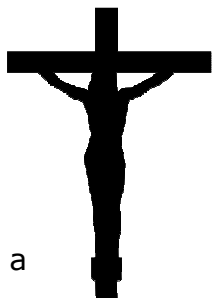


Rediscovering the Cross

After coming back to my Christian faith in my early 20s, the imagery of the Cross has played a significant part in my maturation and growth as a Christian. During my work with a spiritual director during my seminary days, I began using the Cross as a focus for my prayers, something to centre myself and encourage me to remember to whom I was praying.

It's nothing too earth shattering to emphasise the Cross as a Christian after all; if you asked any random person, Christian or non-Christian, to pick one symbol for the Christian faith they would likely pick the Cross 99 out of 100 times. Because the Cross has become so emblematic of Christianity and so commonplace in the world around us, we have become desensitised to the reality about which the Cross speaks. Even in church where we hear or read the brutal accounts of Jesus' Crucifixion each year on Good Friday, we are so accustomed to the story at this point that our hearing of it gives us no reason to pause and think about what the Cross actually signifies.

Until recently, even as a leader in the Church, I found myself in a similar place – taking the Cross for granted. At the beginning of the year however I began reading a book entitled, The Crucifixion, by Episcopalian Priest and Scholar Fleming Rutledge, and although I am only a third of the way through it (it's a 600+ page book), it has rejuvenated my contemplation and appreciation for the Cross and for its centrality in what we believe, in what we teach and preach, in everything we do in the Church. It has reminded me of the shock



and horror of the Cross; it has reminded me of the very real reasons that Jesus died upon the Cross; it has reminded me of how God's action that we celebrate on Easter is as empty and hollow as the tomb if we detach it from the events of the Cross.

This Lent and Easter, I want you to contemplate the Crucifixion, and attempt to strip away the years of familiarity that have built up. Try to read the story of the Crucifixion with new eyes to see and new ears to hear. Read as if it is the first time you have read it. Let it shock you, let it convict you, let it give you hope, let it open for you a new (but ancient) way of understanding God and his love for you and the World. I pray that the story we remember and celebrate on Good Friday and Easter (for ultimately they are parts of the same story) never becomes common place for you, that you never take it for granted.

May you have blessed end to your Lenten Season and may we look forward with joy to a season of hope and new life, in the Cross and in the Resurrection.

In Christ,
Rev. Graham

1	Rediscovering the Cross
2	Weekly Services * Regular Events and Activities * Our Leadership * Selection of Next Diocesan Bishop * A Hymn for Holy Week
3	Parish Events * Holy Week * This is Your Newsletter
4	Black History Services * A Little Biblical Humour
5	MAF Grant – Primer
6	Amended Budget Explanation * Lenten Diet * Christmas Community Lunch

Weekly Services

Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
	10:30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
Wednesday	10:15 a.m.	Said Eucharist

Regular Events and Activities

(check the bulletin for schedule changes and more information)

Wednesday	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
Wednesday	11:00 a.m.	Quilting/Knitting Group
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
2nd Saturday of each month	12:00 noon	Community Lunch
2nd Saturday of each month	2:00 p.m.	Craft Workshop
3rd Tuesday of each month	7:30 p.m.	Advisory Board

Our Leadership

Incumbent

The Rev. Graham McCaffrey

Honorary Assistants

The Rev. Julie Golding-Page

The Rev. Steve Page

Secretary

Doreen Brown

Choir Director

Rachel Colman

Pastor of Outreach & Mission

Alice Stewart

Children & Youth

Jonelle Douglas

Churchwardens

Jonelle Douglas

Nadia Murray

Deputy Churchwarden

Craig Gustafson

Prayer for Psalm 2 (BAS, page 706)

Ruler of heaven and earth, you sent your only Son into the world to be our Redeemer, and by raising him from the dead you gave him the victory over all his enemies. Show us the power of your saving love and bring us to share in your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Selection of Next Diocesan Bishop

Members of Synod will meet on June 9, 2018 at St. James Cathedral to elect a Coadjutor Bishop. In order for a smooth transition from one Diocesan Bishop to another, often a Coadjutor (or assistant) Bishop is elected to assist the Diocesan Bishop, and the Coadjutor Bishop automatically becomes the Diocesan Bishop upon resignation or retirement of the Diocesan Bishop. You are invited to pray for the selection process.

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, look on your Church with grace, and guide the minds of those who shall choose a Coadjutor Bishop for this diocese, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and support us in our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Hymn for Holy Week

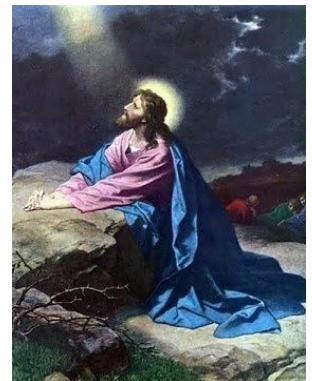
"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

Hymn #190

Common Praise

Text by

James Montgomery



Go to dark Gethsemane,
ye that feel the tempter's power.
Your Redeemer's conflict see;
watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away;
learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgement hall;
view the Lord of life arraigned.
O the wormwood and the gall!
O the grief his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
learn of him to bear the cross.

Calvary's mournful mountain climb;
there, adoring at his feet,
mark the miracle of time—
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished," hear him cry;
learn of Jesus Christ to die.

Parish Events

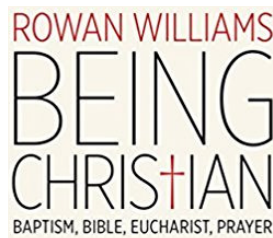
Deanery Prayer Service – Once per month:

In February the Scarborough Deanery began a monthly prayer meeting where clergy and lay people are invited to share their prayer requests for the ministry of Anglican Churches in Scarborough. Currently the prayer meeting occurs on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at Grace Church. Eventually, the meeting will rotate around the churches in the Scarborough Deanery. The next prayer meeting will be held on **March 21**.

Parish Lenten Retreat: Our retreat will be held on Saturday, March 24. **Please meet at Grace Church by 8:50 a.m.** so that we can arrive at the Convent on time. If you have been using the "Meeting Jesus" journal, please bring the journal with you. We look forward to this time together.

Being Christian Book Study:

Throughout the year we will be holding sessions of the book Being Christian by a former Archbishop of Canterbury. Look in the bulletins or on the website for more details and to find the next study start date.



Alpha Course: Beginning in late April, Grace Church will be embarking on an 11-week journey using the Alpha resource. Alpha is a tool to engage people who have no Christian faith or who are not part of church communities. This ministry will run on Friday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Alpha begins with dinner, followed by watching the resource videos and table discussion.



Games Night: Friday, April 13 starting at 5:30 p.m.

Clean-up Day: Saturday, April 21

Spring Tea: Saturday, May 5

Holy Week

Sunday, March 25

Palm Sunday

8:45 a.m. Sung Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Monday, March 26

Monday in Holy Week

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Tuesday, March 27

Tuesday in Holy Week

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, March 28

Wednesday in Holy Week

10:15 a.m. Said Eucharist

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

Thursday, March 29

Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Foot Washing, Eucharist, & Stripping of the Altar

Friday, March 30

Good Friday

9:00 a.m. Prayer Walk

11:00 a.m. Meditation on the Cross

Saturday, March 31

Holy Saturday

3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Messy Church (Family & Children's Worship)

8:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter

Sunday, April 1

Easter Day

8:45 a.m. Sung Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist followed by Easter Egg Hunt



This is Your Newsletter

We hope you will contribute to the articles. If you have attended a conference or an event either inside or outside the parish, tell us about it. Tell us in what activities your group is engaged. Send us information about upcoming events. Feel free to send photographs or clipart, and we will try to include them. Submissions can be sent to **communications@gracechurchscarborough.com** (be sure to have "Newsletter" in the subject line).

The deadline for the next newsletter will be May 6.

Black History Services



Eucharistic Dancer of St. Margaret in the Pine

On Sunday February 11, Grace Church in conjunction with Christ Church, Scarborough, held a Black History Service at Grace Church. The theme was "Diversity and Commonality." The Rev. Vernon LaFleur delivered the Homily.

Also, a Black History Service was held at St. Paul, Bloor Street on Sunday, February 25. The theme was "Spirit of Thanksgiving, Joyful Praise". Archbishop Colin Johnson delivered the Homily.

Both homilies focused on our action individually and collectively as a community in making a difference where we are. Rev. LaFleur talked about a situation where he was the only black person in the parish church where he served, but being the only black person did not stop him from serving in that community.



One of the things I took away from both homilies is that we (as a black community) cannot sit back and complain that there are not any blacks in leadership in the church or any other segment of society. We have to first determine the community from which those leaders are taken and the number of blacks in that community. Archbishop Colin used this example: to have black priests in

the Caribbean, there must be black men and women willing to enter seminary, because that is the community from which priests will be selected. Without black men and women in seminary, we cannot have black priests in the Caribbean.

Both services were very well attended. I have been attending the service at St. Paul for a very long time and I was very impressed with the attendance; there has not been such a large audience in a very long time. Both services had very spirited liturgical dancers who gave wonderful performances; St. Margaret in the Pines Liturgical dancers performed at Grace Church, and Caribbean Dance Theatre performed at St. Paul. At St. Paul we enjoyed a moving performance on the trumpet by Jan Morgan and great music on the pan by St. Paul's Steel Orchestra.



Thanks to Rev. Graham for hosting the service; thanks to the combined choir for their performance; thanks to all who participated, attended, and provided refreshments for the service at Grace Church.

Nadia Murray

Photos by Rey Viel Richard Chico

A Little Biblical Humour

- Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?
- A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.
- Q. Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?
- A. Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.

MAF Grant – Primer

At our annual vestry meeting members asked for more information about the MAF grant for which we applied and were awarded by the Diocese. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide a short primer about what the MAF grant is, why we applied for it, and the responsibility and opportunity that it presents us.

1. **What is the MAF?**

The grant is the Ministry Allocation Fund (M.A.F.) of the Diocese of Toronto. The Diocese accepts applications from churches in three broad categories: real estate, congregational growth, and new forms of ministry. The application we made was under the congregational growth category, seeking to fund extra staffing and outreach to help our parish flourish and grow.

2. **When did we get the MAF grant?**

Grace initially applied for the MAF grant in 2012 following the amalgamation. Due to construction and other ministry delays, the original grant was not as successful, and so we applied for a new grant in the fall of 2017.

3. **How does the MAF Grant work?**

MAF grants are for a set number of years and for a set purpose. Congregations apply for a set amount of money, over a set amount of years. The grant is broken down with the highest years of funding at the beginning and slowly decreasing until the final year. The goal of the grant is to help parishes become self-sustaining, so that after the grant's timeframe, the parish is able to maintain the level of ministry that was possible under the grant.

4. **What is the vision that provides the foundation for our application?**

From our last five years ministering in our community, we know that our future at Grace Church lies in four distinct areas: Christian formation, community engagement and outreach, evangelism, and renewed worship. We want to continue to develop a form of church life which is shaped by God's desire for us to share in His mission to the world. Grace

Church seeks to be a place of growing spiritual life and deepening discipleship for its members on the one hand, and a focus for the local community on the other.

5. **How much and how long did we apply?**

The leadership of Grace applied for a 5-year grant for the total amount of \$298,000. This amount includes \$23,000 from the final year of the previous grant, making the total new outlay \$275,000.

6. **What responsibility does it place on the congregation?**

We as a congregation will be responsible to try new things, increase our givings, and find new ways to engage in our community and bring people into the church. For 2018 we are looking to increase our offerings by 7%, and our hope is that through congregational growth and our stewardship programme, we will continue to see similar growth over the first three years, with growth tapering by the 5th year. Each of you will be encouraged to assess your giving in the areas of time, talent, and treasure to increase our resources and meet the goals we have set forth.

7. **What opportunities does it provide us?**

With the funding from the MAF grant we will be able to hire a full-time pastor whose primary focus will be in helping the congregation to focus on Mission and Outreach initiatives. This new staff member will not be responsible for all the work, but rather will be partnering with you, the members of the congregation, to help further transform our parish into a vibrant community of Jesus' disciples here in South Scarborough. The grant will also help us increase our mission and outreach spending on new projects and ministries.

Rev. Graham

The leadership has hired Alice Stewart for the position of Pastor of Outreach & Mission. She will begin her new ministry with us in April.

Amended Budget Explanation

At our Annual Vestry, an amended budget was proposed and passed by the Vestry. The changes were made because our original budget was based on year-end assumptions for 2017 that we were not quite able to achieve, as well as more accurate expense figures. The new amended budget presents a more attainable goal, while still encouraging growth. Income and expenses are grouped into larger categories for clarity.

	Amended amounts	Published amounts
Income		
Building Rentals	62,000	62,000
Donations	176,700	192,600
Fund Raising	13,000	13,000
MAF Grant	85,000	85,000
Total Income	336,700	352,600
Expense		
Buildings	75,500	77,000
Administration	41,424	45,300
Payroll	186,000	191,000
Outreach	21,000	25,000
Worship & Ministry	10,500	12,500
Total Expense	334,424	350,800
Surplus/Deficit	2,276	1,800

Lenten Diet

Fast on criticism –
 feast on praise
 Fast on self pity –
 feast on joy
 Fast on ill tempter –
 feast on peace
 Fast on resentment –
 feast on contentment
 Fast on jealousy –
 feast on love
 Fast on pride –
 feast on humility
 Fast on selfishness –
 feast on service
 Fast on fear –
 feast on faith

Submitted by Margaret Crossman

Christmas Community Lunch



Photos by Mary-Ann Wong