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## January 3: Second Sunday after Christmas

##### Invitation

We are called to be the embodiment of God’s Word, following the example set for us by Jesus. We are called to use our physical bodies to care for the world that God gave us, to work to steward God’s gifts for the good of all.

##### Prayer

We pray that the gifts we give today will go farther in God’s world than we can imagine. Bless our gifts, and those already given through PAR, to care for those we cannot reach. Amen

## January 10: Baptism of the Lord

##### Invitation

In the Jewish tradition, circumcision is a sign of the covenant between God and God’s people. Christians baptise their infants to symbolise their relationship with Jesus. In undergoing this ritual, we are publicly stating our intent to teach our children about God’s love and grace. Stewardship of our children is our most important work!

##### Prayer

Lord, help us to remember that we are your children. Help us to guide and care for our children as you have cared for us. Bless these gifts, and those already given through PAR, to make known your love for all of us. Amen.

## January 17: Second Sunday after Epiphany

##### Invitation

Thank goodness for light! In these Canadian winter days, we need light. Our light is Christ and he shines for us. The light draws us in and fortifies us. We need Christ’s strength and brightness to be able to help others and to do the work of the church.

##### Prayer

We pray that these gifts will be used to further our ministry. God, thank you for sending your son who shines like a beacon in our darkest hours. Help us to mirror that light to the world through these gifts and those already given through PAR, for ministries of this church and those of Mission & Service. Amen.

## January 24: Third Sunday after Epiphany

##### Invitation

**For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations. (Luke 2:30)**

Simeon, a devout man of the temple, was holding Christ in his arms when he uttered these words. Simeon then blesses the new family. This is the job of ministry, to be a blessing and to be a spiritual home for our church family, a place where we can care for each other and find salvation.

##### Prayer

Lord, as we offer our gifts, please use them along with those already given through PAR to create a space where you are present. Please help us to be your people, to be a blessing to others and to lead others to you. We ask this in Christ’s name. Amen.

## January 31: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

##### Invitation

##### She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. (Luke 2:37-38)

Who was this devoted woman? This woman was Anna, who spread the word of the Saviour to all those who came to the temple. Evangelism is a part of reaching out to the world. Reaching out with our spiritual message of everlasting life is as important as sharing our material wealth.

##### Prayer

We have been given the responsibility to be stewards of the spirit as well as the body. Give us the words, Lord. Please give us the language that will help us share your good news. Help us to be like Anna, speaking about redemption with Jesus to all. Amen.

## February 7: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

##### Invitation

**When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (Luke 2:22)**

Mary has answered God’s call to be purified and to present her son to God. This Mosaic rite was an ancient “health check” for women. They would come to the temple 30 days after birth and the priests, who were also the healers, would perform the rite. In this way, the church has always cared for both the bodily and spiritual health of its people.

##### Prayer

God, thank you for our church: for the way we are called to be church to a world in need. Help us to continue to share our food, clean water, health care, medicine and shelter with those in need, through these gifts and those already given through PAR for ministries of this church and those of Mission & Service. Amen.

## February 14: Transfiguration Sunday

##### Invitation

**Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" (Mark 9:7)**

Transfiguration is a change from the physical to the spiritual state. It is a spirit realising the full nature of God. The bible describes the transfiguration of Elijah, Moses and Christ through ascension. Luckily, we don’t all have to die to experience moments of transformational grace. When we choose to answer God’s call, we are transformed.

##### Prayer

God, we are so grateful for those moments when we experience your grace. Help us to be more open to hearing your call. Please take our gifts, and those already given through PAR, and use them to help us create transformation in the world, in our homes, and in ourselves. Amen.

## February 21: First Sunday in Lent

##### Invitation

In our baptism, we are called to participate in Jesus’ ongoing ministry. Through the gifts we offer to ministries of this church and those of Mission & Service, the wilderness becomes a place of abundance. Let us present our morning offering.

##### Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we offer these gifts and those already given through PAR. May they be transformed into bread to feed the world, welcome for the lost, and ways to fulfill Jesus’ mission of *shalom*. Amen.

## February 28: Second Sunday in Lent

##### Invitation

Picking up our cross means being concerned with those who are less fortunate than we are. Picking up our cross means caring for the “least of these” in the same way as we would care for our family. Picking up our cross means acting lovingly in word and in action. Through the gifts we offer to ministries of this church and those of Mission & Service, we pick up Jesus’ concerns as our concerns. Let us present our morning offering.

##### Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we offer these gifts and those already given through PAR. May they be transformed into caring for the last and least, for sharing our abundance with those whose resources are scarce, and may they demonstrate our willingness to pick up Jesus’ cross and follow him. Amen.

## March 7: Third Sunday in Lent

##### Invitation

Sharing time, talent and treasure are all part of our life together as a community of faith. When we each give our fair share, the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ expands and grows. We honour God when we share our gifts with those who have not been blessed with the same circumstances as we have. Through the gifts we offer to ministries of this church and those of Mission & Service, we can demonstrate that all are welcome and valued in this place. Let us present our morning offering.

##### Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we offer these gifts and those already given through PAR. May they be transformed into places of worship which include all, where everyone’s resources are valued equally and where money is not a barrier to participation in the realm of God. Amen.

## March 14: Fourth Sunday in Lent

##### Invitation

“God so loved the world”…the entire world, not just our corner of it. Loving the world means being as concerned with what happens on the other side of our communities as on the other side of the world. Through the gifts we offer to ministries of this church and those of Mission & Service, we can love the world on God’s behalf. Let us present our morning offering.

##### Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we offer these gifts and those already given through PAR. May they show our love for God’s world, for our world. Amen.

## March 21: Fifth Sunday in Lent

##### Invitation

Scripture tells us that when we share—when we feed the hungry, clothe the naked and shelter the homeless—we will see Jesus. Through the gifts we offer to ministries of this church and those of Mission & Service, we will see the face of Jesus in others, and others will see the face of Jesus in us. Let us present our morning offering.

##### Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we offer these gifts and those already given through PAR. May they bear much fruit, may they be signs and symbols of Jesus in our world. Amen.

## March 28: Palm Sunday

##### Invitation

Blessed are we who come in the name of the Lord. Blessed are we when we have the opportunities to be witnesses to our faith. Through the gifts we offer to ministries of this church and those of Mission & Service, we can joyfully proclaim our belief in a better world. Let us present our morning offering.

##### Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we offer these gifts and those already given through PAR. May they be used to joyfully proclaim your vision and hope for our world. Amen.