**Canon Davis Memorial Church**

*Anglican Church of Canada*

**September 24, 2023 – Seventeenth 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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**9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (BCP)**p.4

**Processional Hymn # 388**​

***Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken***

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​Exodus 16: 2-15

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS**

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?" And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him - what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord." Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in themorning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'" In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45 *(responsively alternate verses)*  BCP​p. 464, 467

O Give thanks unto the Lord, and call upon his Name; tell the people what things he hath done.

**O let your songs be of him and praise him; and let your talking be of all his wondrous works.**

Rejoice in his holy Name; let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.

**Seek the Lord and his strength: seek his face evermore.**

Remember the marvelous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgements of his mouth;

**O ye see of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob, his chosen.**

But he brought forth his own people with silver and gold; and there was not one feeble person among their tribes.

**Egypt was glad at their departing, for they were afraid of them**.

He spread out a cloud to be a covering, and fire to give light in the night -season.

**At their desire he brought quails, and filled them with the bread of heaven.**

He opened the rock of stone, and the waters flowed out, so that rivers ran in the dry places.

**For why? he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham his servant,**

And he brought forth his people with joy, and his chosen with gladness;

**And gave them the lands of the nations, and they took the labours of the people in possession;**

That they might keep his statutes, and observe his laws.

2nd Reading​Philippians 1: 21-30

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

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the pivilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well - since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel​Matthew 20: 1-16

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 God, you have created the heavens and the earth, and ourselves in your image. Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive 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  # 435**​

***Take My Life and Let it Be***

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

Sermon

​Jesus starts his presentation by stating that everyone who has left houses, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or child, or land, for my name’s sake, will receive one hundred times, and will inherit eternal life.  But many will be last who are first; and first who are last.  People who lay aside their worldly possessions, their pride, their need to impress others with status and success-leave it all behind-and, free of all worldly burdens follow Jesus in his mission of faith-allthese people, no matter how lowly or poverty stricken will have the same rewards-as place in Heaven.  Jesus is telling us just the opposite of what society tells us is the “right way : to live our lives.

​In today’s Gospel-the parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard-Jesus gives us yet another difficult message. In this parable he tells us that our reward as Christians is solely dependent on the Grace of God. He likens the kingdom of heaven to a landowner who ignores the rules when he hands out wages at the end of the day.  He does not base the amount he pays each worker on how many hours they worked-he gives everyone the same wage whether they worked twelve hours or one hour. How can this be? Where is the fairness here and how is the landowner like the kingdom of heaven if he’s not being fair. Once again things get turned upside down. Those who began work late in the day - last- get as much money as those who started at dawn – first.

​In this story, the landowner represents God’s Grace.  Jesus tells us that we all have an equal share of his grace, first, last or in the middle- everyone gets the same amount.  It doesn’t matter who you bare, when you started, if you entered the race. Once you place your faith in God, just as Jesus placed his faith in God, your share of God’s grace equals everyone else’s share of Grace. This is harder to digest than the lesson of giving everything to follow Jesus.  Harder, becausefrequently, when we look around us, it is difficult to believe that we are all on equal footing, all on the same playing field. Hard to believe that our faith, out easy of life, our accomplishments are not somehow just a little, if not better, or more correct, than everyone else’s.  In God’s eyes we are all equal.  God sees us all through the same set of eyes  Unfortunately, it is not until we understand this-until we come to understand just what His grace is all about – it is not until then we can experience the peace that Passes all understanding, confident in the knowledge that the Holy Spirit is with us in every inch of the way, every moment of the day, no matter what our life circumstances might be.

​Not only do we need God, but God needs us. He needs us to carry out the ministry orreconciliation. .to be an ambassador for Christ.  Our challenge is to understand how we can do this.  What is our role in life as Christ’s disciple?

​Let us pray!

*Lord God, your Son came among us to serve and not be served, and to give his life for the world.  Lead us by his love to serve all those to whom the world offers no comfort and little help.  Through us give hope to the hopeless, love to the unloved, peace to the troubled, and rest to the weary, through your Son, Jesus Christ out lord.*

​**Amen**

**Sermon Hymn # 430**​

***Will You Come and Follow Me***

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 # 467**​

***Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go***

Dismissal

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

                        Lord.

People:​​   Thanks be to God.

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

**The Flowers on the Altar today are given to the Glory of God, and in loving memory of Eric and other loved ones, a gift of Rosemary Hunter.**

**NEWS AND EVENTS**

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

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

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

The **Chancel Guild** will be decorating the church for Harvest Sunday and Thanksgiving.  All **donations of fruits, vegetables and flowers** are welcomed and appreciated. Please bring your items to the church for **9:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 30th**. If you would like to donate but are unable to get to the church you are welcome to make a monetary donation to the Chancel Guild. They will in turn make a  purchase for you. All edible produce will be donated to the Inn of the Good Shepherd. Any questions please contact Seonaid at 519-336-6036.

**Upcoming Events:**

**This year, CDM**will celebrate the **Harvest Home Freewill Thanksgiving Breakfast on Sunday October 1 after church in the Parish Hall.**

**Reminders**

27 Sep​t. Parish Council Meeting 10:00 a.m.

                Boardroom

1 Oct.  ​Harvest Home Freewill Thanksgiving

                Breakfast

8 Oct​   Thanksgiving Service