

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:** united with Christ, that we are presently the children of God. **"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him."** (1Jo 3:1 ESV)

Please do not forget to pray for all the shut-ins and isolated brothers and sisters in our congregations Mrs. Jack and Clem Campbell (Fredericton) and John Steffes (Caribou, Me), Mr. Ross Bathurst, Phil Ward (Saint John) and others.

**Open Hand Food Bank – Moncton** - is in need of grocery plastic bags to give out food to those in need. If you are interested in donating your unused grocery bags, you can bring them to church and someone will collect them and bring them over. Those who want to bring food to give to the **Open Food Bank** may do so by bringing to church and giving it to **Michael Melanson** of the Moncton congregation.

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#### **ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2018**

Times of worship services: **Moncton** – 10:30 AM every Sunday.

**In Saint John**, worship services will be April 8 and 22 at 2:30 PM

**Communion**- on the second and fourth Sunday of the month.

**Address: Moncton**—70 King St. —Sage building;

**Saint John**—50 Newport Cres., Portland United church.

**Discipleship group Moncton**— April 25 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vautour. **Topics: grace** – presenter: Michael Melanson

**Up coming events:** May 6 – potluck at the Vautours – after services;

**Potluck** in Saint John after services probably in May – exact date to be determined.

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#### **Prayer update from Rheal Hebert (2018-04-13)**

*"I had a consultation with Dr Salem, at the Oncology Center, who confirmed I have a cancer in the area of the Bile Duct, and that has spread in the area of the stomach. Dr Salem has described the cancer saying it is very aggressive and in an advanced. We discussed options for treatment. He also explained to me that Kemo was an option but the most we could expect was a few more months. They have given me time to consider my options. I appreciate the prayers and the care and concern expressed to me. All prayers are deeply appreciated."*

#### **Prayer Update from Mike Cunningham (2018-04-14)**

Mike saw his doctor on Friday. The doctor told him he is recuperating very well after five sessions of chemotherapy to treat his cancer. This means that he will not need radiation therapy. In about six months time, he is going to see his doctor again to plan for the removal of a dangerous growth on his kidney. The growth is said to be none-cancerous but, however, it will have to be removed as it could be very dangerous. This is a three-hour operation. Please thank God for his continued intervention, healing, encouragement and support in his life. Mike and Joanne are thankful for your prayers on their behalf. They know God is in the very active in their lives.

**Pray that we will see the good works that God has prepared for us in advance** so that we can enthusiastically participate in the on-going work He is doing now on this earth in bringing people in relationship with him in Jesus by the Holy Spirit.

**Please pray, as per Jesus instructions, the disciples prayer, "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.**

**<sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt 6:9-10)** as our world is suffering so much and in need of complete restoration by the King of kings, Jesus. As we are his royal priesthood, let us proclaim the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light, as we are instructed in 1 Peter 2.

**Pray for the world and for all people:** we live in a world that does not know the way to peace. Important to pray as we are instructed by the apostle Paul — **"1 ¶ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior," (1Ti 2:1–3 ESV)**

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## JESUS HELPS US IN EVERYDAY TRIALS

(from <https://www.gci.org/disc/06-trials>)



From birth to death, Jesus had a difficult life. He had moments of joy, and hours of pain — and we are no better than he is, so we cannot expect a trouble-free life. In this world, Jesus said, we will have trials. He warned his disciples about the cost of following him: They would have to take up the cross each day, willing to suffer and die, if need be, for their faith in Jesus Christ ([Luke 9:23](#)). Whether or not we believe in Jesus Christ, we will have troubles. But when we believe in him, we can be confident that he understands our troubles. He knows what we are going through. That does not make our troubles go away, but it helps us when we know that not even God in the flesh was exempt from trouble. Jesus learned from the things he suffered ([Hebrews 5:8](#)) and because of

that, he is "able to help those who are being tempted" ([Hebrews 2:18](#)).

When we struggle with the downside of being human, we take comfort in knowing that our Savior struggled with it, too. We have a Savior who knows what it's like. In Jesus, we can see that God himself is willing to suffer. That means that even if we can't understand our trials, we know that they are not a complete waste of time. Paul tells us that we will not only share in Jesus' resurrection life, we also share in his life of suffering ([Philippians 3:10-11](#)). We have difficulties in this life, but many joys as well. The two go together.

### Rejoicing and trials

Peter wrote, "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials" ([1 Peter 1:6](#)). Most non-Christians and even some Christians continue to be surprised and puzzled by this combination of trials and rejoicing. How is it possible to be joyful when we suffer? We are not rejoicing that we have a trial (there is no particular virtue in suffering itself), but we rejoice despite our trials. How can that be?

Let's notice what Peter wrote: "**In this you greatly rejoice.**" What is the "this" that gives us great joy? In context, it is salvation, the fact that we can be confident that God will give us an eternal inheritance. We have a wonderful future guaranteed for us. This has been demonstrated to us by the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, and God's power is shielding us until we receive the promised glory (verses 3-5). The same power that raised Jesus will also raise us to glorious immortality!

Peter speaks of joy again in verse 8. He acknowledges that we do not yet see our Savior. We do not yet have our promised inheritance. We are suffering grief in all kinds of trials. Even so, we can rejoice. Why? Because "**you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls**" (verse 9). We rejoice in the salvation we are already receiving through faith.

Faith involves our minds, our hearts and our wills. It means that we understand and accept certain things about God. It means that we respond emotionally to these things, such as with love because we understand he loves us, and with joy because we understand that he is giving us so much, and with trust because we understand and believe his promises for our eternal salvation. When our understanding and our emotions are in agreement, then our wills are also. The decisions we make throughout each day are pleasing to God because he has brought us to the point that we want to do his will.

But we do not yet have the promised inheritance. We have not yet reached the time when there is no more crying and no more death. We all experience both crying and death. Our pains and sorrows are caused by our enemy — sin. We rejoice because we know that Jesus has conquered our enemy, and he promises that we share in his victory! We suffer because of our own mistakes and sins. We also suffer because the people around us are captives of sin, and sin hurts not only the sinner but innocent bystanders, too. *We* are often the innocent bystanders who suffer from the fallout of the sins of others. Satan, the enemy of God, tries to encourage the sinful nature in every person, thereby bringing even more pain and destruction to all, including persecution on the saints.

God not only promises to help us in our trials, he also promises us trials! Christ did not come to bring us a trouble-free life. Instead, he warned us that we would have fighting within our families because of him ([Matthew 10:34-36](#)), that we would have trials ([John 16:33](#)) and that we would be persecuted ([John 15:20](#)). We enter the kingdom through many trials ([Acts 14:22](#)), and every Christian will suffer persecution ([2 Timothy 3:12](#)). We should not think it unusual when trials afflict us ([1 Peter 4:12](#)).

Jesus said, "**If you want to follow me, take up your cross. Be willing to suffer, even to lose your life, if you want to follow me.**" The Christian life involves suffering; we should not be surprised when it happens. Jesus said that a servant is not greater than the master. If Jesus, our Lord and teacher, became a human to suffer and die to serve

us, if suffering was part of his training ([Hebrews 2:10](#); [5:8](#)), it should be no surprise that it is also part of ours. In these trials, we can rejoice because we know that Christ has promised us something far better.

### **Not worth comparing**

Despite the suffering we sometimes experience, we rejoice in salvation. How can we rejoice? Paul gives an oft-quoted explanation: **“Our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us”** ([Romans 8:18](#)). Paul explains that we will receive a great inheritance — we are “co-heirs with Christ” (verse 17). We will share in his inheritance of glory. Today, we share in his suffering, but the day will come when we will share in his glory. The present suffering is part of God’s plan for us. It is part of what prepares us to enter the glory of Christ. **“We share in [Christ’s] sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory”** (verse 17).

Our Lord was a man of sorrow, yet he was also full of joy ([Isaiah 53:3](#); [Luke 10:21](#)). When he suffered, he did so with the assurance that deliverance and glory would eventually follow ([Hebrews 2:12](#)). Jesus told his disciples to rejoice in their salvation. The glory ahead is so great that we can rejoice with Jesus and all believers despite our present-day difficulties. The joy of salvation and the hope of glory are so much greater than our present pains, that there is no comparison. It’s infinitely more than a million-to-one ratio!

May God grant us the eyes and ears of faith to believe in and stand on his great and precious promises! We are his beloved children, and he is with us, even in our darkest moments. He never abandons us. He will see us through to the end, through every trial, every pain and every sin. He is always beside us and he never stops loving us, even when we are too weak to know it. Praise God for his eternal love!

### **Joy in the gospel**

We have been promised great rewards, and that gives us great reason to rejoice — no matter what the circumstances we happen to be in now. Paul wrote, **“In all our troubles my joy knows no bounds”** ([2 Corinthians 7:4](#)). Our joy is increased all the more by the salvation of others. Paul put it this way: **“What is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy”** ([1 Thessalonians 2:19-20](#)). Just as there is joy in heaven whenever a sinner repents, there is also joy on earth, in all who see life from God’s eternal perspective.

The people of God find great joy in the spread of the gospel. To the church at Philippi, Paul wrote: **“The important thing is that in every way...Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice”** ([Philippians 1:18](#)). Paul rejoiced to learn of people who believed the message and would be in God’s family when our Lord and Savior comes. The apostle John had a similar joy: **“It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth”** ([3 John 3-4](#)).

As the children of God, we share this joy with all believers, with the angels in heaven, and with God himself — joy in the preaching of the gospel, joy in hearing that people come to faith in Christ and joy in people who continue to walk in faith. Such joy in the redemption and salvation of people, such fruit of the Holy Spirit at work in us, shapes our passions, values and goals.

The use of our time, the habits of our thoughts, the health of our emotions and the quality of our words and actions toward one another are positively influenced by this life-cleansing joy in the love, kindness and power of God. Our private worship time, our worship with the church, our volunteer work, our giving of time both to the church and to people in need, our participation in small groups for prayer, study of the Word and worship — all these spring from the joy of God in us, joy produced by his gracious work in our lives and in the lives of others.

Our financial support for the work of the church is also a reflection of our joy in the things God values. Our donations to the church show the importance we place on the treasures of the kingdom of God as compared to the things of this world. Through the church we reach out as the body of Christ with the gospel message, and we give the gospel credibility as we give ourselves to God’s transforming work in us. God desires that we each serve him in a personal way and that we serve him and one another as a body, the body of Christ.

**“You are all members of one another,”** Paul wrote. We are not called to be in relationship with God without one another. We are called into the fellowship of the people of God, into the household of God. In Christ, we have communion with God and, through Christ, with one another. Jesus’ command is that we love one another, and as his body, the church, we proclaim the gospel in the world and teach his ways. Together, we can have an even greater impact than we can as individuals, even though our individual impact is also essential to the health of the whole body. The gospel is a great source of joy for us all — joy in receiving the message and in giving it to others!

*Joseph Tkach*

updated 2016

Five facts about trials

- We have difficulties whether or not we believe in Jesus.

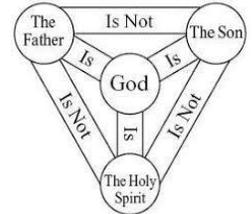
- Jesus promised that his followers would have trials.
- Jesus also promised that eternal joy would be vastly more than our temporary trials.
- There is joy in heaven and on earth whenever anyone turns to God.
- Faith in the future gives us reason to rejoice despite our troubles.

*PS: there is no weekly update this week as the headquarters office is closed in the US as they are moving to **Charlotte, North Carolina.***

### **THE TRINITY**

The biblical teaching on the Trinity embodies for essential affirmations:

1. There is one and only one true and living God.
2. This one God eternally exists in three persons—God the Father, God the son, and God the Holy Spirit.
3. These three persons are completely equal in attributes, each with the same divine nature.
4. While each person is fully and completely God, the persons are not identical.



### **GOD IS THREE PERSONS: THE TRI-UNITY OF GOD**

As the nature of God is progressively revealed in Scripture, the one God is seen to exist eternally in three persons. These three persons share the same divine nature yet are different in role and relationship. The basic principle at the heart of God's triune being is *unity* and *distinction*, both coexisting without either being compromised. Anything that is necessarily true of God is true of Father, Son and Spirit. They are equal in essence yet distinct in function.

The doctrine of the Trinity is most fully realized in the New Testament where the divine Father, Son, and Spirit are seen accomplishing redemption. But while the New Testament gives the clearest picture of the Trinity, there are hints within the Old Testament of what is yet to come. In the beginning of the Bible, the Spirit of God is "hovering over the face of the waters" at creation (Genesis 1:2) and is elsewhere described as a personal being, possessing the attributes of God and yet distinct from Yahweh (Isaiah 48:16; 61:1; 63:10). Some interpreters think that the plurality within God is seen in the Hebrew word of God, Elohim, which is plural in form (though others disagreed that it is significant; the word is used with singular verbs and all agree that it has a singular meaning in the Old Testament). In addition, the use of plural pronouns when God refers to himself hints at the plurality of persons: "Then God said, 'let us make man in our image' (Genesis 1:27; cf. Genesis 3:22; 11:7; Isaiah 6:8). The plurality of God also seems to be indicated when the Angel of the Lord appears in the Old Testament as one who represents Yahweh, while yet at times this angel seems to be no different in attributes or actions from God himself (cf. Genesis 16:7, 10–11, 13; 18:1–33; Exodus 3:1–4:31; 32:20–22; Numbers 22:35, 38; Judges 2:1–2; 6:11–18). There are also passages in the Old Testament that call two persons God or Lord; 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The sceptre of your kingdom is us sceptre of uprightness; you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your companions' (Psalm 45:6–7). David says, 'The Lord says to my Lord: sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool' (Psalm 110:1). The God who is set above his companion (Psalm 45:6) and the Lord of Psalm 110:1 are recognized as Christ in the New Testament (Hebrews 1:8, 13). Christ himself applies Psalm 110:1 to himself (Matthew 22:41–46). Other passages give divine status to a messianic figure distinct from Yahweh (Proverbs 8:22–31; 30:4; Daniel 7:13–14. [from ESV Study Bible, page 2514] [To be continued]

**GCI principle** website and Moncton Websites—[www.gci.org](http://www.gci.org), [www.worshipim.ca](http://www.worshipim.ca), [www.facebook.com/GCIMoncton](https://www.facebook.com/GCIMoncton); <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgKazyWhmKMDZy69vJcFfPg>. For a wealth of helpful articles about God, grace and his plan for salvation, who we are, etc., please see the GCI.org website. *Contact Information:* *Pastor's contact information: email—[evautour47@outlook.com](mailto:evautour47@outlook.com)*