**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 4**th**, 2022**

**Jesus’ Exhortation to the Disciples**

*James Tissot 1882*

Officiant: Rev’d Paul Woolley​

Server: Tom Brown.           Reader: Bill Blunt ​​​

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THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

**Gathering Hymn  #425**​***Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee***

**Greeting**​​p. 185

**Hymn #365 -**​***Glory to God on High***

**Kyrie Eleison**​p. 186

**Collect of the Day: Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people, that richly bearing the fruit of good works, we may by you be richly rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

1st reading​JEREMIAH 18:1-11

 READING FROM THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH
The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it,

but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 139:1-5, 12-17:

Lord, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You trace my journeys and my resting places and are acquainted with all my ways. Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

**Your works are wonderful, O Lord.**

You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

**Your works are wonderful, O Lord.**

For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I will thank you because I am marvellously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

**Your works are wonderful, O Lord.**

My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; they were fashioned day by day when as yet there was none of them.

**Your works are wonderful, O Lord.**

How deep I find your thoughts, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

**Your works are wonderful, O Lord.**

2nd reading​PHILEMON 1-21

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO PHILEMON
Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love - and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but
now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother - especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do more than I say.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn**​**#431**​***Take Up Your Cross, the Saviour Said***

Gospel​​LUKE 14:25-33

**Sermon**

**Weighing the Cost**

Each one of the Gospels has a different central message since they were written for different audiences.

The Gospel of Luke has this basic message: God’s mercy, in the person of Jesus Christ, has been offered to all people withou exception. God’s gracious gift, however, has one limitation, which is our willingness to respond to God’s mercy. And while God’s mercy evokes a “feel-good”response—discipleship, the result of responding to God’s mercy, has a price. In today’s Gospel we read that while travelling on the road to Jerusalem, Jesus asks his disciples to weigh the true cost of discipleship and to then determine whether or not they are willing to pay the price.

Jesus’ language is sharp about the demands of discipleship:“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.” The disciples wonder: Is that all then? My family and life? No, there’s more: “Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” Give up a comfortable life? Is that it? As long as you include all of your things: “None of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

While these images are offered as a means to relativize the things of this life, to subordinate family and possessions to Jesus’ call, that call is for your life. Make no mistake: Jesus calls for our very lives.

Jesus offers two parables to explain why the things of this life are secondary to Jesus’ call. Jesus describes building a tower and waging a war, both activities for which a great deal of money, planning and people are needed. He asks, “Which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?” and he continues, “What king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand?” The focus of these stories is on the disciples. If you follow me, do you have what it takes to complete your mission? This means Jesus’ disciples must be all in. And us, in today's world. Are we totally and absolutelycommitted to the project of Jesus’ mission?

We might consider that Jesus is using a bit of the ancient and well-known technique of hyperbole. However, Jesus does needto know, whether he has the builders and the soldiers committed to completing the task of building the kingdom andthen defending it. For the kingdom is not only an exercise in construction but it is also a battle waged against those evil powers of this world that corrupt and destroy. For Jesus to complete building the kingdom, he needs steadfast disciples; for the battle to be waged successfully, he needs faithful disciples.

What the building and the battle mean in practice for each of us will be something different, something perhaps unexpected even at the sunset of life, from what one has planned; but all of us must remain ready to carry out God’s plan, not our own personal plans.

St. Paul remains a prime example of a man who felt he was doing all that God required of him in tracking down disciples of Jesus in ancient Syria. But then the risen Lord appeared to him.At that moment Paul’s life was turned upside down. Instead of being a persecutor of the Messiah’s disciples, Paul became an apostle for the Messiah, bringing Jesus’ word to wherever he was called, including to prison cells. It was from prison cells that Paul continued to build the kingdom, even while in chains, by personal witness and by writing letters to the churches dotted throughout the Roman Empire.

Paul’s life, and all that he had, was at the disposal of the kingdom after he heard the call. The cost of discipleship for Paul, for building the kingdom and fighting the forces of evil, was beatings, imprisonment and finally his life. But Paul weighed the price and gladly paid it. Building the kingdom was all that he desired, and the price of discipleship was more rewarding than he could have hoped.

So the question for every one of us is, will we weigh the price of discipleship and gladly pay that pric?

The Apostles’ Creed​p. 189

Prayers of the People  # 17​p. 123

**Prayer for a Renewed Church**: **Almighty God, give us a new** **vision of you, of your love, of your grace and power, and then, give us a new vision of what you would have us do as your Church in this nation and at this time, and an awareness that in the strength of your Spirit, we can do it to your glory.  In Jesus’ name we pray.** **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution​​​​​​       p. 191

The Peace

**Offertory Hymn # 502**​***You Are Salt for the Earth***

Offertory Response ​**Doxology**(sung)

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below.**

**Praise Him above, ye Heavenly Host.**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

**Prayer over the Gifts:** Great and holy God, accept our offering of labour and love. May we bring you true and spiritual worship and be one with you. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer  # 4  ​p. 201

The Lord’s Prayer​p. 211

Breaking of the Bread  # 4​p. 212

Communion

**Prayer After Communion:**Father, your word and sacrament give us food and life. May we who have shared in holy things bear fruit to your honour and glory, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Glory to God & Blessing​p. 214

**Mission Hymn**​***#*434**​***The Love of Jesus Calls Us***

Officiant:​​Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People:​​**Thanks be to God.**

Sung Benediction​***Howard’s Blessing****(vs 1-2 in the back of the Hymn Book)*

The**Flowers on the Altar** today are given in loving memory of*good friends,*

*Marjorie and David Ashcroft and Jean and Jim Bell.  A gift of Bill Graham.*

Please enter names in the**Intercessions Book**each week to be read in the service.

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**News and Events**

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Please send all announcements for the bulletin to Karen by **11:00 a.m. Tuesday** of each week. Call: 519-344-9531 or E-mail: canondavis@gmail.com.

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If you would like a home visit with Communion or know of someone who would, please let Rev. Ray know as he and/or a Lay Visitor will be available in the coming weeks.

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Please join us for **Coffee Hour**after service for a time of fellowship in the parish hall.

**Upcoming Events:**

**10 Sept**​**Fall Clean Up 9:00 AM in**the parking lot and church.  Also needed are

                      painters to paint over the words “Canon Davis” on about 50 chairs.

                      If you are available to help, please call 519-344-9531.

**18 Sept 2:00 p.m**. The **Christian Music Café** is coming to Canon Davis.

                Please join us for this monthly musical event.

                Refreshments and treats will be available.  Free will offering.

**21 Sept**​Please mark your calendar and plan to join us as CDM’s famous and

            ​delicious “**Fish Dinner”**is back with in-house dining.

**24 Sept**​**Sew Day-Saturday** from **9:00 till 3:00 pm**. Cost $20.00 and lunch

             included. Bring your projects and we will have show and tell.

**28 Sept**​**Parish Council Meeting 10:00 a.m. in the boardroom.**