, and that the darkness we experience right now will eventually give way to light and new life.

Which reminds me of the words of Samwise Gamgee from *The Lord of the Rings*. Samwise says, "It's like in the great stories, Mr. Frodo. The ones that really mattered. Full of darkness and danger, they were. And sometimes you didn't want to know the end. Because how could the end be happy? How could the world go back to the way it was when so much bad had happened? But in the end, it's only a passing thing, this shadow. Even darkness must pass. A new day will come. And when the sun shines it will shine out the clearer. Those were the stories that stayed with you. That meant something, even if you were too small to understand why. But I think, Mr. Frodo, I do understand. I know now. Folk in those stories had lots of chances of turning back, only they didn't. They kept going. Because they were holding on to something."

Continued...

Of course, the thing that they were holding onto is hope. Not the fragile kind of hope that depends on circumstances going our way, but the deeper hope that comes from trusting that God is still at work even when the night feels long. The hope of Easter is not the denial of darkness; rather it is the quiet but stubborn conviction that darkness will not have the final word.

After all, the first Easter morning did not begin with sunshine and trumpets. It began in the stillness of early morning, while it was still dark, when Mary Magdalene walked toward the tomb carrying her grief and her questions. And yet it was there, right there in the darkness, that the first light of resurrection began to break into the world.

As Christians, this is the story we enter every year during Holy Week. We follow Jesus step by step from the cheers of Palm Sunday, to the quiet intimacy of the Last Supper, to the solemn mystery of the cross, and finally to the astonishing joy of the empty tomb. These services are some of the most powerful liturgies of the entire Christian year because they invite us to slow down, to listen again, and to discover anew the hope that lies at the very heart of our faith.

Our Holy Week services begin on Palm Sunday, March 29th when we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with a procession of palm branches with services at 8:30 am and 10:30 am. Then on Maundy Thursday, April 2nd, we'll gather at 7:00 pm to remember the last supper and Jesus' mandate (mandatum became maundy) to "love one another as I have loved you." After celebrating the Eucharist, our liturgy will include stripping the altar of all furnishings to remind us of how the soldiers stripped Christ of his garments prior to his crucifixion.

We then gather on Good Friday, April 3rd, at 10:30 am to hear the proclamation of Christ's Passion and reflect upon his sacrifice for us. The tone is solemn, but not somber, for our emphasis is on the victory of the cross. We will then mark the beginning of the fifty days of Easter on Sunday April 5th at 8:30 am and 10:30 am.

Holy Week provides an opportunity for us to encounter our most powerful and transformative liturgies. They are central to our faith and our walk with Christ and I strongly encourage you to plan on attending as many of these services as you are able. So as we conclude our Lenten journey together and experience new life and light around us, it is my hope and prayer that you will find your faith strengthened, your hope renewed, and that you will be blessed with His peace and joy throughout the Easter season!

Yours in Christ,
The Rev. Victor Kischak
Pastor, Priest, & Rector

From the Wardens

Dear Parish Family,

As we journey through Lent and look toward the joy of Easter morning, our hearts are filled with gratitude and anticipation for all that this spring will bring to our parish community.

Holy Week invites us into the sacred heart of our faith story. From Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, to the solemn beauty of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, to the joyful singing of Jesus Christ is Risen Today on Easter morning, these services ground us once again in Christ's love, sacrifice, and triumph. We encourage you to take part fully in these beautiful worship opportunities. There is something profoundly renewing about walking the whole story, from the shadow of the cross to the empty tomb.

This season will also mark a significant and joyful milestone for our parish: the ordination of David Shumaker. We give thanks for David's faithful discernment, his servant heart, and the many ways he already blesses our community. Please keep him in your prayers as he prepares for this sacred step in his ministry. We look forward to celebrating this meaningful occasion together.

In addition, we are delighted that members of our parish – children, youth, and adults – will be confirmed this autumn. It is a powerful witness to see individuals of all ages publicly affirm their faith. Their "yes" to Christ strengthens all of us and reminds us that our parish continues to grow in depth and vitality.

Beyond worship, spring brings opportunities for fellowship and shared purpose. Our annual rummage sale is just around the corner – a revitalized and cherished tradition that not only supports the life of our church but also connects us with the wider community. Whether you donate, volunteer, or come to browse, it is always a joyful and energetic experience.

And this year holds a particularly special celebration: the 100th anniversary of our beloved carillon. For a century, its bells have marked moments of worship, celebration, and remembrance, ringing out over our neighbourhood as a faithful witness to God's presence. We look forward to honouring this remarkable legacy and celebrating the music that continues to call us to prayer.

As wardens, we are deeply grateful for each of you – for your faithfulness, generosity, and commitment to our shared life in Christ. This is a season rich with promise, and we are excited to walk it together.

May this Easter fill your homes with peace, your hearts with hope, and your lives with the joy of the Resurrection.

With gratitude and blessings,

Paul Deacon, Laura Keller, Jim Squires, Grace Gomashie

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OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
Please call in advance.

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Holy Week Service Schedule



March 29 Palm Sunday: 8:30 am (BCP)
and 10:30 am (BAS)

April 1 Mid-Week Service: 10:00 am (BAS)

April 2 Maundy Thursday: 7:00 pm (BAS)

April 3 Good Friday: 10:30 am (BAS)

April 5 Easter Sunday: 8:30 am (BCP)
and 10:30 am (BAS)

Join us for church school on Good Friday

Announcements

Making Palm Crosses - Saturday, March 28 at 9:30 am

Join us as we prepare palms for Palm Sunday. Come for the fellowship, coffee and we'll teach you how to make palm crosses. Looking forward to seeing you. All are welcome.

Palm Sunday Deliveries

It is our custom to connect with our those who are not able to attend services in person and to let them know that they continue to be in our thoughts and prayers. We are looking for approximately 40 people to deliver a card, palm cross and carnation to these individuals on Sunday, March 29 following our services. Thank you for bringing a smile to those who can't attend services in person.

Rani Varkey, Debbie Marchment

Flowers for Easter Sunday, April 5th

We are planning to have a beautiful floral display to celebrate The Sunday of the Resurrection. If you wish to assist in covering the cost of the flowers, we are inviting you to make a donation to St. George's Flower Fund in memory of your loved one(s). By noon hour on Friday, March 27, please contact Bruce Mackenzie, preferably by email (office@saintgeorge.ca), or call (519-822-1366), or you can place your request on the collection plate no later than Sunday, March 29, Donations will be included on your 2026 income tax receipt. The list of names and donors will be available at all Easter services. Thank you for supporting this ministry.




ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH
RUMMAGE SALE

Donation Drop Off April 23 & 24 1:00pm-8:00pm

**April 25, 2026 | 8:00am - 2:00pm |
 99 Woolwich St.**

Soup & Buns
LUNCH

April 12, 2026
 after the
 10:30 service




Spring Cycle
 Begins May 5

Concerts take
 place
 Tuesdays at
 4:30 pm
 at St. George's
 Free
 admission



Music
 at
 St. George's



St. George's Crafter's Guild
SPRING MEETINGS



- Knitting, crocheting, embroidery, card making, beading, etc.
- All skill levels are welcome - we'll even teach you if you want to learn!







1st & 3rd Sunday afternoons each month
**MARCH 1, 15 AND 29 (bonus),
 APRIL 19, MAY 3 AND 17**
 1:00 - 3:00 pm
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