



St. Ambrose Anglican Church



Gladstone & Carmichael Roads

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Mission Statement

The Parish of St. Ambrose exists to be servants of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to build up the community of faith so that all may become whole persons in Christ.

The Senior Bishop of The Province of The West Indies/Bishop of Belize

The Rt. Rev. Philip Wright, B.A. (Hons.), M.A., OBE

The Diocesan Bishop

The Rt. Rev. & Rt. Hon. Laish Boyd, B.A., D.D.

Assistant Bishops

The Most Rev. Drexel W. Gomez, B.A., D.D., C.M.G.

The Rt. Rev. Gilbert A. Thompson, C.M.G., S.Th., M.A., J.P

West Central Bahamas Archdeacon

The Venerable Dwight H. L. Rolle, B.A., S.T.M., J.P.

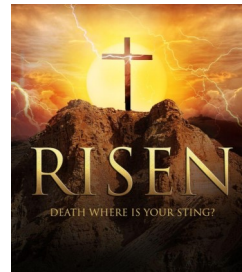


SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday - 7:00 am Said Mass

Sunday - 9:30 am Sung Mass

Wednesday - 6:30 am Said Mass



Diocesan 2025 Theme: "Family Matters" (Joshua 24:15)

RESURRECTION SUNDAY/EASTER DAY

Sunday, April 20th, 2025

The Day Jesus Rose From The Dead

The 5:30am Easter Vigil

The Liturgy is divided into four parts, culminating in the Eucharist of Easter.

(1) The Blessing of the New Fire and the lighting of the Paschal Candle

The New Fire recalls symbolically the Resurrection of Christ. From the fire the Paschal Candle is lit; this remains lit during all services until Pentecost.

(2) The Ministry of the Word which records from Holy Scripture God's dealings with his people.

(3) The Blessing of the water and the Baptismal Liturgy. Traditionally, water has been the symbol of the renewing and life-giving power of Christ. It is during this part of the service that we recall our own baptism and renew the vows which were then made.

(4) Finally, the Eucharist of Easter where we proclaim the death & resurrection of Christ, and receive the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of the Risen Lord.

The Blessing of the New Fire and the Lighting of the Paschal Candle

The Church is unlit. The clergy and servers assemble at the entrance of the church where the celebrant greets the congregation.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer. This is the Passover of the Lord. We remember his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries; we are confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

Celebrant: Let us pray: Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world. Sanctify this new fire, and inflame us with new hope. Purify our minds by this Easter celebration, and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

After the blessing of the new fire, the paschal candle is brought to the celebrant, who traces the cross and the Greek letter alpha above the cross, the letter omega below, and the numerals of the current year.

1. Christ yesterday and today (as he traces the vertical arm of the cross)
2. the beginning and the end (the horizontal arm)
3. Alpha (above the cross)
4. and Omega (below the cross)
5. all time belongs to Him (first numeral in the upper left corner)
6. and all the ages (the second numeral in the upper right corner)
7. to Him be glory and power (the third numeral in the lower left corner)
8. through every age for ever. Amen. (the last numeral in the lower right corner)

The Celebrant traces the five grains in the form of a cross, saying:

1. By his holy
2. and glorious wounds
3. may Christ our Lord
4. guard us
5. and keep us. Amen.

The Celebrant lights the candle from the new fire, saying

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts & minds

The Solemn Procession and The Paschal Proclamation

The Celebrant leads the procession to the chancel, lifting the candle high three times, and sings:

Celebrant: The light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Other candles and lamps in the church, except for those at the Altar, may also be lighted.

After the Paschal Candle is placed in its stand, the Exultet follows

THE EXULTET (Chanted by Ms. Tanisha Braithwaite)

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around
God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour, radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen Saviour shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is indeed right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise you, the unseen God, the Father Almighty, and your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who has ransomed us by His death, and paid for us the price of Adam's sin. For this is the Passover of the true Lamb of God, by whose blood the homes of all the faithful are hallowed and protected. This is the night when of old you saved our fathers, delivering the people of Israel, leading them dry-shod through the sea.

This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell and rose triumphant from the grave. This is the night when all who believe in Him are freed from sin and

Most blessed of all nights, when heaven is wedded to earth and all creation reconciled to God! Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night, accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering. And grant that this Easter candle may make our darkness light; for Christ the Morning Star has risen, never again to set and is alive, and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The people may now extinguish their candles

It is customary that the Paschal Candle burn at all services from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost.

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ, let us now listen attentively to the word of God, recalling how He saved His people throughout history and in the fullness of time, sent His own Son to be our Redeemer.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Story of Creation: Genesis 1:1-2:4a [*Alleluia sung by the Choir*]

Celebrant: By the word of the Lord were the heavens made.

Almighty and Eternal God, you created all things in wonderful beauty and order. Help us now to perceive how still more wonderful is the new creation, by which in the fulness of time you redeemed your people through the sacrifice of our Passover, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea: Exodus 14:10-31;15:20-21 [*Alleluia sung by the Choir*]

Hymn

Lead Us Heavenly Father

CPWI 424

Celebrant: God of steadfast love, your wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day. By the power of your mighty arm you once delivered your chosen people from slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of baptism. Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Salvation Offered Freely to All: Isaiah 55:1-11 [*Alleluia sung by the Choir*]

Celebrant: You shall draw water with rejoicing.

O God, by the power of your Word you have created all things, and by your Spirit, you renew the earth: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Valley of Dry Bones: Ezekiel 37:1-14 [*Alleluia sung by the Choir*]

Hymn

Breathe On Me, Breath Of God

CPWI 266

Celebrant: Living God, by the Passover of your Son, you have brought us out of sin into righteousness, and out of death into life. Grant to those who are sealed

by your Holy Spirit the will and power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Choir

Christ Our Passover

THE EASTER SALUTATION

(All stand)

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

All: THE LORD RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!

The Kyries/Gloria {*bells are rung*}..... BCP 102

Collect: O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection; Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism. That we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE EPISTLE

Reader: A Reading from the Word of God written in Romans, chapter 6 verses 3 to 11.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: The Word of the Lord

Gradual Hymn

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

CPWI 172

(The following chorus is sung before the Gospel)

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world, They resound with God's own heart Oh, let the ancient words impart. Ancient words ever true changing me, and changing you. We have come with open hearts, Oh let the ancient words impart.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 24:1-12

All: Glory to Christ our Saviour

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’ Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Gospeller: The Gospel Of Christ

All: Praise to Christ our Lord

(The following chorus is sung after the Gospel)

Words of life, words of hope, give us strength, help us cope In this world,
where e'er we roam, Ancient words will guide us home. Ancient words ever
true, changing me, and changing you. We have come with open hearts, Oh let
the ancient words impart.

Choir Anthem

Then Came The Morning

Sermon Fr. Scott Brennan

Choir Anthem

A Mighty Hope

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows BCP 264

Celebrant: Dear Friends, through the paschal mystery we have been buried with Christ in baptism, so that we may rise with Him to new life. Now that our Lenten observance is ended, let us renew the promises we made in baptism, when we rejected Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy catholic Church.

Celebrant: Do you declare and promise that you will, with the help of God, live your life in the faith of Christ into which you were baptised? **All: I do.**

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Celebrant: Will you continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers? **All: I will.**

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil and repent whenever you fall into sin? **All: I will.**

Celebrant: Will you be a witness in your daily life to God's saving work in Christ? **All: I will.**

Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ by loving your neighbour as yourself, remembering that every person is loved and valued by God? **All: I will.**

Celebrant: Do you put your whole trust in his grace and love?

All: I do, and with God's help I will follow Christ as my Saviour and Lord.

The Asperges (As priest sprinkles the faithful, the following is sung:)

Baptismal Hymn: I Was Made A Christian CPW 650

Celebrant: O Lord, show Thy mercy upon us, alleluia!

All: And grant us Thy salvation, alleluia!

Celebrant: Lord, hear our prayer. **All: And let our cry come unto Thee.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **All: And also with you.**

Celebrant: God the creator, the rock of our salvation, has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ. May He keep us faithful to our calling, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

BCP 125

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY PRAYER: O Lord, watch over those persons who are celebrating birthdays or anniversaries. Bless and guide them wherever they may be; strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when they are discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding abide with them on the anniversary of their birth and marriages, and all the days of their lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offertory Hymn Low In The Grave In Lay CPW 177

All things are Yours, no gifts have we; Lord of all gifts to offer Thee. And then with grateful hearts today, Your own before Your feet we lay. Amen.

Censing Hymn

I Serve A Risen Saviour

I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today; I know that He is living; whatever men may say; I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer. And just the time I need Him, He's always near.

2 In all the world around me I see His loving care, And tho my heart grows weary I never will despair; I know that He is leading thro' all the stormy blast. The day of His appearing will come at last.

He lives, He lives Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and He talks with me Along life's narrow way. He lives, He live, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives: He lives within my heart.

3 Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian. Lift up your voice and sing. Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King! The hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find. None other is so loving, so good and kind.

The Sursum Corda	BCP 126
The Proper Preface	Easter BCP 128
Eucharistic Prayer	Form B BCP 135
The Lord's Prayer	BCP144
The Breaking of Bread	BCP 145
The Agnus Dei	BCP147

Communion Hymns

Alleluia, Sing To Jesus

CPWI 569

The Strife Is O'er

CPWI 182

Jesus Lives! Thy Terrors Now

CPWI 175

Post-Communion Prayer BCP 147/Choir Anthem - ***The Hallelujah Chorus***

Recessional Hymn

Our God Reigns

How lovely on the mountains are the feet of Him. Who brings good news, good news; Announcing peace, proclaiming news of happiness: Our God reigns, our God reigns!

3 It was our sin and guilt that bruised and wounded Him. It was our sin that brought Him down. When we like sheep had gone astray our Shepherd came. And on His shoulders bore our shame.

Our God reigns! Our God reigns! Our God reigns! Our God reigns!

4 Meek as a lamb that's led out to the slaughterhouse. Dumb as a sheep before its shearer. His life ran down upon the ground like pouring rain, That we might be born again.

2 He had no stately form, He had no majesty. That we should be drawn to Him. He was despised and we took no account of Him. Our God reigns, our God reigns!

5 Out from the tomb He came with grace and majesty; He is alive, He is alive. God loves us so, see here His hands, His feet, His side Yes we know, He is alive.

The 9:30am Solemn Sung Eucharist of Easter

Introit	Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem	CPWI 186
Opening Sentence	Easter	BCP 98
Collect for Purity		BCP 101
The Kyries / The Gloria		BCP 102
Collect	The Day of Resurrection	BCP 166

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Reader: A Reading from the Word of God written in Acts, chapter 10 verses 34 to 43.

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: The Word of the Lord

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

THE EPSITL

Reader: A Reading from the word of God written in 1st Corinthians, chapter 15 verse 19 to 26.

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY PRAYER: O Lord, watch over those persons who are celebrating birthdays or anniversaries. Bless and guide them wherever they may be; strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when they are discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding abide with them on the anniversary of their birth and marriages, and all the days of their lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offertory Hymn

Low In The Grave In Lay

CPWI 177

All things are Yours, no gifts have we; Lord of all gifts to offer Thee. And then with grateful hearts today, Your own before Your feet we lay. Amen.

Censing Hymn

I Serve A Risen Saviour

<p>I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today; I know that He is living; whatever men may say; I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer. And just the time I need Him, He's always near.</p>	<p>2 In all the world around me I see His loving care, And tho' my heart grows weary I never will despair; I know that He is leading thro' all the stormy blast. The day of His appearing will come at last.</p>
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<p><i>He lives, He lives Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and He talks with me Along life's narrow way. He lives, He live, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives: He lives within my heart.</i></p>	<p>3 Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian. Lift up your voice and sing. Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King! The hope of all who seek Him, the help of all who find. None other is so loving, so good and kind.</p>
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The Sursum Corda	BCP 126
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The Proper Preface	Easter	BCP 128
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Eucharistic Prayer	Form B	BCP 135
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The Lord's Prayer	BCP144
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The Breaking of Bread	BCP 145
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The Agnus Dei	BCP147
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Communion Hymns

Alleluia, Sing To Jesus

CPWI 569

The Strife Is O'er

CPWI 182

At The Lamb's High Feast

CPWI 164

Post-Communion Prayer	BCP 147
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Choir Anthem

The Hallelujah Chorus

Recessional Hymn

Our God Reigns

1 How lovely on the mountains are the feet of Him. Who brings good news, good news; Announcing peace, proclaiming news of happiness: Our God reigns, our God reigns!

Our God reigns! Our God reigns! Our God reigns! Our God reigns!

2 He had no stately form, He had no majesty. That we should be drawn to Him. He was despised and we took no account of Him. Our God reigns, our God reigns!

3 It was our sin and guilt that bruised and wounded Him. It was our sin that brought Him down. When we like sheep had gone astray our Shepherd came. And on His shoulders bore our shame.

4 Meek as a lamb that's led out to the slaughterhouse. Dumb as a sheep before its shearer. His life ran down upon the ground like pouring rain, That we might be born again.

5 Out from the tomb He came with grace and majesty; He is alive, He is alive. God loves us so, see here His hands, His feet, His side Yes we know, He is alive.

NOTICES



VISITORS, we welcome you to St. Ambrose and greet you in the name and love of our mighty Saviour, Jesus Christ. We are delighted that you have come to share with us in this worship experience.

MEMBERS, if you were away, it is good to have you back home and we give thanks to God for your safe return.



Remember in Prayer

Our nation & community, the unemployed, the homeless, the sick and shut-in, the disabled, members who are abroad, those who are travelling, fishermen, farmers, teachers, students, pilots, legal and medical professionals, law-enforcement officers, the lapsed and indifferent members of our church, and all who have requested our prayers.

THE SICK

Leannza Beneby, Alinda Bowe, Francis Bowe, Granville Brown, Barbara Chong, Jocelyn Munroe, Florence Pratt, Philippa Robinson, Vernal Sands, Dr. Julian Stewart, Phillip Styles, Alinda Bowe, Leslie Forbes, Trevor Adderley, Carol Roach, Lisa Butler, Hyacinth Curtis, Naomi Williams, Archbishop Drexel Gomez, Diana Swann., Cheryl Bowe-Moss.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The poster for REBOOT 2025 features a black background with a yellow top section. The word "REBOOT" is in large white letters, with "2025" in blue script below it. The text "Weekend Retreat for Grades 7 - 12" is in white. The dates "April 25th - 27th" are in blue. The schedule is listed in yellow: "Day One - FRI 6 - 10PM", "Day Two - SAT 4 - 10PM", and "Day Three - SUN 9AM - 3PM". A blue circle on the left says "Parents Session Fri 8-9PM". At the bottom, a list of activities is shown in white: "Drama | Music | Teachings | Discussions", "Outdoor Games | Fellowship | Prayer". A website link "https://stambrosebahamas.com/reboot2005" is in blue. A yellow box at the bottom right says "Registration \$25". Three circular inset photos show youth at the event: one with a group standing outdoors, one with two girls sitting at a table, and one with a group sitting on the grass.

REBOOT
2025
Weekend Retreat for
Grades 7 - 12
April 25th - 27th
Day One - FRI
6 - 10PM
Day Two - SAT
4 - 10PM
Day Three - SUN
9AM - 3PM
Parents Session
Fri 8-9PM
Drama | Music | Teachings | Discussions
Outdoor Games | Fellowship | Prayer
For more information visit
<https://stambrosebahamas.com/reboot2005>
Registration
\$25

Special Prayer For Reboot Youth Retreat

Gracious and Heavenly Father, we thank you for life and for your forgiveness, reminding us that we are all receivers of your blessings and grace. Change us so that we will be worthy examples to our youth sharing with them the knowledge of our love and care. Dear Lord we pray especially for the success of the Reboot weekend. Touch all those attending and we pray that through their participation they become recharged to restart a new life in you. **Amen**

**For further details, please contact Mrs. Leja Burrows at 676-2341*

ACW NEWS

The Anglican Church Women will have a **Meeting** this Tue. **April 22nd at 6pm**; **Souse-Out** [\$15] this Sat. **April 26th, 7am-12noon** & a **Pre-Mother's Day Concert** [Adults-\$10/Children-\$5] at the church on **Sun. May 4th starting at 3pm.**

***Please note that there will be NO Wednesday 6am Mass & Bible Study this week, April 23rd. We will resume both spiritual activities next week.**

Tithes & Offerings or Financial Donations can be sent to St. Ambrose Anglican Church, Royal Bank of Canada JFK, Account 1002534, Transit Number: 05165. *For your Building PLEDGE re: Parish Community Center, please send to FCIB Branch # 09706 A/C # 201044633.



Our People's Warden, Mr. Joel Cunningham, is **in the process of compiling a written historical record of St. Ambrose**. If you any pertinent information or photos, please contact him via email at cunninghamjo-el943@gmail.com



Altar flowers are often given as memorials, in thanksgiving or in celebration of special events, such as, anniversaries or birthdays. We welcome donations for flowers at all times when our lectionary permits them on the altar.



Birthdays: **Apr 20** - Randy Forbes, Danica Simmons, Nikki Simmons, Lecious Hall, Cordell Munroe; **Apr 21** - Kenva Mullings; **Apr 22** - Jayden Munnings, Shantia Goodwin-Davies; **Apr 23** - Da Reginal Carey, Ethan Adderley, Alvin Russell Jr.; **Apr 25** - Alsworth Farrington.



: **Apr 21** - Pete & Lynette Rolle **Apr 23** - Charles & Valda Hunt



5:30am - Joel Cunningham, Julie Harts, Vince Symonette, Rochelle Taylor

9:30am - Sheena Styles, Melinda McKenzie, Sherry Walkine, Bradley Cooper



The annual Clergy Conference will take place on Long Island, The Bahamas **May 5th-9th, 2025**. **Fr. Brennen will be away from the parish during this time**. In case of emergency, please contact the Wardens.

Weekly Attendance (April 13th & 16th)

Sun. 7:00am Mass - 93

Sun. 9:30am Mass- 95

Wed. 6:00am Mass - 10



The Right Reverend Laish Z. Boyd

EASTER MESSAGE 2025



A children's poem says:

**"Up with the sunrise
Excitement in the air,
Easter, Easter
Is finally here.**

**Hot cross buns and Easter eggs
Put a smile on my face
Going to Church to give thanks
For God's grace."**

Easter may cause excitement in a child who thinks of Easter eggs, jellybeans, hot cross buns, and a picnic on Easter Monday. An adult with the scars and triumphs of real life may be more cynical: "(groan) Not Easter again!"

Easter is not just a child's excitement or an adult's indifference. It is the most important Christian festival, celebrating what a God we believe in has done: He sent His son who put off divinity and took on humanity. Thereby God connected with us in a way that no God had never done before, and we connected with Him in a way that no human being could ever do before.

God did not do this because we asked, deserved or were in any way qualified to have this opportunity, but because **"God so loved the world..."** (John 3:16). This happened when we were actually in the worst of our human state; one translation says: **God showed His great love for us in that while we were beyond our worst, Christ died FOR US** (Romans 5:8).

Julia Johnston's marvelous 20th century hymn, **"Grace Greater than Our Sin"** puts it this way:

**Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,
There where the blood of the Lamb
was spilled.**

**Refrain:
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse
within;
Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace
that is greater than all our sin!**

Easter is about God's love and acceptance of us when we are at our worst, in spite of our biggest flaws, and our countless times of straying away from Him. In the face of all this there is forgiveness and new life once we:

Repent, i.e. feel and express sincere regret and guilt for our wrongdoing.
Seek forgiveness from God and from those we have wronged, and
Make a sincere and intentional effort to amend our lives - i.e., TO DO BET-
TER -in other words, TO CHANGE our mindset and behavior in positive
ways.

In the human experience, we often limit our vision for ourselves and of others because we are not able to forgive ourselves and others. We conclude that we are all beyond God's acceptance and forgiveness.

The Church and her representatives have reinforced this idea at times, making many people feel that they are not worthy and can never be worthy, that there was no way back for them from that "far place" through grace and acceptance. This is wrong and limits the effectiveness and outreach of the Gospel in the wider community. We should never limit God's love by our diminished human understanding.

Raising Jesus from the dead was a simple and real-life example of the power of God to do good even amidst the worst of our bad. God is still in the business of newness, renewal and of turning the impossible around.

Frederick William Faber was a 19th century English priest who wrote 150 hymns himself. One hymn, entitled ***"There's a wideness to God's Mercy"***, contains these words:

**1. There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice,
Which is more than liberty.**

**2. But we make God's love too narrow
By false limits of our own,
And we magnify its strictness
With a zeal God will not own.**

**3. For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of the mind,
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.**

This Easter see the event as God's infinite love and welcome to all. His love calls us to be the persons He has for us to be, our better and best selves. His love welcomes. It opens a pathway to life everlasting that begins with God's infinite power to change the unchangeable and to overcome the downright insurmountable - like death and sin and human division.

May we feel that in the Church. May we live that in our lives. May we cause others to feel this element of God's nature.

This meaning of Easter supersedes any Easter egg or jellybean, any cynical outlook, indifference, or disillusionment.

Happy Easter from my family to yours.