



St. Andrew's United Church, North Bay

Reaching Out



a weekly online newsletter for members and friends of the
St. Andrews faith community, shared for the purpose of
bringing peace, hope and comfort during these special times.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE - JOHN 20:24-29

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him. "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas. "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe. Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

A Prayer

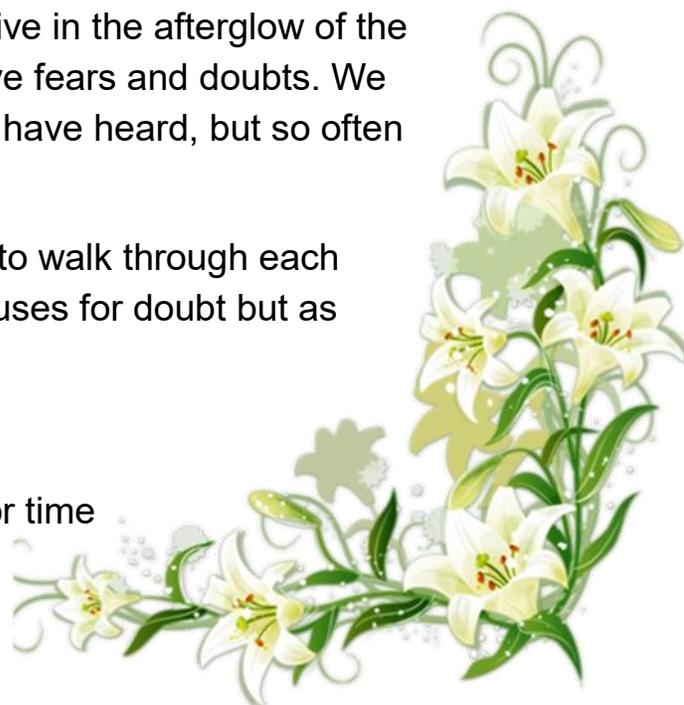
Holy and Almighty God, with the apostles, we live in the afterglow of the resurrection celebration. Like them, we too have fears and doubts. We want to believe with all our hearts the story we have heard, but so often daily life gets in the way of our faith.

Help us, O God. By your Holy Spirit enable us to walk through each day's obstacles so that we see them not as causes for doubt but as barriers to be lifted by faith.

God of the risen Jesus, hear our prayers.

God of our journey, we praise and thank you for time together and time apart. Give vision beyond our usual sight and give faith that is strong.

Amen



Something to Think About in the Silence

Tracy Davis, DLM



Sometimes Thomas is called ‘Doubting Thomas,’ but I think he got a bad wrap. I honestly think I would have reacted exactly as he did if my friends had come to tell me that my leader had come back from the dead – with the scars to prove it. Surely the other disciples did not believe fully right away, but Thomas comes to be known as “Doubting Thomas” because of his disbelief. How do you think you would have reacted to that news?

Jesus in his compassionate way helped Thomas with his doubt and led him to belief. He told Thomas to touch and feel that it was truly Him. I wonder if Thomas actually did believe, but to him, somehow the news was just too good to be true. Have you ever wanted to believe something with your whole heart but worried that it was too good to be true? Put yourself in Thomas’ place. Hear Jesus say to you: “Put your fingers here and see my hands. Put your hand in my side. It is me.”

Jesus says that those who believe without seeing are blessed. Do you believe without seeing? Or are you one who needs to see and touch the wounds? Jesus didn’t love Thomas any less because he needed proof. Jesus doesn’t love us any less when we need extra assurance of his presence with us. Surely it is better to ask and receive than to live permanently in doubt and unbelief.

In silence, reflect on the strength of your belief. Examine your heart and submit to God what it is that keeps you from one-hundred-percent belief.



“Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

HOLY HUMOUR SUNDAY

Easter was God's supreme joke played on death, hence the *risus paschalis* – "the Easter laugh."

What is Holy Humour Sunday? In the early church, the Sunday after Easter was observed by the faithful as a day of joy and laughter with parties and shenanigans to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. The custom of *Bright Sunday*, as it was called, came from the idea of some early church theologians that God played a joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead.

So on the Sunday after Easter, parishioners and pastors played practical jokes on each other, drenched each other with water, sang, and danced. It was a time for clergy and people to tell jokes and to have fun.



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This Sunday, the church service produced by the Trinity United production crew will have "Holy Humour" as its theme. Representatives from the St. Andrew' Choir will be singing the introit and the anthem - each piece sung with special words and arrangements written by our own Ralph Johnston. Special thanks to Ralph for his technical skills in sound mixing, and Karen Gooch, Lise Anne Boissonneault and Derek Stott for helping provide the necessary sound tracks.

This service can be found on the [Trinity YouTube channel](#) ... which should have the Sunday service posted on it usually the day before (Saturday).

ONLINE WORSHIP - THIS SUNDAY - Several Options

This Sunday's service (Holy Humour Sunday) will be found on the **Trinity YouTube channel**. This *YouTube* video is recorded and can be watched at any time. To visit the channel, click on this link: [Trinity United Church YouTube Channel](#)

- Click ****HERE**** for this Sunday's worship services led by UCC Moderator Rev. Richard Bott. This week, he reflects on the role of doubt in our faith and how it can lead us to experience the good news for ourselves.
- Click ****HERE**** for the Bedford United Church (Bedford, N.S.) YouTube Channel, one of the many online worship experiences available



Foodbank Report

Thursday April 16, 2020 Over 100 people served this morning. We have awesome volunteers. "Thank you!" to everyone who has been donating food and money to keep this essential service going. A big round of applause to the gang at *Cassellholme* for their food drive. What a difference we can make in the world!!!

Another bit of news is that we will be applying for funding to help with securing a delivery service to transport the food that is being bought or donated by local merchants. This will really help us out a lot.

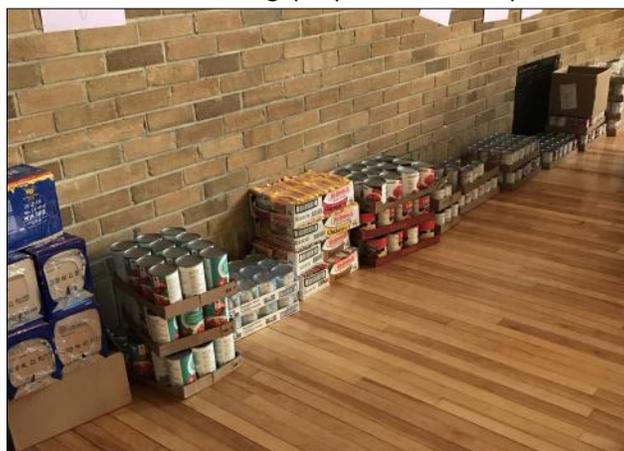
If you would like to support the foodbank, please know that the Church Office Administrator, Star, will be in the building on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays from 10 am until 2 pm**. We will safely take your non-perishables .

If you wish to support our foodbank by cash cheque, Star can handle that as well. Alternately, donations may be mailed to St. Andrew's or online donations can be made via the "Donate Now" option (below).

Photo right: some of the donations from the Cassellholme food drive



Food Bank volunteers Brian Nelles and Jennifer Barnett at the McIntyre door where the food is handed out following proper COVID-19 protocol.



Food items are organized on the gym floor prior to distribution on Thursday morning.

HOW YOU CAN HELP ST. ANDREW'S DURING THIS SPECIAL TIME

1. Become a monthly **PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) member** by downloading a form and mailing it to St. Andrew's. Complete PAR details and forms can be found at: <https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/get-involved/give-regularly>
2. Drop off a **cheque** at the Church on **Wednesday** or **Friday mornings** (from 10 am til 2 pm) - or mail it to St. Andrew's United Church, 399 Cassells Street, North Bay, ON P1B 3Z4
3. Give via the **"Donate Now"** button located to the right, or on our website (<https://standrews-northbay.ca/donate/>) Please note choosing this option allows you to use a credit card however the tax receipt will come from *Canada Helps* **directly to you by e-mail** and they take a 3% admin fee.

