



Christ Church, Rawdon

1822 – 2022

Easter & Pentecost 2023



Located in the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee and the Huron-Wendat people

*Common Praise 182: Ride on, ride on in majesty! Hark, all the tribes, hosanna cry:
O Saviour meek, pursue thy road with palms and scattered garments strowed.
Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die:
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin, o'er captive death and conquered sin.
Ride on, ride on in majesty! In lowly pomp ride on to die.
Bow thy meek head to mortal pain, then take, O God, thy power, and reign.*

This year we will observe Palm Sunday on the 2nd of April. We will hold palms, sing 'Ride On! Ride On', read of the triumphant entry into Jerusalem, hear and shout out "Hosanna!" and only a few minutes later, read of the passion and hear how, as Isaiah wrote more than 500 years before the passion, [Isaiah 53:4...] 'He took up our pain and bore our suffering... He was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities... ..the Lord laid on him the iniquity of us all.'

Palm Sunday is the feast with the greatest dramatic reversal – from triumph to tragedy in a few short lines of scripture and the singing of a couple of hymns. If we allow ourselves to share in the reading, hymn, drama, and heartbreak of the feast we are shaken and disturbed by the cries we utter. First, exclamations of joy: "Hosanna!", "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" [Mark 11:9-10]; quickly followed by shouts of "Crucify him!" when Pilate asks what is to be done with their King [Mark 15:13]. We are a fickle, impatient, and quixotic people – quick to laud; quicker to condemn; and, sadly, in the dark corners of our hearts, we often rejoice when someone who dared to stand a little taller or speak a little more boldly than their peers, is cut down and humiliated.

This Lent I encouraged people to walk, to engage in acts of kindness, to randomly give things to friend, family, and stranger – a pot of jam, a cutting of a plant, the gift of snow clearing; and I encouraged people to read: the Book of Job, the Gospel of Mark, and the Dark Night of the Soul. Some, I have learned, have tried to do all of this. I have read Mark, but not yet Job; and to date only part of The Dark Night; I've walked and moved in the world which God has given to us, and I have given away pots of jam and other small things, doing so with intentionality and with a desire to bring joy to the recipient. I have been far more generously blessed in return.

The Book of Job sees a righteous man wrestle with unjust suffering. Job learns to call out the unjustness of his situation without cursing God. Mark presents a skeletal picture of Jesus and his ministry. Mark is silent on big things found in the other gospels [no nativity, no magi, no annunciation, and Jesus' post-resurrection teaching is not much more than the Great Commissioning and a rebuke of the apostles for their lack of faith]. Mark is impatient. He has an urgent message and tells it as efficiently as possible. If we were only so clear-eyed in how we see the Gospel. The Dark Night of the Soul is a poem which St. John of the Cross wrote, most likely, while in prison in Toledo, Spain in 1577-78-79. The poem begins:

*"On a dark night, kindled in love with yearnings –oh, happy chance!
I went forth without being observed, my house being now at rest.
In darkness and secure, by the secret ladder, disguised–oh, happy chance!
In darkness and in concealment, my house being now at rest.
In the happy night, in secret, when none saw me, nor I beheld aught,
Without light or guide, save that which burned in my heart.
This light guided me more surely than the light of noonday to the place where He
was awaiting me–A place where none appeared."*

The house he speaks of is himself – his body which houses heart and soul and imagination. His 'Dark Night' is a period of spiritual dryness; of praying without reply; of weeping with dry eyes; of faithful service which was bereft of joy. The 'He' whom he meets is God – and his meeting of god is in the dark, quiet of his heart; for only after he has laboured and wrestled through prayer without answer has he found his way to a place where he can hear without needing words to be spoken – only in the calm after tears will no longer swell in eyes, and only after much has been given away and lost, is Grace and the presence of God found.

We speak often, and in ways too often tinted with a hint of envy, of those who seem blessed with ease of life, with ease of service, with wealth, with faith that must be able to move mountains. We need to understand that many of the most blessed men and women of faith whom we know or have read about and consider to be Champions of Faith wrestled for years without end for spiritual certainty. Mother Theresa, an icon of service to the poor, outcast, and disenfranchised, endured 49 years of spiritual drought. She never stopped praying, never stopped singing, never stopped worshipping, or working – but she also went 49 years without hearing God. Her 'Dark Night' lasted almost 18,000 nights. Like Job, she prevailed even as she challenged the justness of a God who allowed such suffering to exist in the world; like St. John of the Cross, she sustained faith and was a minister of Grace even when God was silent to her and she felt that prayers were not heard; like Mary, Martha and Deborah in the gospels, she poured herself out in service to a world that needed mending; and she did so in the midst of 49 years of drought. In 1951 Mother Teresa prayed to join in Jesus' suffering on the Cross. She wrote that the Passion was the only aspect of Jesus' life in which she wanted to fully partake. She wanted to drink from his chalice. Jesus answered her prayer with some of the dark feelings of loneliness and abandonment that had accompanied His own suffering on His Cross. She descended into a life of service; lost herself there; wrestled with God who seemed absent; and yet prevailed to sing 'Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!'.

Palm Sunday palms will become Ash Wednesday's ashes in 46 weeks. We have been given the gift of Grace, of Solace, of Hope, of Life, of Love. If you have walked a Dark Night and have prevailed, come, and sing with us through Holy Week and on Easter Sunday. If you are walking still and wrestling still with God, come and sing with us and pray with us and break bread with us through Holy Week and at Easter; for persevering in the midst of the Dark Night of Your Soul is what we, as men and women who wrestle with the majesty and the wonder of believing, are called to do – to proclaim hope even as we doubt; to sing of Joy even as our eyes are still wet with tears; to love even as we seek to be loved.

Come, and worship, and let light pour into the darkest of spaces.

Fr. Rodney Clark+

Lilies for Easter: To order lilies in memory of loved ones for Easter, please prepare a cheque for \$25, payable to Christ Church Altar Guild. For more information, please contact Ann Allen @ 450-834-2492. Deadline to order is MARCH 26.

SUNDAY APRIL 23: Easter Brunch in the Parish Hall. \$20 for adults, \$10 for kids between 6 and 12, kids under 6 are free. First sitting @ 09:30, Second sitting @ 11:30.

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE!! Please contact Ann Allen @ 450-834-2492.

Christ Church, 3537 rue Metcalfe, Rawdon, QC, J0K 1S0
www.christchurchrawdon.com email: christchurchrawdon@gmail.com
The Rev. Rodney Clark, frrodneyclark@gmail.com 514-571-3202
Prayer Requests: rawdonprayerrequests@gmail.com
Hall Rental: rawdonanglicanhallrental@gmail.com
Flower Memorials: Ann Allen, ann_hotpink@hotmail.com 450-834-2492
Donations can be made on-line at www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/70387

Worship Schedule from Palm Sunday to the Nativity of John the Baptist

April 02, 10:30	Palm Sunday. The Rev. Rodney Clark
April 06, 19:00	Maundy Thursday / Tenebrae Service. The Rev. Rodney Clark
April 07, 09:30	Good Friday Ecumenical Walk – from Marie-Reine-du-Monde et Saint Patrick to Christ Church for a bilingual liturgy of the word
April 07, 15:00	Good Friday Solemn Eucharist. The Rev. Rodney Clark
April 09, 10:30	The Great Feast of Easter, with renewal of baptismal vows. The Rev. Rodney Clark
April 16, 10:30	The Second Sunday of Easter. The Rev. Rodney Clark
April 23, 10:30	The Third Sunday of Easter. The Rev. Rodney Clark
April 30, 10:30	The Fourth Sunday of Easter. The Rev. Rodney Clark
May 07, 10:30	The Fifth Sunday of Easter. The Rev. Rodney Clark
May 07, 19:00	Singalong in the Parish Hall
May 14, 10:30	The Sixth Sunday of Easter & Mother's Day. The Rev. Rodney Clark
May 21, 10:30	The Ascension of our Lord. The Rev. Rodney Clark
May 27, 13:30	Celebration of the Funeral of William Barrie Miller
May 28, 10:30	The FEAST of PENTECOST. The Rev. Canon Dr. Neil Mancor will tell a story
June 04, 10:30	Trinity Sunday. The Rev. Rodney Clark
June 04, 19:00	Singalong in the Parish Hall
June 11, 10:30	The Second Sunday of Pentecost. The Rev. Rodney Clark
June 18, 10:30	The Third Sunday of Pentecost & Father's Day. The Rev. Rodney Clark
June 25, 10:30	Nativity of John the Baptist. The Rev. Rodney Clark

Activities in the Hall: SUNDAY: [starting Ap 02] Mid-Laurentian United Church: 09:15-10:00

MONDAY: AA: 19:00-22:00; TUESDAY: ACW Military Whist Card Parties: 19:00. Cost is \$3.

WEDNESDAY: CA: 19:00-22:00; THURSDAY: NA: 19:00-22:00

FRIDAY: Masonic Lodge: The second Friday of each month

INSECT PLAY REHEARSALS: Prologue: 11:30-12:00; Act 1: 12:00-13:30: Mar 20, 27, & Ap 3, 10.

Act 2: 13:00-14:45: Mar 21, 28, & Ap 4; Epilogue: 15:00-16:00: Mar 21, 28, & Ap 4. Act 3: 13:00-

14:45: Mar 23, 30, & Ap 6. Dress rehearsals April 12 & 13 @ Rawdon Golf Resort. Starts @ 10:30

Performances @ Rawdon Golf Resort: April 15 @ 7:30; April 16 @ 4:00.

ACW in the Hall: April 27, 13:30-15:30; May 6, Craft Sale, 10:00-15:00. Hot Dogs at noon;

June 15, 13:30-15:30 Contact Sharon sharontinkler@icloud.com

Quilt Guild in the Hall: April 29 – meeting & workshop; May 27 – meeting & workshop;

June 17 Quilter's Garage Sale: 10:00 - 3:00; Lunch 12:00. Price and type to be decided.

Contact: Sue-Ellen sueellenquilt@gmail.com

Activities at the Rectory: Feast of the Annunciation Sherry & Cake Party THUR March 23,

16:00 ACW, UCW, WI, and all other women are invited;

Easter Choir Rehearsal Wed Mr 22, 29 & Ap 5: 19:00, contact Mary-Jo maryjo@rosenquist.com ;

Extended Corporation THUR April 6; May 11; June 8 from 09:45-11:30

PARISH COUNCIL – SWOT Workshops: WEDNESDAY APRIL 12, 19, & 26 @ 19:00

E MONDAY: 13:00, Urban/Nordic Poling with Gail.

C TUESDAY: 09:00 Breakfast Club at Chez Nous du Communautaire, Mascouche

O WEDNESDAY: 13:00-14:00 Woodworking Group, Grace Anglican Church, Mascouche

L THURSDAY: 10:00-13:00 Christ Church Hall, Rawdon

FRIDAY: 10:00-14:00 Friday Friends at the United Church Hall, Rawdon

CIM: May 13; 17:00, 35\$ (30\$ for members) Spring Dinner Dance with music by George Camillis of Greece. Tickets in Advance. June 3 14:00-17:00 Opening of an exhibition of comic book art by Bernie

Mireault, a well-known Rawdon artist. June 17 14:00 30\$ (25\$ for members) Concert of Classic and Popular songs presented by Evgeniya Alexeev of Ukraine, accompanied by violinist Sergiej Trofanov.

RRA: Card Parties are Friday, April 28, May 26. Location to be announced.

Contact Brent breparkinson13@gmail.com

WI: MONDAY Apr 3, May 1, and June 5. Location to be announced.

Contact Margaret craftymountaineer@hotmail.com

Legion Activities: Mon: 09:30, Exercise Group; 13:00, Bingo; Tue: 13:00, Darts

Wed 09:30, Exercise Group; 18:00, Supper; Thur: 19:00, Cribbage; Fri: 09:30, Exercise Group

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP DAY: Saturday, May 6, starting at 09:00.

HALL CLEAN-UP DAY: Saturday, June 3, starting at 09:00.

SATURDAY, JULY 15, AUCTION & BAZAAR. 09:30-15:30

Please contact Brent Parkinson breparkinson13@gmail.com