



Join **Brad Jersak** (author, speaker, church planter, theologian) for a seminar about God's identity.

What is God like? A punishing judge? A doting grandfather? A deadbeat dad? A vengeful warrior? 'Believers' and atheists alike typically carry and finally reject the toxic images of God in their own hearts and minds. Even the Christian gospel has repeatedly lapsed into a vision of God where the wrathful King must be appeased by his victim Son. How do such 'good cop/bad cop' distortions of the divine arise and come to dominate churches and cultures? Whether our notions of 'god' are personal projections or inherited traditions, author and theologian Brad Jersak proposes a radical reassessment, arguing for A More Christ like God: a More Beautiful Gospel. If Christ is "the image of the invisible God, the radiance of God's glory and exact representation of God's likeness," what if we conceived of God as completely Christ like—the perfect Incarnation of self-giving, radically forgiving, co-suffering love? What if God has always been and forever will be 'cruciform' (cross-shaped) in his character and actions? A More Christ like God suggests that such a God would be very good news indeed—a God who Jesus "unwrathed" from dead religion, a Love that is always toward us, and a Grace that pours into this suffering world through willing, human partners.

Cost: \$25.00 non-refundable registration fee per person. Refreshments included. *\$15.00 Student Rate.

Register: To help us plan for the day, we need to know if you're coming. Register online at thresholdministries.ca

About Brad: Brad Jersak, PhD, is an author and teacher based in Abbotsford, BC, where he attends Fresh Wind Christian Fellowship and serves as Reader at All Saints of North America Monastery. His heart is to share the good news that God is Love and that God's love was shown to us perfectly in Jesus of Nazareth.

St. John's (Stone) Church

87 Carleton Street, Saint John, NB E2L 2Z2
634-1474 www.stonesj.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30-11:30 am



26 February 2017

John Paul Westin, Rector jpwestin@nb.aibn.com

Pam Stuart, Parish Administrator stjstone@nb.aibn.com

Beth Lawson, Parish Nurse pnursetrinsj@nb.aibn.com

9:00 am – Holy Communion—Chancel

10:45 am – Morning Prayer - Transfiguration Of Our Lord

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP SET *I Will Worship; I Will Give Thanks to Thee;
Exalt the Lord Our God*

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

PENITENTIAL RITE - page 45

JUBILATE - page 49

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON 2 Peter 1:16-21 - Coralie Losier
- page 1275

PSALM 2 - page 567

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 17:1-9 - Jonathan Springthorpe
- page 1026

SERMON - Jonathan Springthorpe

SONG AFTER SERMON *Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *Apostles' Creed* - page 52

OFFERINGS HYMN *Let All Things Now Living*

TIME OF PRAYER AND INTERCESSION

Reader: Jesus, You alone are King.

Response: We raise our voices to worship You.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Almighty God, grant us the Spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we who can do nothing good without you, may live according to your holy will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER - page 54

(continued on next page)



Prayer Chain: *Anthea Earle (652-6032) or bearlec603@rogers.com*

Anglican & Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Feb. 26: Malek (Upper Nile, Sudan), the Rt. Rev. Peter John Mayom. Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Anglican Church of Canada. Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon, Archbishop John Privett and the Provincial Council. Diocese of Ho, Bishop Matthias Medadues-Badohu. Diocese of Yukon, Patti Tetlich, Yukon Apostolate, Bishop's School of Yukon Ministries, PWRDF Diocesan Representative Betty Davidson, Diocesan ACW President Blanche Buckle and all ACW members, Bishop Larry Robertson, Sheila & family. David, our Bishop, Claude, William, George and Harold, retired Bishops, and their families.

Prayers for the Churches in the Uptown Saint John area

St. John the Baptist, St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church, Tabernacle Baptist, Trinity Church

Prayers for our Political Leaders

Our Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau; Premier, Brian Gallant; MP, Wayne Long; MLA, Ed Doherty; Mayor Don Darling and all those who work with them for the public good.

Prayers for the Sick & Shut-in

Rod Daley, George Eves, Pat Loring, Carol Wilson

(Please call Pam at the Office to include anyone who needs prayer for acute illness or those hospitalized. We must have permission from the individual to publish their name. Thank you.)

Pray for our new Canadian Families

Samir Ramadan, Wedad Ilias, Ruba Ramadan, Mohammad Ramadan, Maha Mara Touk, Samir Ramadan and baby Sam. Also Maha's family: Ghada Chems Alliden (mother), Omar Mara Touk (brother), Magham Girkas (sister-in-law) and their son Zyad (4).

Pray for the family of Edna Brewer whose funeral will be held Monday at 12:00 pm in the Fundy Funeral Home Chaptel, Westmorland Road.

THIS WEEK IN THE UPTOWN
(the week of February 26 - March 4, 2017)

Sun.	4:00 pm	Guest House - Stone Church
Mon.	9:00 am 10:00 am 2:00 pm 6:00 pm	Stone Wash - Laundry Room Street Hope Prayer & Study - Library Hearing God DVD Study - Vineyard Church 3rd Field Artillery Band Recording - Stone Church
Tue.	9:00 am 10:00 am 12:30 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Stone Wash - Laundry Room Street Hope Prayer & Study - Library Alpha - Stone Office Leading From Here to There DVD Study - Vineyard Vestry - Stone Church Al-Anon - Library
Wed.	9:00 am 10:00 am 12:00 pm 7:00 pm	Stone Wash - Laundry Room Street Hope Prayer & Study - Library Ash Wednesday Service - Stone Church Noticing God Book Study - Vineyard Church
Thu.	9:00 am 12:15 pm 2:00 pm 2:30 pm 4:00 pm 6:00 pm	Stone Wash - Laundry Room Thursday Bible Study—Stone Church English Language Café — 2nd Floor, Trinity Centre Canadian Disability Act Youth Forum -Stone Church Community Drop-in—Stone Church Canadian Disability Act Town Hall - Stone Church
Fri.	9:00 am 2:00 pm 7:00 pm	Stone Wash - Laundry Room Women's World Day of Prayer - Stone Church Street Hope Drop-in - Stone Church
Sat.	7:45 am	Men's Breakfast - Cora's, Brunswick Square

Irish Breakfast - Saturday, March 11th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

A fundraiser in support of L'Arche Saint John will take place at O'Leary's Pub on Princess Street. Tickets (available at the door) are \$9 for adults and \$6 for children. With live Irish music, it's a great way for families and friends to get into the St. Patrick's spirit!

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

Forth In Thy Name O Lord I Go

DISMISSAL

(Scripture readings page numbers are from the black pew Bibles)

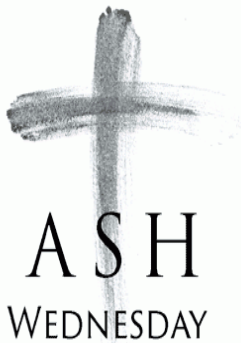
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Lection Connection by Canon George Eves

YAHWEH calls Moses and his aide Joshua up onto Mt. Sinai to receive the Commandments in the form of stone tablets. For six days the people can see the glory-cloud covering the mountain before Moses alone is summoned into the divine presence at its fiery centre. The Psalmist mocks the nations who imagine they can threaten the king of Israel whom YAHWEH himself has set upon his holy hill. The king is YAHWEH's newly begotten son and as such he will conquer and rule over the nations who are exhorted to serve such an awesome God. St. Peter stresses to his audience that he was one of the eyewitnesses to the power and majesty of Jesus at the Transfiguration and follows no myth. He then exults in this event as a fulfillment of scriptural prophecy and, as such, spoken by God himself. Six days after first teaching his disciples about his impending death, Jesus goes up into a mountain with an inner circle. There, his face blazing like the sun and his clothes becoming a brilliant white, he is transformed. When he is joined by Moses and Elijah, the greatest figures of the Old Testament, Peter wants to erect shelters for all three but a voice from heaven makes it clear that it is Jesus alone who warrants their full attention as the Son of God.

Ash Wednesday Service March 1 at 12:00 pm

We will mark the beginning of Lent with the traditional Penitential Service with Communion for Ash Wednesday. Those who wish may receive the sign of the cross marked on their foreheads with ashes as an ancient symbol of the repentance, humility and faith in Christ with which we enter into our Lenten observances. We will also have an opportunity to reconsider our own spiritual disciplines as followers of Jesus as we review the *Rule of Life* (Book of Common Prayer, p. 555) as we begin Lent together. The service will be held at Stone Church at 12:00 pm on Wednesday, March 1. All welcome.





Join us for tea & coffee following the service by the kitchen at the back of the church. All are welcome.

Coffee Hour Schedule

Today: Jeanne Dykeman & Allison Datta

Next Sunday: **Shared Lunch** - Hostess Debbie Collicott

Church Office Hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30-11:30 am. In the event of school cancellations, the office and all programs are cancelled for the day.

Annual Congregational Meeting

We had a successful ACM this year, beginning with our gingerbread social provided by the talented bakers of the parish. We began with an opening devotion focussing on our ability to exercise our ability to hear God and have a conversational relationship with Him (based on the Dallas Willard book and DVD course presently being offered in the parish, *Hearing God*). Following that we had a review of the reports of the work of the parish and groups over the past year, as well as a reminder of where we are in the final year of our three year Annual Work Plan. We have moved from Survival (2015) to Stability (2016) to this year's focus, Growth (2017). How can we build on where we have come from so that we might connect with a new demographic, sharing our vision and mission more widely in our community? We considered new opportunities presented to us with a renovated church building and with a new relationship with the congregation of Saint John Vineyard. This year Coralie Losier stepped down after eight years as a faithful and dedicated warden in the parish, leading us through challenging times of change. We welcomed Mark Slader, who joins Danny Marmen as new warden at Stone. Newly elected member Rahul Datta joins returning Vestry members Ruby Ranson, Debbie Collicott, Debbie Hughes, Coralie Losier, Michael Smith and Mary Robinson. We give thanks to God for those who offer themselves every year to accept leadership in the parish and, together, seek His guidance and wisdom to follow where He leads us so that we may know and show "the heart of Christ in the heart of Saint John". We look forward to the new challenges and opportunities for gospel work in 2017. To God be the glory!

Billet Needed

We are looking for a billet for a man from Grand Manan for the upcoming module of Threshold School of Ministry. The individual is sponsored by the diocese and a working professional. The dates are March 5-17. For more information, contact Karen Cooney - 642-2210 ext. 221 or karen.cooney@thresholdministries.ca

Women's World Day of Prayer is Friday, March 3, 2:00 pm at Stone Church. All women are welcome to this inter church event for our city.

Designed to Worship

Saturday, April 1 from 1:00-4:30 pm at Saint John Vineyard Church (204 Carmarthen Street). Welcome to our congregational *deepening day*, when we go deeper into our thinking about worship. We will listen to worship leader and musical-ethnologist Ray Hughes' two talks on how God has made us human beings, and all creation, to re-sound His glory. Then we will discuss each one and how that might affect the way we worship in our congregations. Especially for leaders and musicians but for all that are interested in worship at both Stone Church and Saint John Vineyard. This should be a great conversation!

"Stepping into Evangelism: Together" - Sat., April 8 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

offers an interactive approach for followers of Jesus Christ to learn and see how they can easily share their faith with those around them. Based on the workbook of the same name, this seminar will move you from wanting to see people know Jesus, to being an active participant in God's overall plan. Workshops will be led by Bishop David Edwards and Shawn Branch, National Director of Threshold Ministries. Online registration through <http://anglican.nb.ca/events/>.

"How Deep the Father's Love" - Friday April 14 @ 10:45 am

A very special theme service for Good Friday using scripture, anthems and congregational songs to explore the depth of God's love for the world, revealed in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross "for us and for our salvation" (Nicene Creed). All welcome!

Steve Bell in Concert at Stone Church - Sunday, May 7 @ 7:00 pm

We will welcome back to Stone Church our good friend and inspiring fellow Jesus follower Steve Bell for one special evening in Saint John. See more about this iconic Christian singer/songwriter at stevebell.com

Our Envelope Offerings Last Week

	Regular	Missions
Budgeted	\$3,052.00	\$787.00
Actual	<u>1,980.00</u>	<u>313.00</u>
Shortfall/Surplus	\$1,072.00	\$474.00