



Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Right Reverend Samuel Rose, B.A, M.Div (Hon)
Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador

CHURCH HOUSE
22 Church Hill
St. John's, NL A1C 3Z9
Telephone: (709) 576-6697
Fax: (709) 576-7122
Email: bishop@anglicanenl.net

Bishop's 2024 Lenten Letter

Dear Beloved Disciples,

Lent offers us a precious opportunity to journey deeper into the heart of our faith, reflect on our relationship with God and one another, and renew our commitment to living as disciples of Christ. Many will engage in the Lenten disciplines of self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and reading and meditating on the word of God.

It is no coincidence that within the word 'discipline' can be found the root word 'disciple.' Christian discipline and discipleship are deeply intertwined concepts within the Christian faith.

Christian discipline lies at the heart of our Lenten observance. Through self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and reading and meditating on the word of God, we create space in our lives to encounter God more deeply, to listen attentively to the voice of God's Spirit, and to discern God's will for our lives. Let us approach these disciplines not as burdensome obligations but as pathways to greater intimacy with our Creator.

Discipleship, likewise, is central to our Lenten journey. To be a disciple of Jesus Christ is to walk in his footsteps, to embody his love and compassion, and to bear witness to his kingdom in our midst. It is a lifelong commitment to follow Jesus wherever he leads, even when the path is steep and the way is uncertain.

One of my failings as a Christian is not finding the time to spend with God deeply and meaningfully. I'm a busy Bishop with lots of business to occupy my time and mind. I confess that I'm not all that good at just "being" in the refreshing presence of God - I'd rather be "doing" the business of the Church.

So, for Lent this year, my discipline is to be still and present with God. I will try not to be too busy to pray, meditate, and find time to sit still and open my heart more fully to God every day of Lent. Because without the discipline of practicing stillness and openness with God, I cannot be a faithful disciple of Christ or a responsible Bishop to you.

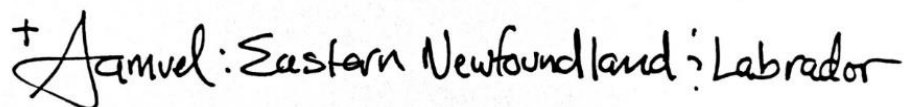
In the fast-paced rhythm of our lives, it is easy to lose sight of the importance of intentional spiritual practices and the call to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. Lent offers us a sacred space to pause, reflect, and realign our lives with the teachings and example of our Lord.

As we journey through Lent together, may our hearts be open to the work of the Holy Spirit, guiding us deeper into the mystery of God's love and grace. May we emerge from this sacred season renewed in our commitment to Christian discipline and discipleship, ready to bear witness to the transforming power of the Risen Christ.

I conclude with the Prayer after Communion for Ash Wednesday:

**God of compassion,
through your son Jesus Christ,
you reconciled your people to yourself.
Following his example of prayer and fasting,
may we obey you with willing hearts
and serve one another in holy love;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

With prayers for a blessed and meaningful Lenten journey,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads '+ Samuel: Eastern Newfoundland; Labrador'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly informal style.

The Right Rev. Samuel Rose
Bishop of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador