

**Canon Davis Memorial Church**  
*Anglican Church of Canada*  
*Sixth Sunday after Epiphany*  
12<sup>th</sup> February, 2023

***We Come and worship God.***  
***We go our way with souls nourished.***

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**12<sup>th</sup> of February, 2023 — Six Sunday after Epiphany**

**Service of the Word**

**Gathering Hymn # 381**  
***Praise, My Soul***

Officiant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together on the Lord's Day to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing. Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past, and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

Officiant: Dear friends in Christ, as we turn our hearts and minds to worship almighty God, let us confess our sins.

**People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Officiant: Merciful God, grant to us, your faithful people, pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**People: Amen.**

Officiant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us reconcile to God and one another a sign of Christ's peace.

### **The Collect of the Day**

**Almighty and everliving God, whose Son Jesus Christ healed the sick and restored them to wholeness of life, look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your power make whole all peoples and nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.**

**First Reading** Deuteronomy 30: 15-20

#### **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY**

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

Officiant: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 119: 1-8** (*Response in bold.*)

Happy are they whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord!

**Happy are they who observe his decrees and seek him with all their hearts!**

Who never do any wrong, but always walk in his ways.

**You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them.**

Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!

**Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments.**

I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, when I have learned your righteous judgements.

**I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.**

**Second Reading** I Corinthians 3: 1-9

#### **A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS**

And so, brothers and sisters, I could not speak to you as spiritual people, but rather as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for solid food. Even now you are still not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For as long as there is jealousy and quarrelling among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving according to human inclinations? For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who

plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

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Officiant: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**The Gospel** Matthew 5: 21-37

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not murder'; and 'whoever murders shall be liable to judgement.' But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgement; and if you insult a brother or sister, you will be liable to the council; and if you say, 'You fool,' you will be liable to the hell of fire. So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court with him, or your accuser may hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Truly I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; it is better for you to lose one of your members than for your whole body to go into hell. It was also said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that anyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of unchastity, causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery. Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, 'You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.' But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one."

Officiant: The Gospel of the Christ

**People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## **Sermon**

We all know someone whom we could best describe as "an angry person." They rarely if ever forget anything negative that has happened to them. Franklin Roosevelt's closest political advisor was a man named Louis Howe. Mr. Howe, with some frequency, would be very rude and cruel to certain people at dinner or cocktail parties. On one such occasion Eleanor Roosevelt asked, "Louis, why did you do that?" "Because," Howe replied, "he was once unresponsive of Franklin." "Oh goodness," Eleanor exclaimed, "I'd forgotten all about that."

"I never forget," Howe snapped back.

And that's just the way some people go at life: they nurse old wounds and so allow them to fester into an entire cesspool of resentment and anger.

Jesus knows the utter untruth of the old saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me." When people hurl words at us that cast our mental or moral abilities into question, these angry words reach places inside our nervous systems where no laser can reach.

God is against such angry words because they kill the spirit.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is conveying harsh words about the damage we cause to others through anger and the abuse of relationships. The harm we cause to ourselves and others when we crave for things we can't have or compromise trusts. The commitments we make, then break in our daily life; but Jesus challenges, the Rabbi's and the people of Israel on their rigid and narrow interpretations of the ancient Jewish laws of Moses. They are stuck in the past. And sometimes we are too.

I read a story recently about Alexander the third, the tsar of Russia from 1881-1894. He was known as a harsh person who would abuse others with his words and actions. His rule was marked by autocratic leadership and repression, and in particular, by his persecution of the Jews. His wife, Maria, provided a stark contrast, being known especially for her generosity to those in need. On one occasion, it is said, her husband had signed an order consigning a prisoner to life in exile. The order simply read,

Pardon impossible, ---- to be condemned and sent to Siberia.

Maria changed that prisoner's life by simply moving a comma. She altered the order and changed the meaning to...

"Pardon, ----- impossible to condemn to Siberia. A small action that had a huge impact for one human being.

In Christ, God has changed and moved the comma that stood against us to the good news of salvation. Christ's sacrificial saving act for humanity; One action with a huge impact for all of us. The Gospel of Matthew has been described as the swinging door that connects the Old Testament reader to the New. Jesus in his teaching calls us to a new life in God, and gifts us freedom to choose a new broader way of thinking about the Jewish laws of Moses. He uses examples in every-day life as a grounding to build his case, to move thinking and actions towards righteousness. He intensifies and radicalizes those familiar laws from the Old Testament for those who listen, and extends their purpose into every facet of their lives.

And Jesus says right at the beginning of Matthew 5; Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the peacemakers. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, and Blessed are you when people revile you on my account.

The Law of God that was established thousands of years ago, was meant to foster human flourishing at every level, including at the deepest levels of our hearts and minds.

God wants us to respect each other, to love each other, to see God's own image residing deep within one another, and to live our lives with a forgiving and loving heart.

Amen.

### **Sermon Hymn # 429**

#### ***For the Beauty of the Earth***

Officiant: Let us confess our faith as we say.

**People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand  
of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

In peace we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

**For our families, friends, and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.**

For this community, our country, and the world;

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.**

For Todd our bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;

**For all who serve God in the Church.**

For our own needs and those of others.

Silence.

In our parish cycle of prayer, we pray for...

Hear us, Lord.

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence. *(The people may add their own thanksgivings.)*

We will exalt you, O God our king;

**And praise your name for ever and ever.**

We pray for those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence.

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;  
**Who put their trust in you.**

Gracious God, you have heard the prayers of your faithful people; you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Grant our requests as may be best for us. This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**Offertory Hymn # 435**  
***Take My Life and Let it Be***

**Offertory Response***All Things Come of Thee*

**People:** Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Officiant: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,  
we are bold to say,

**People:** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Officiant: Glory to God

**People:** whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Closing Hymn # 500**  
***Sister, Let Me be your Servant***

Officiant: May the God of hope fill us all with joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Sung Benediction **Howard's Blessing** (vs 1-2)  
(in the back of the blue Hymn book)

***The Flowers on the Altar today are given to the Glory of God, and in loving memory of John Manton, a wonderful husband, Dad and Grandad, love you forever, Joyce and family.***

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

**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](mailto: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:**

**Wednesday February 15** for a scrumptious **Pork Roast Dinner and Raffle Night**. Call **519 344-9531** to reserve your seat. Cost: Adults \$20.00 and take out is available.

**Shrove Tuesday for a Pancake Dinner** in the Parish Hall at 5:00 p.m. Cost: Adults \$10.00. No reservation needed. And, No Take-Out.

### **Reminders**

**Feb 15** Pork Roast Dinner 5:00 p.m.

**Feb 21** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5:00 p.m.

**Feb 23** Parish Council Meeting – Boardroom 10:00 a.m.