

Clifton Pastoral Charge

Old Barns and Hilden United Churches

We are Affirming Churches in an Affirming Pastoral Charge

Clergy: Reverend Phillip Kennedy

Organist: Old-Barns- Beckie Burrows, Hilden - Edith Selwyn- Smith

Church Bulletin Secretary: Mallery Thomas

Mission Statement: To provide a friendly, welcoming, caring and safe environment to promote spiritual growth.

December 28, 2025

INTROIT “O come o Come Emmanuel” vs 1

Welcome, Life and Work of the Charge

Celebrations, Birthdays, and Prayer Requests

Greeting Your Neighbour

Land Acknowledgement

We give thanks today that we are able to worship on land that is the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. As Treaty people, may we continue to seek ways to foster peace and friendship among all.

ALL MY RELATIONS

Hymn VU 82 “A Light is Gleaming”

Solo – Vicki Canon-Austin – 10,000 Reasons

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Prayer for Illumination MV 172 “God Says” vs 1

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 22:34-40; 1 John 4:18-19

SERMON: “LOVE: Everything Else is Commentary”

Hymn – VU 289 “It Only Takes a Spark”

VU 400 “Lord, Listen to your Children Praying”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father and Mother in heaven, hallowed be your name

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in

heaven

Give us each day our daily bread

And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those indebted to us.
Lead us not into temptation but save us from the time of trial

For the kingdom, power and glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Response VU 81 “As With Gladness...” vs 3

Eucharist/Communion

Invitation

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you

AND ALSO, WITH YOU

Lift up your hearts

WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE GOD THANKS AND PRAISE

Blessed are you, gracious God,

Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love.

You guide the sun, cradle the moon, and toss the stars.

At your word the earth was made and spun on its course among the planets.

You breathe life into us and set us among all your other creatures, in a covenant of love, service and interdependence. Even when we turn away from you, you do not forsake us.

You send your prophets to proclaim your justice, to remind us of your promise of peace, and to call us back to you.

You made a covenant with Israel, and through your servants

Abraham and Sarah gave the promise of a blessing to all nations.

Through Moses you led your people from bondage into freedom; Therefore, with them, and with all your saints who have served you in every age, we give you thanks and raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD

GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT

HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY

HOSANAH IN THE HIGHEST

BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

HOSANAH IN THE HIGHEST

Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives you praise.

In the fullness of time, you sent your child Jesus Christ, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to You, the Mother and Father of us all.

Jesus healed the sick and ate and drank with the unclean and sinners; he opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed the Good News of your commonwealth to the poor and to those in need.

In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

We remember that when, on the night he was betrayed, Jesus ate with his friends in the upper room, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me."

Then, he took a cup of wine, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying: "Drink. This cup that is poured out for you is the promise of God, made in my blood. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace, remembering Christ's life and death, proclaiming his resurrection and waiting in hope for his coming again. Grant that, in praise and thanksgiving, we may so offer ourselves to you in loving response that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

CHRIST HAS DIED; CHRIST HAS RISEN; CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who share in this loaf and cup may be ONE: light, life, and love in the world.

In this hope and as your people, we praise you.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

FRACTION AND DISTRIBUTION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER (in unison)

Eternal and gracious One, though we live in a world of need, here we have tasted your goodness and hungered for a world more just.

Though afflicted by brokenness and division, here we have heard your call to be a people of healing community.

Though daily we touch our limits, here we have received the fullness of your grace.

Send us forth, O God, in faith, in hope, and in love.

Amen.

MARKING THE END OF A COVENANTED MINISTRY

Presider (Donna)

On July 1, 2020 Clifton *Pastoral Charge* called *Rev Phillip Kennedy* to serve as *Minister of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care*

Departing minister (Phillip)

Members and friends of *Old Barns and Hilden United Churches*, I thank you for your love, kindness, and support during these past five and half years. I am grateful for the struggles, the surprises, and for the opportunities we have shared. I ask you for your forgiveness for the mistakes I have made.

Congregation.

**We receive your thankfulness and offer our forgiveness.
We ask you to forgive us for our mistakes.
We are grateful for your guidance and your gifts.**

ALL, As we part, may we know God's grace and peace.

(Stand as able) .

Donna: Will you, the members and friends of *Clifton pastoral charge*, release *Phillip* from the duties of the ministry of *Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care* and in this place?

We will, with God's help.

Will you respect the new relationship that now begins and offer your encouragement and prayers for *his* retirement?

We will, with God's help.

(*Donna invites Phillip to stand.*)

Will you, *Phillip*, release *Clifton pastoral charge* from their dependence upon you as a minister of *Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care*

P: I will, with God's help.

Will you respect any new pastoral relationship that begins and offer your encouragement and prayers for their continued ministry here?

P: I will, with God's help.

RECOGNITION OF THE SYMBOLS OF MINISTRY

Friends, you called me into your midst. to serve with you in the ministry of *Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care*

Bible (Beckie receives)

P: The Bible is the symbol of the ministry of the Word among us. May God's Word continue to challenge, nurture, and inspire you.

**We will continue to place scripture at the centre of our life.
The Word of God lives among us.**

Thanks be to God.

Water (Barb Receives)

P: The font is the symbol of our baptism, the place of our birth into the Body of Christ. May you continue to welcome new members through the Living Waters of our faith.

We will continue to celebrate new life in baptism; the font of blessing welcomes all. Thanks be to God.

Loaf and cup (Sheila receives)

P: The table is the symbol of our communion in Christ, the source of nourishment and strength. May you continue to share

the bread and cup, remembering the One who is Bread of Life and True Vine.

We will continue to break the bread and share the cup. The table invites us to taste and see that God is good. Thanks be to God.

Towel and basin (Sylvia receives)

The towel and basin are the symbols of our calling to justice and service, according to the example of Jesus, who washed the feet of his friends. May you continue to walk the way of the cross of Christ.

We will continue to serve others and to work for justice, following in the way of Jesus, Friend and Servant of all. We will also continue to offer care, challenge, and encouragement to one another, sharing all that we are and have. Thanks be to God.

Keys (Karen to receive)

These keys are a symbol of our daily duties and the work of administration; and of this building, a witness to Christ's presence in this community. May your light continue to shine in this place.

(The keys are returned)

We will continue to build, to dream and to grow, discerning the will of God for us in our time and place. Thanks be to God.

Prayer

Creator God, Holy One,

Great Spirit of Mystery and Love, God of Covenant, you have bound us together in covenant relationship for a time as pastor and people

You called us to work for the advancement of your realm in our midst, in our community, and in the world.

We give you thanks for the ministry we have shared in recent years.

We thank you for your gifts of forgiveness and love in the face of our failures.

We thank you for your presence, for the deeper knowledge we have gained of you and of one another because we have journeyed together.

Be with those who leave and those who stay.

May the new stages of our life apart be richly blessed and guided by you.

All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, and our Lord.

Amen

Special Music – Give Me Oil In My Lamp

Anonymous, Songs for a Gospel People 1987

HYMN VU 87 “I am the Light of the World”

COMMISSIONING / BENEDICTION

SUNG RESPONSE “Go Now in Peace”.

