



Anglican Church of Canada

Diocese of Ontario

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Dear family in Christ,

These days, we seem to need a good reason to celebrate. A significant event, milestone, anniversary, a historic moment remembered by some, reported by others in the form of a story, over a cup of coffee or tea, to any listener, either desiring to connect and belong, or unwittingly, a little transformed by the remembrance of others in their desire to share. Sometimes bewildered in the offering.

Each time we gather in church, for Sunday or Wednesday and at other times, we are celebrating. We have dressed the Altar, placed our finest linen and silver, good fortified wine, stories selected from scripture, chosen songs and responses to sing. And it seems with little effort as we begin, Jesus, our high priest, once again becomes our focus and our host.

We celebrate the redemption won for us on the cross, and in the power of the resurrection we are given the hope that only comes to us in the mystery of the Eucharistic feast.

Once, and for all, Jesus gave himself up for us, so that "we might have life and have it in abundance."

Beyond the Eucharist and liturgy, we are reminded over and over, that the celebration continues at the kitchen table..."give us this day, our daily bread", and in the same way as we forgive, we are forgiven. For this is the basis of the kingdom in action. This Sunday, we celebrate 160 years of ministry in this small part of the world. We celebrate as a continuum with all those who have gone before us and we know in the power of the Holy Spirit who is our continuum and the one who leads us into all truth.

For me, my little parish church in childhood, gave me care and love and encouragement to belong, to listen and sing, to look forward to, to be fed and contribute to the life of that little community. And later, as I spread my wings, to test a vocation, nurtured by the people who loved me, and encouraged by new encounters, and led by the spirit....sometimes stubbornly....to be here so many miles from where I began, but in familiar territory.

To be the church together, to embrace the promise and mystery of God, aided by all those who have walked with us, mentored by those who have gone before us and surrounded by the saints and heavenly host who bring us back over and over again.

A husband and wife, respond to God's call, because of the kindness, welcome and friendship they have found amongst us, and step forward to confirm the promises made in baptism, as they are confirmed by our Bishop, William this Sunday, gives us pause to remember our part in living the kingdom in the here and now.

Thanks be to God for 160 years and for all you have done in the journey so far and for all that is to come.

*And Glory to God for the Good he has wrought in us.
We don't need too bigger an excuse to celebrate. We need to tell our story, and welcome the stranger, to feed the poor and give comfort to the afflicted and then we can say, we have done those things which our forebears did and we have served to bring life and hope to others in his name.*

When we don't know what to say in our prayers and to one another, simply say thank you. God knows you, and he knows our thankfulness.

Make sure you join us this Sunday to celebrate this important milestone and have some lunch with us following the 10am service.

*Bless you, and thank you
With love
Fr. Jeff and team*