**Canon Davis Memorial Church**

*Anglican Church of Canada*

**November 26, 2023 – The Last Sunday After Pentecost**

**Worship Service:  Sunday 9:30 a.m.**

Officiant: Bill Graham​​​​​​  Organist: Dorothy Miller

*380 Russell St. North (at Maxwell St.), Sarnia, Ontario N7T 6S6*

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**Processional Hymn # 383**​***Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun***

Greeting

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Exhortation​p.  4

General Confession​p.  4

Absolution​p.  5

The Lord’s Prayer​p.  5

Responses​p.  6

Venite​p.  6

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

1st Reading​Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL**

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 100​​**BCP**​p. 457

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands: / serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his presence with a song.

Be ye sure that the Lord he is God; / it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; / be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name.

For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is ever-lasting; / and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

2nd Reading​Ephesians 1: 15-23

**A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS**

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel​Matthew 25: 31-46

Benedictus​p.   9

The Apostles’ Creed​p. 10

Versicles​p. 10

The Lord’s Prayer​p. 11

Responses​p. 11

**Collect of the Day**

**Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things  
in your well-beloved Son, our Lord and King, grant that the peoples of the earth, now divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his gentle and loving rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.**

Collect for Peace​p. 11

Collect for Grace​p. 11

**Offertory Hymn  # 503**​***Fight the Good Fight with All Thy Might***

**Offertory Response**​***All Things Come of Thee*    *(sung)***

Sermon

​A parable is a short simple story of comparison.  Jesus uses parables to teach spiritual truths by means of earthly situations.

​Jesus begins this parable by saying it concerns His return in glory to set up His Kingdom. Therefore the setting of this event is at the beginning of the millennium after the tribulation.  All those on earth at that time will be brought before the Lord, and He will separate them  “as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.  He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.”  The sheep are those who were saved during the tribulation; the goats are the unsaved who survived the tribulation.

​The sheep on Jesus’ right hand are blessed by God the Father and given an inheritance.  The reason is stated: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.  The righteous will not understand: when did they see Jesus in such a pitiful condition and help Him?” The King will reply,” I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

​The goats on Jesus’ left hand are cursed with eternal hell-fire “prepared for the devil and his angels” The reason is given: they had opportunity to minister to the Lord, but they did nothing. The damned asked,” Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?” Jesus re[plied “I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.”

​ Jesus ended the discourse with a contrast, “They will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.

​In the parable of the Sheep and Goats, we are looking at man redeemed and saved, and man condemned lest casual reading seems to suggest that salvation is the result of good work. The “sheep acted charitably giving food, drink, and clothing to the needy. The goats showed  no charity.  This seems to result in salvation for the sheep and damnation for the goats. However scripture does not contract itself and the Bible clearly and repeatedly teaches that salvation is by faith through the grace of God and not by our good works.  In fact Jesus Himself makes it clear in th parable that salvation of the “sheep” is not based on their works-the inheritance was theirs “since creation of the world, long before they could ever do any good works.

​The good works mentioned in the parable are not the *cause*of the salvation but the *effect*of salvation.  As Christians we become like Christ tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness,  goodness ,gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. Good works in a Christian’s life are the direct overflow of these traits, and are only acceptable to God because of the relationship that exists between servant and Master, the saved and their Savior, the sheep and their Shepherd.

 ​The core message of the Parable of the sheep and Goats is that God’s people will love others. Good works will result from our relationship to the Shepherd. Followers of Christ will treat others with kindness, serving them as if they were serving Christ Himself. The unregenerate live in the opposite manner. While “goats” can indeed perform acts of kindness and charity, their hearts are not right with God, and their actions are not for the right purpose- to honor and worship God.

**Sermon Hymn # 109**​***When the King Shall Come Again***

Prayer for the King and Commonwealth​p. 12

Prayer for the Clergy and People​p. 13

Prayer for All Conditions of Mortals​p. 14

General Thanksgiving *(said by all)*​p. 14

Prayer of Saint Chrysostom​p. 15

**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.**

The Grace​p. 15

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

Dismissal

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

People:​​​Thanks be to God.

**Sung Benediction**​***Howard’s Blessing (vs. 1-2)***

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**The Flowers on the Altar today are given to**

**the Glory of God, and in memory of past members,**

**a gift of the Ladies Guild/A.C.W.**

**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  email[canondavis@gmail.com](mailto:canondavis@gmail.com) or call 519-344-9531.

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If you would like to contact Rev’d Jon Forbes or would like a home visit with Communion or know of someone who would, Rev’d Jon may be reached at 1-905-818-9488 or email [jonforbes@outlook.com](mailto:jonforbes@outlook.com)

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

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**St. John in -the-Wilderness Wednesday December 6 at 12:00 noon John's Restaurant - ACW Christmas Party.**Please see the poster at the back of the church.  The invitation is extended to all women, even if you are not part of the ACW.  There will be crafts, games, a door prize and an opportunity for women to gather and share a time of Fellowship. To register contact Leslie Grieve at [lesliegrieve91@gmail.com](mailto:lesliegrieve91@gmail.com)

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**Christmas Poinsettias** If you wish to make a donation to the Christmas Poinsettias, please put your donation in a separate envelope marked “Poinsettias” and include your name, envelope number, and the amount.  Please call Karen if you would like your gift acknowledged in the Church bulletins or wish to make changes to your current acknowledgment by December 3.

**Upcoming Events**

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**“Festival of Lights” event for Canon Davis on Saturday, December 9th, 6:30 – 8pm.**Admission: a non-perishable food item. The church will be decorated inside and out. Lights will be strung on as many trees/bushes as possible. There will be Carolers, refreshments, baked goods and “Stain-glass” cards for sale, but most importantly introducing Rev’d Jon Forbes to the community. **If you have strings of lights you would like to donate for this event, please either bring them to the church or contact Ginny 519-332-4764**

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**December 10**- **9 Lessons and Carols Service**, with Wassail following in the Parish Hall – Food donations for the Wassail are welcome but not necessary.  Please speak to John or Sheree Lynn

**Reminders: November**

**Nov 29**​**Parish Council Meeting 10:00 a.m. Boardroom**

**Reminders: December**

**Dec 2.** ​**10:00 am is Decorate the outside of the church for the Festival of Lights on**​**December 9th.**

**Dec 3**​ **CDM Christmas Church Dinner** at 4:00 pm

**Dec 6**​ **St. John in-the-Wilderness hosting ACW Christmas Party** - John's Restaurant

**Dec 7.** ​Please bring Shortbread and Gingerbread cookies , bagging for **Festival of Lights at 1:00 pm**

**Dec 9**​ **Chancel Guild**meeting at 9:30 a.m. to decorate the church for ​Christmas

**Dec 9**​ **Festival of Lights** – 6:30 pm. to 8:00 pm

**Dec 10**​ **Nine Lesson and Carols Service** with Wassail following the service.

**Dec 17**​ Dry Goods Donations for the **London Road School Hampers** to be Delivered today between 10:30 am and 11:30 am.

​**Hampers to be distributed on Dec. 22**

**Dec 24**​ **Christmas Eve Day** – Service of the Word. 9:30 am. Ginny Schleihauf

**Dec 24**​ **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00 pm**. HE – Rev’d Jon Forbes

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