



# Connections

*Lord Jesus, open to us the scriptures; make our hearts burn within us while you speak, Luke 24:32*

**SPECIAL  
ISSUE #6**



## Saint Mark - apostle, evangelist, martyr

On April 25 the church remembers one of Christ's seventy disciples, Saint Mark. He was born in Cyrene, Libya, but his date of birth is unknown. Most of what we know about Mark comes directly from the New Testament.

The oldest and the shortest of the four gospels, the Gospel of Mark emphasizes Jesus's rejection by humanity while being God's triumphant envoy. Probably written for gentile converts in Rome after the death of Peter and Paul - sometime between A.D. 60 and 70 - Mark's gospel is known as 'the gospel of discipleship'.

Evidently a friend of Mark, calling him 'my son', Peter is only one of this gospel's sources, others being the Church in Jerusalem (Jewish roots), and the Church at Antioch (largely gentile).

According to Acts (12:12), Mark's mother's house in Jerusalem was a centre of Christian life, and he accompanied Barnabas and Paul to Antioch (12:25), where he became their assistant on a mission journey (13:5).

Like another gospel writer, Luke, Mark was not one of the twelve apostles. We cannot be certain whether he knew Jesus personally. Some scholars say Mark was the first bishop of Alexandria.

Venice, famous for the Piazza San Marco, claims Mark as its patron saint; the large basilica there is believed to contain his remains.

A winged lion is Mark's symbol. The lion derives from Mark's description of John the Baptist as a "voice of one crying out in the desert" (Mark 1:3), which artists compared to a roaring lion.

### SERMONS IN THE SOAPSUDS

If you are tired of singing the Happy Birthday song to yourself while washing your hands, here's an alternative just for Christians. Try a hymn that fits the timing and you'll have clean hands and a happy heart.

My personal favourite is one I learned as a child in Sunday School:

*Jesus bids us shine with a clear, pure light,  
Like a little candle burning in the night.  
He looks down from heaven to see us shine,  
You in your small corner and I in mine.*

Very appropriate for these days when we must stay in our "small corners" and keep our lights burning in the sure and certain faith that Jesus does look down from heaven to see us shine.



*Audrey*

### Scripture Readings

#### April 19

Acts 2: 14a  
and 22 to 32  
Psalm 16

1 Peter 1: 3 to 9

John 20: 19 to 31

#### April 26

Acts 2: 14a  
and 36 to 41  
Psalm 116: 1 to 4  
and 12 to 19

1 Peter 1: 17 to 23

Luke 24: 13 to 35



### CHRIST CHURCH SCARBOROUGH

155 Markham Road

416-261-4169 M1M 3A1

office@christchurchscarborough.com

Website: www.christchurchscarborough.com

**ALL SERVICES AND MEETINGS WILL BE  
ONLINE OR BY PHONE ONLY  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

*Jesus Christ is risen today. Alleluia! Our triumphant, holy day. Alleluia!*

## **REFLECTION - Finding space in the expanse of God**

There is a verse that I call to mind when I find life difficult. My go-to verse is, "I have died and my life is hidden with Christ in God." (*Colossians 3:3*) It is a reminder that, in the words from the BAS pg. 158, referring to the water of baptism, "we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in the resurrection." If I am living in and through the life of God, it is as if I am saying, "God, my life is yours, you take on the difficulty".

With sequestered living, I am finding it difficult. Hidden is, in a sense, how we are called to be. But the sense of the word hidden in the Colossians passage is so different - we are "hidden with Christ in God". And God is not a small space. God is expansive, abundant, full of love. At this time, I think I need to be more hidden in God.

Part of the meaning of Easter, is about hiddenness. We are hidden with Christ, in God, because of Jesus making a way for us to God. Through the cross Jesus took a machete and beat down the path, horribly overgrown by sin, and had the key to unlock the gate to get us back into the garden with God. Picture with me what that garden might be like. It is greater than the expanse of tulips which have recently bloomed in Holland or the finest of huge English estate gardens. Our lives no longer need to be thorns and brambles. But we have to choose to enter in. Here I have a confession: I haven't entered the garden enough lately. It has, at times, felt like I am just surviving in the tumbleweed of time. Unrooted and no longer blooming. The call to me is to "go back to the garden". Spend time with the Gardener of my soul and allow Him to till the soil of my life once more. To root myself in God.

In practical terms (sorry if I got too far off into the flowery [excuse the pun]), here are some steps:

1. **Stop.** Remember that you have died. That means to surrender.

2. **Let go.** That may take doing some deep breathing. Close your eyes. Breathe in through your nose, hold your breath for 8 seconds and breathe out. Do that a few times.

3. **Unclutter your mind.** If I can do this, even though my mind is more cluttered than my office desk, I know that you can. Whatever comes into your mind, let it go. Or you can be more pro-active and think about those matters and people that take up space in your thought-life, and, just for a time, hand them over to God one by one.

4. **Be with God.** Once you are clear-headed, in your minds-eye, imagine Jesus is there. Where is he? What is he doing? How does he want to spend time with you? Does he want to say something to you? He might ask you to do something or believe something new. Don't rush this. Enjoy.

5. **Thank God.**

The last time that I did this, Jesus just wanted to sit with me and hold my hand. It was as if He was saying, "it is okay to just be and to enjoy the expanse of the presence of God. There are no expectations".

We can be close to God in this time of physical distancing from others. In fact, it is important to get our comfort from him in this time of stress. My time with God refilled my soul so that I could face the sequestered life, once again.

I invite you to spend time with the Gardener of your soul, the Vinegrower (*John 15*). Until a day when, just like the criminal next to Jesus on the cross, we will be fully with Jesus in paradise.

*Pastor Pam*



*Jesus Christ is risen today. Alleluia! Our triumphant, holy day. Alleluia!*

# Saint George - Patron saint of England

Remembered by the church on April 23

Every nation has its own 'Patron Saint' who in times of great peril is called upon to help save the country from its enemies.

But who was St. George, and what did he do to become England's Patron Saint?



Very little is known about St. George's life, but it is thought he was a high ranking officer in the Roman army who was killed around AD 303.

It seems that the Emperor Diocletian had St. George tortured to make him deny his faith in Christ. However, despite some of the most terrible torture

even for that time, St George showed incredible courage and faith and was finally beheaded near Lydda in Palestine. Stories of his strength and courage soon spread throughout Europe.

The best-known story about St. George is his fight with a dragon, but it is highly unlikely that he ever fought a dragon, and even more unlikely that he ever visited England. In the Middle Ages the dragon was commonly used to represent the Devil.

Unfortunately the many legends connected with St. George's name are fictitious, and the slaying of the 'Dragon' was first credited to him in the 12th century. It was probably then that the Crusaders invoked his name as an aid in battle.

King Edward III made him the Patron Saint of England when he formed the Order of the Garter in St. George's name in 1350, and the cult of the Saint was further advanced by King Henry V, at the battle of Agincourt.

Shakespeare made sure that nobody would forget St. George, and has King Henry V finishing his pre-battle speech with the famous phrase, 'Cry God for Harry, England and St. George!'

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Many of our parishioners, some who miss the warm fellowship of being together, others who cannot get out to church very often, and even people who are not usually part of the Christ Church family, have written or called to say how much they appreciated these opportunities to worship, even virtually, at this most sacred time.



It was a meaningful experience to walk through the painful last days of our Lord's life with you, and a joy to celebrate his Resurrection together on Easter Day.

Thank you to all who are making these services possible, and to everyone who is with us online each Sunday as we offer praise and prayers and thanksgiving "which is our bounden duty" as the Prayer Book says.

On April 26 our weekly worship will be from the Book of Common Prayer, which is the tradition familiar to those who attend Christ Church at 8:30 am.

Check our website for other services and future events.

*Pastor Pam*

*Please pray for these members  
of our faith community  
and their families*

<b>Anne S</b>	<b>Hannah M</b>
<b>Annet K</b>	<b>Jenille L</b>
<b>Audrey T</b>	<b>Joan &amp; John N</b>
<b>Beverly B</b>	<b>Ken K</b>
<b>Christina &amp; Joshua</b>	<b>Margo P</b>
<b>Corinne P</b>	<b>Maureen C</b>
<b>David M</b>	<b>Philip I</b>
<b>Deb A</b>	<b>Sherri-Ann &amp; Ron</b>
<b>Dorothy</b>	<b>Valerie A</b>
<b>Euphrasia</b>	<b>Viggy M</b>
<b>Florence S</b>	<b>Wendy &amp; Rob</b>
<b>Fred L</b>	<b>William I</b>

*and for all those affected by the  
COVID-19 virus*

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