

St. Thomas The Apostle Anglican Church

110 Francis Street, Cambridge ON, N1S 2A1



“KEEPING IN TOUCH – March 2025”

Website: <https://www.stthomascambridge.ca/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St.Thomas.the.Apostle.Cambridge>

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A FEW DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

- Tuesdays (7pm)** **Bible Study:** During this Lenten time we will once again be participating in a multi church experience (See poster on page following) 
- Thursdays (1pm)** **Midweek Holy Communion Service:** Pastor Craig invites you to join him every Thursday afternoon for a smaller, quieter gathering for worship followed by a time of discussion and learning. **(Note Mar 6th is cancelled)**
- Thursdays (1 pm)** **ACW Meetings:** every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month.
- Tuesdays (10am-2pm)** **Learn how to make milk bag rugs** at St. Paul's Lutheran church, beside Trinity, and/or bring your dry & clean outer milk bags to be used. Contact Marlene Mercer for details.
- Tues Mar 4th** **Pancake Supper (5-6:30pm)** Join St Luke's for Pancakes this Shrove Tuesday
- Lenten Bible Study (7pm)** Join us for the first week of Lenten Study, This week we begin at Christ Church, Ayr 
- Wed Mar 5th (10am)** **Ash Wednesday**
- Fri Mar 7th (2pm)** **World Day of Prayer** Join us at either St Luke's in Preston or St Patrick's Catholic Church, 53 Wellington St, Galt
- Sun Mar 23rd (9am)** **Morning Prayer**
- Thur Apr 17th (7pm)** **Maundy Thursday - St Luke's**
- Fri Apr 18th (10am)** **Good Friday – St Thomas'**
- Sat Apr 19th (TBD)** **Joint Easter Saturday Vigil Service – Trinity**
- Sun Apr 20th (9am)** **Easter Sunday – St Thomas'**

Bishop Todd's Visit / Joint Service & Lunch at St. Luke's

Bishop Todd Townshend is scheduled to visit St. Luke's on **Sunday March 16th at 10:30 a.m.** and they have graciously invited us to join them for a joint service, followed by lunch. St. Luke's will be providing chicken and beef stew for the main course and would be very grateful if St. Thomas parishioners could provide dessert. NOTE: Please only bring desserts that can be served on a plate since their bowls will be used up serving the stew." *Please see **Marion McKersie** if you would like a ride or if you can provide a ride for someone.*



Minister's Pondering

"I was in prison and you visited me." *Matthew 25:36*

Each month at the Grand Valley Institution for Women, we lead a service for inmates at the local women's prison. In order to include as many women as possible, & to cater to their needs for pastoral care, we moved away from offering Holy Eucharist each month, now offering Eucharist four times a year, while offering a "Service of Healing & Hope" the rest of the time. We gather in a round formation, chairs circling around a high table that serves as the altar, and participate in the service in normal Anglican fashion, singing a few hymns (accompanied by keyboard), reading the daily lections, & saying prayers. Before the service, the deacon (Cheryl Highmore from Trinity) circles around to gather names to add to the intercessions. In place of a sermon, we have a time of group discussion right after the Gospel, when the women are invited to share their hopes & fears, their joys & pains. After this time, they are invited to come forward for prayer & anointing. I first got involved in this ministry in my last year of Divinity school (2019-2020), until services were suspended during the COVID lockdown. I was thrilled to become involved again when I came to the parishes of St. Luke's and St. Tom's. It is very fulfilling, seeing these women taking courageous steps to face their brokenness to grow spiritually, reaching out in hope to receive Christ's healing. Many of the women are eager to grow spiritually, seeing their incarceration as an opportunity for it, so for the six weeks of Lent, in addition to our monthly services, we will be offering a Friday evening Lenten Study. Please keep this ministry in your prayers, asking that it continue to bear good fruit, & for God to bathe these women in Lord Jesus' hope & healing.

Craig+



*St. Luke's Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper*

Tuesday, Mar. 4, 2025

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
continuous seating

1485 Mary Ave. (corner of Bishop and Mary)



Come and enjoy pancakes and sausage,
Dessert and coffee or tea

Cost is \$10.00
Children under 12 free
contact Ruth 519-755-3319 for tickets

Again this year some area churches are joining with each other for a group Lenten study.

We will be led through a program called “The Hardest Part” written by Kate Bowler



No book is needed and there is no cost to take part, just join us each week for discussion and learning

**WE HOPE
TO SEE
YOU
THERE!**

Tuesdays at 7:00pm

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| March 4 | Christ Church, Ayr |
| March 11 | Trinity Church, Cambridge |
| March 18 | St Thomas Church, Cambridge |
| March 25 | (Deanery Service) No Session |
| April 1 | St Luke's Church, Cambridge |
| April 8 | Trinity Church, Cambridge |
| April 15 | Trinity Church, Cambridge |
| April 22 | Christ Church, Ayr |



Centering Our Hearts - a reflection from YouVersion

(as we approach Ash Wednesday and Lent, this seems very applicable)

One of the most important biblical topics is your own heart. Throughout the biblical story, God shows that He is not nearly as interested in your money, time, or service as much as He is your heart.

Why is this important? Jesus taught his disciples that the heart is the centre of our lives. Our emotions and our desires flow from the condition of our heart. If God gets access to our heart, then the rest of our lives will follow after.

In Matthew 6:21, Jesus says that where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. The things that we treasure in our life reveal where our heart truly is. The things that we think about, spend our money on, and use our energy to attain—that is where our heart is.

But it's not enough to just not let our hearts dwell on those things. Instead, we need to train our hearts to dwell on Jesus. The apostle Paul encourages us to dwell on the things that are of God:

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."

Philippians 4:8 NIV

This type of thinking moves our heart to cherish Jesus as our treasure above everything else on earth.

If you're honest with yourself, where would you say your treasure is currently? What are the things you devote your time to and spend your money on? Consider how those things reveal where your heart truly is. Spending time in God's Word and in prayer are great ways to reorient our hearts back toward God.





What is the **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER?**

Origins of World Day of Prayer: The origins of World Day of Prayer date back to the 19th century when Christian women of Canada and the United States initiated a variety of cooperative activities in support of women's involvement in mission at home and in other parts of the world.

Concern for women and children: Women had a strong sense of identification with the needs of women and children and searched out ways to provide appropriate support. In 1861 and the following years, women founded numerous and effective women's boards for foreign and home missions whereby they could work directly with and for women and children.

The role of prayer in mission work: Women were encouraged to engage in personal prayer and take leadership in communal prayer within their mission auxiliaries and associations. In 1887 Presbyterian women called for a Day of Prayer for Home Missions and Methodist women called for a week of prayer and self-denial for foreign missions. A Baptist Day of Prayer for foreign missions began in 1891.

Women had a vision of Christian unity that was seen as essential to their exercise of mission.

By 1897 the women of 6 denominations formed a joint committee for a united day of prayer for home missions. Women created ways to work together in mission

In 1908 the women founded the Council of Women for Home Missions that took responsibility for joint work with immigrants and other social issues and for preparation of the joint day of prayer.

Women linked world peace with world mission

After the devastation of World War I, women incorporated the conviction that world peace was intrinsically tied to world mission. The first Friday of Lent was established as a joint day of prayer for missions and was celebrated for the first time on February 20, 1920. In 1922, the Canadian women, who had begun celebrating a day of prayer in 1895, took up the same date.

World Day of Prayer comes into being

In the second half of 1926 the women of North America distributed the worship service to as many countries and partners in mission as they could. The response worldwide was enthusiastic. The circle of prayer has expanded literally around the world. We have learned the great lesson of praying with, rather than for, our sisters of other races and nations, thus enriching our experience and releasing the power which must be ours if we are to accomplish tasks entrusted to us."

Logo: *The symbol for World Day of Prayer was developed by the women of Ireland and adopted as the international logo in 1982. Its design is made up of arrows converging from the four points of the compass, persons kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross, and the circle, representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.*