



**DIOCESE OF ONTARIO**  
The Anglican Church of Canada

**The Renewal of Vows  
and the Blessing of the Oils**  
*for the Diocese of Ontario*

**Tuesday, March 31, 2026  
at Noon**

*We acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, and Huron Wendat Peoples, Nations who have sought to walk gently on this land. We seek a new relationship with the original Peoples of this land, one rooted in and based upon honour and deep respect.*

## Gathering of the Community



Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong, a perfect plea:  
A great High Priest, whose name is Love,  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.  
My name is graven on his hands,  
My name is written on his heart;  
I know that while in heaven he stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

2 When Satan tempts me to despair,  
And tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look, and see him there  
Who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Saviour dies,  
My sinful soul is counted free;  
For God, the Just, is satisfied  
To look on him and pardon me.  
To look on him and pardon me.

3 Behold him there! The risen Lamb!  
My perfect, spotless righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I AM,

The King of glory and of grace!  
One with my Lord, I cannot die:  
My soul is purchased by his blood;  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ, my Saviour and my God.  
With Christ, my Saviour and my God.

### Greeting

*Bishop*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

*All*

Almighty God,  
**unto whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known  
and from whom no secrets are hidden.  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we might perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Sung 3 times*

Ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - ty,  
ho - ly im - mor - tal one, have mer - cy up - on us.

## The Collect

*Bishop* Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, You anointed your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit and with the power to bring the good news of your kingdom. Anoint your Church with the same Holy Spirit, that we who share in his suffering and his victory may bear witness to the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## The Proclamation of the Word

*Please be seated.*

**First Reading** Isaiah 61: 1 – 8

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;

to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion —  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks,  
foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines;  
but you shall be called priests of the LORD,

you shall be named ministers of our God;  
 you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations,  
 and in their riches you shall glory.  
 Because their shame was double,  
 and dishonour was proclaimed as their lot,  
 therefore they shall possess a double portion;  
 everlasting joy shall be theirs.  
 For I the LORD love justice,  
 I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
 I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
 and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

This is the Word of the Lord  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 89.19-29

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You spoke once in a vision  
 and said to your faithful people: \*  
 "I have set the crown upon a warrior  
 and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

I have found David my servant; \*  
 with my holy oil have I anointed him.  
 My hand will hold him fast \*  
 and my arm will make him strong.

No enemy shall deceive him, \*  
 nor any adversary bring him down.  
 I will crush his foes before him \*  
 and strike down those who hate him.

My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*  
and he shall be victorious through my Name.  
I shall make his dominion extend \*  
from the Great Sea to the River.

He will say to me, 'You are my God, \*  
my savior and the rock of my salvation.'  
I will make him my firstborn \*  
and higher than the rulers of the earth.

I will keep my love for him for ever, \*  
and my covenant will stand firm for him.  
I will establish his line for ever \*  
and his throne as the days of heaven."

## **Second Reading** James 5.13-16a

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

This is the Word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**



Father of mercy, God of consolation,  
Look on your people, gathered here to praise you,  
Pity our weakness, come in power to aid us,  
Source of all blessing.

Son of the Father, Lord of all creation,  
Come as our Saviour, Jesus, friend of sinners,  
Grant us forgiveness, lift our downcast spirit,  
Heal us and save us.

Life-giving Spirit, be our light in darkness,  
Come to befriend us, help us bear our burdens,  
Give us true courage, breathe your peace around us,  
Stay with us always.

God in Three Persons, Father, Son and Spirit,  
Come to renew us, fill your Church with glory,  
Grant us your healing, pledge of resurrection,  
Foretaste of heaven.

## **The Gospel** Luke 4.16-21

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Mark.  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the

scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Homily

The Right Reverend William G. Cliff

### The Renewal of Vows

*Please stand as you are able*

Saints and citizens of the city of God, today we celebrate the call our Lord Jesus Christ shared with His apostles and with us; the call to the various offices and orders of the Church; the call to sacrificial service. Now in the presence of God and his holy people gathered here, let us renew the commitment to our ministries which we share with all the baptized.

#### **Renewal of Lay Readers Promises** *(Lay Readers stand)*

As Lay Readers you have been charged with study of the Holy Scriptures and of the doctrine and practice of the Church. You have promised in our ministries to observe the due order and discipline of the Church and to obey those who are set in authority over you. You have also promised to frame and fashion your lives so as to be a wholesome example to the people among whom you live. Do you now recommit yourselves to these promises?

Lay Readers: **I do** *(The Lay Readers are seated)*

### **Renewal of Deacons' Vows** *(The Deacons stand)*

Deacons of Ontario, Do you reaffirm your promise to give yourself to the study of Holy Scripture, to the life of prayer, and to modeling your life after our Lord Jesus Christ?

Deacons: **I do.**

As Deacons, you are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your work and example, to those among whom you live, work and worship. You are to interpret to the Church, the needs, hopes and concerns of the world. You are to assist the Bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministrations of God's Word and Sacraments, and you are to carry out other duties assigned to you from time to time. At all times your life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself. Do you recommit yourself to this service?

Deacons: **I do.** *(The Deacons are seated)*

### **Renewal of Priests' Vows** *(Priests stand)*

Priests of Ontario, Do you reaffirm your promise to give yourself to the study of Holy Scripture, to the life of prayer, and to modeling your life after our Lord Jesus Christ?

Priests: **I do.**

As Priests, you are called to proclaim by work, in the sacraments, and by deed, the Gospel of Christ and his redeeming love. You are to love and serve all the people, among whom you work, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. You are to preach to declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners, to pronounce God's blessing, to preside at the administrations of Holy Baptism and at the celebration of the mysteries of Christ's Body and Blood, and to perform the other ministrations entrusted to you. In all that you do, you are to nourish Christ's people from the riches of his grace, and strengthen them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come. Do you recommit yourself to this service?

Priests: **I do.** *(The Priests are seated)*

### **Renewal of Bishop's Vows**

Dean: Bishop, Do you reaffirm your promise to be faithful in the study of Holy Scripture, to give yourself to the life of prayer and to modeling yourself after our Lord Jesus Christ?

Bishop: **I do.**

Dean: As a Bishop, you have been called to be one with the apostles in proclaiming Christ's resurrection and interpreting the Gospel, and in testifying to our Lord's

sovereignty. You are called to guard and foster the faith, unity and discipline of the Church; to celebrate and provide for the administrations of the sacraments of the new covenant; to ordain clergy, Deacons and Priests, confirm and commission in the baptised; and to share wisely in the leadership of the Church throughout the world. And in all things you are called to be a faithful pastor and a wholesome example for the entire flock of Christ. Do you recommit yourself to this service?

Bishop: **I do.** (*All the people stand*)

Bishop: You have heard the recommitment of your clergy to the vows which we have made by God's grace. Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to uphold and support us in this service? And will you help to serve Christ in us as we are pledged to serve Christ in you and in the world? Will you pray for us, asking our Lord to bless us with the fullness of his love that we all may be faithful ministers of Christ, and together, come to him, the well-spring of salvation?

People: **We will.**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, in your divine providence you have appointed various orders of ministers to your Church and called us to fill them. Give your grace, we humbly pray, to all who are called to any office or ministry for your people; So fill us with the truth of your doctrine and clothe us with holiness of life, that we may faithfully serve before you, to the glory of your great name and for the benefit of your holy Church and your whole creation, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Prayers of the People

In peace we pray to you, Lord God.

*(Silence)*

For all people in their daily life and work.

**For our families, friends, and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.**

For this community, our Country, and the world.

**For all who work for justice, freedom and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble.

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the truth.**

For William our Bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers.  
**For all who serve God in his Church.**

For our own needs and those of others.  
*(Silence. The people may add their own petitions.)*  
Hear us, Lord;  
**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.  
*(Silence. The people may add their own petitions.)*  
We will exalt you, O God, our king;  
**and praise your name for ever and ever**

We pray for all those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.  
*(Silence. The people may add their own petitions.)*  
Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;  
**Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.  
*(Silence may be kept.)*  
Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father,  
**In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The bishop concludes with an absolution.*

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## The Celebration of the Eucharist With the Blessing of the Oils

### Hymn



Blest by the sun, the olive tree,  
brought clusters of fair fruit to birth,  
whose ripeness now we bring with prayer,  
Lord Christ, redeemer of the earth.

Eternal King, look down and bless  
the oil your servants offer here,  
and may it be a lively sign  
which all the pow'r's of darkness fear

From those washed in the sacred font  
let Satan's influence depart,  
and when this oil the brow shall seal,  
transforming grace invade the heart.

Our wounded nature thus be healed,  
by your anointing grace, O Lord;  
In men and women so renewed  
shall God's own image be restored

Lord Christ, the Father's only Son,  
Who took our flesh in Mary's womb,  
Give light to your anointed ones,  
and break the pow'r of death's dark tomb.

So may this joyous Paschal feast,

the time when saving grace is giv'n,  
fill ev'ry Christian soul with praise,  
and raise our minds from earth to heav'n

### Prayer Over the Gifts

*Bishop* Loving God,  
Your Son was anointed by the Holy Spirit  
not to be served but to serve.  
Receive all we offer you this day,  
that we who are called to serve you in the world  
may be effective ministers of your healing love.  
This we ask in the name of Jesus, the Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Eucharistic Prayer

*Bishop* The Lord be with you.  
*All* **And also with you.**

*Bishop* Lift up your hearts.  
*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Bishop* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*All* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; for you anointed your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit and with power, and you anoint us with the same Spirit in baptism, making us a holy people in the royal priesthood of the new covenant. Your apostles anointed the sick and healed them, and by your grace the ministry of healing continues in your Church; for you sustain us with your presence and drive away sickness of body and spirit, giving us new life and health that we may serve you both now and ever more. Therefore we praise you with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; to his disciples and said, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection,  
and we await his coming in glory;**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

*The bishop extends hands over the Oil of the Sick and prays,*

O God, source of all consolation, who willed to heal the infirmities of the weak through your Son, listen favourably to the prayer of faith: send forth from the heavens, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, upon this oil in all its richness, which you have graciously brought forth from the verdant tree to restore the body, so that by your holy blessing + everyone anointed with this oil as a safeguard for body, soul, and spirit may be freed from all pain, all infirmity and all sickness. May your holy oil, O Lord, be blessed by you for our sake in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*The bishop extends hands over the Oil of the Catechumens and prays,*

O God, strength and protection of your people, who have made the oil you created a

sign of strength, graciously bless + this oil, and grant courage to the catechumens who will be anointed with it, so that, receiving divine wisdom and power, they may understand more deeply the Gospel of your Christ, they may undertake with a generous heart the labours of Christian life, and, made worthy of adoption as your children, they may rejoice to be born anew and to live in your Church. Through Christ our Lord.

*The bishop extends hands over the chrism and prays,*

O God, author of the sacraments and bestower of life, we give you thanks for your ineffable goodness, for in the ancient covenant you foreshadowed the mystery of sanctifying oil and in the fullness of time you willed that it might shine forth uniquely in your beloved Son.

And when your Son, our Lord, had saved the human race through the Paschal Mystery, he filled your Church with the Holy Spirit, and wonderfully endowed it with heavenly gifts, so that through it the work of salvation in the world might be brought to completion.

From that time onward, through the sacred mystery of Chrism you have so bestowed the riches of your grace upon all humanity, that your children born again in the cleansing water of baptism, are strengthened by the anointing of the Spirit and, conformed to your Christ they share in his prophetic, priestly, and kingly office.

Therefore we beseech you, O Lord, that by the power of your grace this mingling of fragrance and oil may become for us a sacrament of your blessing. +Pour out in abundance the gifts of the Holy Spirit on our siblings anointed with this oil; adorn with the splendour of holiness the places and things signed by sacred oils; but above all, by the mystery of this oil, bring to completion the growth of your Church, until it reaches that measure of fullness in which you, resplendent with eternal light, will be all in all with Christ in the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

*The bishop returns to orans and completes the eucharistic prayer, saying,*

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, In the unity of the Holy Spirit all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Shon Kwa niha ka ronh hia ke teh si te ronh Wa kwa; sen na to ken tih:  
Sa ia nehr tshe rah, a on ta weht

Tsi neneh she reh; eh nen ia wen neh  
ne onhwen tia keh: tsi on nenh ni tiot ne Ka ronh hia keh  
Tah kionh; ne kenh wen ni se ra teh  
n'iah teh wen ni se ra keht  
on kwa na ta ronhk: ne o ni  
ten ta kwa rih wi iohs ten  
ne tsi ni ion kwa rih wah ne ron'tsi tsha  
kher rih wi iohs ten nis  
ne row tih wa ne ra ahks se ronh neonitohsatakwahsarineh  
tsi non we: ton ta kwa the nion te nohk ton ta kwa ia ta konh  
tsi non weh, ne ha ioh ten se rahk senh: I ken I se sa wenkh.  
Nekaianertsherah,neoni  
ne hah sahts tenh se rah, ne o ni ne on weh senh tshe rah.  
Tsi ni ien hen weh, nohk  
tsi ni ien hen weh. A:wen.

And now, as Jesus himself taught us, let us pray,

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
Your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**We, being many, are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Communion**

*Please form a line down the central aisle to receive a host or a blessing from the administrator at the chancel step. To also receive wine, please step across to one of the chalice administrators on either side. Please return to your seat via one of the side aisles.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

*Please stand as you are able*

*Bishop* Lord God,  
in baptism you anoint us with your Holy Spirit,  
and in eucharist you feed us with the bread of life.  
strengthen us in our ministry of service  
that we may preach good news to the poor,  
proclaim release to the captives,  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
set at liberty those who are oppressed  
and proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.  
This we ask in the name of Jesus, the Christ, our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Glory to God,  
**whose power, working in us,  
can do infinitely more  
than we can ask or imagine.**  
**Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

*The bishop blesses the people*

*Bishop* Our help is in the name of the Lord,

*People*           **The Maker of heaven and earth.**

*Bishop*           Blessed be the name of the Lord.  
*People*           **From this time forth for evermore.**

*Bishop*           The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, the Father, the  
Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.  
**Amen.**

### The Dismissal

**Deacon:**       Let us Bless the Lord

**People:**       **Thanks Be to God!**



Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;  
be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,  
in God's good Spirit, daily to increase,  
till in the kingdom we see face to face.

Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;  
be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,

2 Go forth for God, go to the world in love;  
strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak;  
help the afflicted; richly from above  
God's love supplies the grace and power we seek.

Go forth for God, go to the world in love;  
strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak;

3 Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;

hold fast the good, be urgent for the right;  
render to no one evil; Christ at length  
shall overcome all darkness with his light.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;  
hold fast the good, be urgent for the right;

4 Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,  
to serve God's people every day and hour,  
and serving Christ, our every gift employ,  
rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,  
to serve God's people every day and hour,

5 Sing praise to him, who brought us on our way;  
Sing praise to him to bought us with his blood  
Sing Praise to him who sanctifies each day;  
Sing Praise to him who reigns one Lord and God.  
Sing praise to him, who brought us on our way;  
Sing praise to him to bought us with his blood

*Postlude*

*The consecrated oils will be available in the  
Cathedral Sanctuary after the Liturgy*

*The Diocese of Ontario is grateful to St. George's Cathedral for  
graciously hosting our Liturgy today.*

### **Before the throne of God**

Words: Charitie de Chenez 1841-1923

Music: BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD, Vikki Cook

### **Father of Mercy, God of Consolation**

Words: James Quinn SJ 1919-2010

Music : CHRISTE SANCTORUM, *La Feillée, Méthode du plain-chant*, 1782

### **Blest by the Sun the Olive Tree**

Words: Early Latin Hymn Tr. Richard Rutt 1925-2011

Music: GONFALON ROYAL, Percy Buck 1871-1947

### **Go Forth for God**

Words: John Raphael Peacey 1896-1971 and the editors of the New English Hymnal, 1986 alt.

Music: SONG 1, Orlando Gibbons 1583-1625

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