

The Queen and Me

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you might proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. -1st Peter 2:9

My memories of Queen Elizabeth II go back to early childhood. My mother took me to see her with Prince Philip when they visited Kingston (we lived close by). I followed her Christmas messages quite faithfully, applauded when she signed the Bill of Rights and the Constitution Act, held my breath when she sent soldiers to the Falkland Islands, puzzled over her silence when Princess Diana died. I took my own children to see her when she and Prince Philip came to Ottawa to celebrate our 125th. I prayed for her grief when she sat alone at her husband's funeral during the pandemic. Now her death has given more meaning to what Peter wrote: as head of the Church of England and defender of the Protestant faith of the Church of Scotland, she was in life a royal priest. Her faithfulness to her calling to these offices defines for me what Peter means when he says of all who believe in Christ that we, too, are a royal priesthood. In our time, race, priesthood, nationality, and even people are all contested words. For this moment, as we remember the faith and faithfulness of Elizabeth II, our royalty in Christ sits easier on our shoulders. Queen Elizabeth and me, you, the whole church—members of the one royal priesthood in Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour. Amen

Pastor Ron is planning to be away from Wednesday, September 21 until Wednesday, September 28th for a family wedding in Eganville, ON and a much-needed visit with his father, Rev. JR Bestvater in Kitchener, ON. Please call the church office for pastoral care in emergencies, and please keep Pastor Ron and family in your prayers. The supply ministers for Sunday, September 25th planned are Pastor Richard Engel presiding for the sacraments and Dr. Darren Dahl preaching. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is planned for twin siblings Diana and Arthur, children of Jordyn and Eric Stalwick, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion will be offered, God willing!