



# ST. JOHN'S RICHMOND

MARCH 8, 2026

## The Third Sunday in Lent

(Evening Prayer Service, based on 1962 Book of Common Prayer)

### WELCOME!

We warmly welcome our Bishop, Mike Stewart, tonight as our special guest. Bp. Mike did ask me this week if there was a Potluck (always a good idea to know what to expect when visiting a Parish!) but I had to reply, "Alas, we are having a big Celebration event on Saturday night for Krista Carter, and God's ministry through her to SJR for almost two decades." Bishop, there will be some cookies after the service, and maybe some leftover charcuterie and cake.

At the time of writing I am just about to head over to the church to set up for the Thanksgiving celebration. I am incredibly thankful to the Living God for his mercies to us as a Parish, not least Krista's ministry. We continue to ask the congregation to be in prayer as we meet some more potential candidates to lead us in musical worship. But if you were here last night, you will no doubt have enjoyed much music and singing to the glory of God, something Krista trained us to do with full hearts and joyful expectancy.

Warmly, Sean

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### TODAY'S SERVICE DETAILS

Lyrics and liturgy are on-screen & online.



#### BIBLE READINGS: Lara Adesanwo

Philippians 2:1-11

Psalm 145

Daniel 7:15-28

**CHILDREN (K-grade 6)** begin in the service. After the Children's Focus, their class will meet upstairs for approximately one hour. On Communion Sundays, they will rejoin the adult service in time to receive Holy Communion.

**YOUTH (grades 7-12)** meet each Sunday, except for the first Sunday of the month, when they remain for the whole Holy Communion service.

**PRAYERS:** Chris Wright

### NOTICES

**Lent:** Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of the season of Lent, the weeks before Holy Week and Easter Sunday. It is a time of preparation to rightly remember our Lord's Passion and Resurrection, and to prepare for the same by a season of penitence and fasting. Lent is a reminder that through Christ, God faithfully calls us out of our sin and depravity and "into his marvellous light." (1 Peter 2:9).

**Bishop Mike Stewart** joins us this evening and will preach the sermon. Bishop Mike is our Suffragan Bishop for our Anglican Diocese of Canada, with particular responsibility for the west of Canada.

**Wednesday Morning Prayer:** full services will be offered **during Lent and into Holy Week**, from 8am-9am on Zoom.

Have a prayer request? Reach out to Chris at [contact@stjohnsrichmond.com](mailto:contact@stjohnsrichmond.com) and this will be included in our prayers.

**Midweek small group Bible Studies:** Speak to Chris Wright or Ven. Sean if you want to join a group. Many at SJR have found this mid-week connection and encouragement indispensable

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### OFFERING

We are very grateful for the financial support we receive from our church family! Please use the offering plate or give online, using the code. If you are visiting SJR, please simply be our guest.



### NEW TO ANGLICANISM?

Find out more by picking up a brochure on the welcome table or by using the code.



## WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES

**OPENING HYMN** *(All lyrics will be screen-shared)*

## CONGREGATIONAL GREETING

### EXHORTATION

Dearly beloved, the Scriptures teach us to acknowledge our many sins and offenses, not concealing them from our heavenly Father, but confessing them with humble and obedient hearts that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy. We ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before Almighty God, but especially when we come together in his presence to give thanks for the great benefits we have received at his hands, to declare his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things which are necessary for our life and our salvation. Therefore, draw near with me to the throne of heavenly grace.

### CONFESSION

**Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us.**

**But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare them, O God, who confess their faults. Restore them who are penitent, according to your promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.**

### A DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS OF SIN *(said by the Minister)*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness, and live, has empowered and commanded his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins.

He pardons and absolves all who truly repent and genuinely believe his holy Gospel. Therefore let us ask God to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that what we do now may please him, and that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### RESPONDING WITH PRAISE *(Spoken)*

O Lord, open thou our lips;

**And our mouth shall show forth Thy praise**

O God, make speed to save us;

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*(Standing)*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord!

**The Lord's name be praised!**

## SONGS

### FIRST BIBLE READING *(Bible Readings are found on Page 1)*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PRAYER WITH THE CHILDREN

#### PSALM OR CANTICLE *(found on Page 1)*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**

### SECOND BIBLE READING

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SONG

## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
Born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, dead, and buried:  
He descended into hell;  
The third day he rose again from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
And sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

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.

The Apostles' Creed is a historic profession of faith in the faithfulness of God, and locates us in a community of faith stretching back to the early Church. It is a theological summary of apostolic doctrine, originating before the 4th century and ratified by the 7th.

## SERMON

### OFFERING SONG and PRAYER

Blessed are you, O Lord, for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you, and of your own have we given you.**

The Lord be with you;

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.**

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** & any additional **COLLECTS** *(all Collects will be screen-shared)*

### CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

**Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time, with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will grant their requests: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.**

## NOTICES

### CLOSING HYMN

### BENEDICTION

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night, and at the last a perfect end; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with us this night and forevermore. **Amen.**

The Book of Daniel written in the 6th Century B.C. is a book for our times. Throughout the book, God's sovereignty is depicted as firmly established over history, kingdoms and empires. Then, now and forever. God's kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. This theme continues to run through chapter 7.

Daniel is a fine example of faithful living in exile. As Christians we are 'dual citizens' (See Phil 3:20.) For the Baptized Christian, exercising living and saving faith in Jesus Christ, this is our passport, revealing our true identity, lasting citizenship and destination.

In Chapter 7 during the year 552 B.C. Daniel sees a vision of the heavenly courtroom, which contains the vision of the Son of Man (vv. 13, 14). The second half of the Chapter (vv. 15-28) continue to contain apocalyptic visions designed to reassure God's exiled people in trials. They are the interpretation of what Daniel saw, in particular the four beasts, with an emphasis on the fourth beast, which was 'different from all the rest' (v. 17). What Daniel sees has a strong psychological effect on him (v. 15).

In v. 16, Daniel approaches one of the thousand thousands in attendance before the throne in the heavenly court (vv. 9, 10) for 'the truth concerning all this.' In vv. 19-22, Daniel continues to inquire, even as the vision continues to unfold. Daniel particularly wants to know about the fourth beast and 'the other horn' (vv. 20, 21).

The Kingdom that the Son of Man receives is shared with 'the saints of the Most High,' also described as 'the people of the saints of the Most High' (v. 27). The war that is made upon them (v. 21) is only a temporary success. The saints' downfall is brief, and only lasts 'until the Ancient of Days came' (v. 22). God will intervene on his saints' behalf! Ultimately, the saints receive the kingdom.

Verses 23-27 in some versions of the Bible are written in poetic lines. Repeated words and recurring themes are all used to build an emphatic and climatic conclusion, along with full assurance of God's control over world events, and the very worst that history can bring. Those who remain faithful under fiery trials, now triumph! And God has a precise timetable for all this. All earthly kingdoms and rule will be finally subordinated to the one everlasting kingdom where right prevails.

So Christian, hold on to your passport! All mankind is being drawn to that day we heard about in our first reading, Phil. 2. Thanks be to God, the Eternal King.