**Canon Davis Memorial Church**

*Anglican Church of Canada*

*May 15, 2022 — Fifth Sunday of Easter*

A New Commandment I Give You That You Love One Another

Holy Eucharist Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Rev’d Paul Woolley - Officiant

Dorothy Miller - Organist

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THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

**Gathering Hymn***Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (vs 1 & 3)*​#425

**Greeting**​p. 185

Kyrie Eleison​p. 186

**Collect of the Day:  Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

1st reading​ACTS 11:1-18

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 148​**“Alleluia!**​p. 907

2nd reading​​REVELATION 21:1-6

A READING FROM THE REVELATION TO JOHN
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn**​*Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken(vs 1 & 4)*​#388

Gospel​​JOHN 13:31-35

 Sermon

**"By This They Will Know..."  15 May 2022 Easter 5C**

"Johnny," said a teacher to one of her young pupils, "do you think you could explain to the class the difference between 'like' and 'love'?  "Well," said Johnny, "I like my parents . . .but I ***love***chocolate bars."

I guess that Johnny takes his parents for granted!

Our gospel text today is aimed at all followers of Jesus.Jesus is looking to the cross.  There he will glorify God by his perfect obedience to God's plan.  Now he is calling his disciples to perfect obedience as well.  What is this perfect obedience to which he calls them?      "A new commandment I give to you," says Jesus, “that you love one another.  Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.  By this, all people will  know that you are my disciples if you have love for     one another."

And in the style of an *old-time preacher* ...I would like to make three points about this passage today --

FIRST OF ALL, I would have like you to notice that love is**not an option** for followers of Jesus.  Jesus says, "A new*commandment* I give to you ..."  Not a suggestion, not a recommendation.  A **commandment**!

Why is it a commandment?  It is a commandment because there is a part of every one of us that rebels against the idea of pure, unconditional love.

Despite the example that almost every one of us received in the form of our Mother's love for us - there is a part of us that says such love is out of place in the world in which WE live.

There is a part of us that says -  sure, love is great - up to a point…

A man once described his father to me this way -- he told me that his father was a kind man - a generous man - a man who would do anything for his friends - but who could be exactly the opposite way if he didn't like you...

I thought that this description of this man was very sad - and after hearing it, I was upset.  I was upset for the son's sake -because I could tell that he knew that something wasn't quite right with his father - and I was upset for the father's sake -because he was already into his 70's and he hadn't yet learned what love is - I was upset for him - and lastly  I was upset for all the people whose lives he had failed to touch for God - for all the people who learned from him that they didn't matter - that they were unimportant.

I tell you about this man today because he is a perfect example of why Jesus commanded us to love one another - because without the command - and the particular nature of the command - that we love one another just as Jesus has loved us - many of us might end up thinking that it is enough - that it is good enough - to love your friends and your family and to hate, or despise, or simply ignore, everyone else. It is not. We are called to love others in the way the Christ loves us - We are called to love our brothers and sisters in thesame way that good parents love their children -

We are called to love without condition - to care for - and to pray for others - regardless of their attitude towards us- regardless of what they may or may not deserve - regardless of whether or not they are related to us by blood, or by ties of affection and common interest.

If I was asked today to explain the difference between liking and loving - I would say it lies in attitude.

Attitude is what makes liking and loving different from one another.

The attitude of obedience - and the attitude of gratitude -      - obedience to Christ's commandment to love as he loves,      to love even the sinners, - and gratitude that we have the opportunity to love others in the same way that Christ loves us - that he has allowed us to love others without condition or qualification.

Jesus commands us - he orders us - to love one another - just as he loves us.

THE SECOND THING I want to lift from today's gospel text is this:

Our ability to love is derived from our relationship with Christ.  "We love because he first loved us", says the Apostle John.   We can love because he loves us. Understanding this is critical to our ability to live out the Christian life of love.   It is critical to our ability to keep the only commandment that Jesus gave to us. My friends, love does not happen in a vacuum.   Love is something that is passed from one person to another. This is one reason Christian parents and particularly Christian mothers are so important.

A child who does not receive love, psychologists tell us, willnot be able to give love.  There will always be a void there--a terrible void that can never be filled. On the other hand, a child who has received the proper amount of nurturing as an infant and as a toddler will have a sense of security and trust that will last them all their lives.

This is also true about Christ's commandment to love.

If you try to keep Christ's commandment without first nurturing your relationship with him you are doomed to fail.  We draw our ability to love others in the way that Christ loves us from our connection to God.  We get it from the love that Christ can pour out upon us when we are in arelationship with him.  Without that connection - without that love - our faith is simply an exercise in noble living.   It has no real power to draw us out of ourselves and to centre us in others.

"A new commandment I give to you," said Jesus, “that you love one another.  As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.  By this will all people will      know that you are my disciples if you love one     another." We can keep the commandment to love one another as Christ loves us - only insofar as we open ourselves to Christ and allow his love to enter our lives -- and empower our lives.  We open our lives to Christ when we pray to him - when we immerse ourselves in his word - and when we gather together with others who believe to worship him and to fellowship and to work together for him in the world.

THE THIRD THING I would like to note about today's Gospel text is that love is the Christian's primary witness to the world.   Our husbands, our wives, our children, and our neighbours will know we are Christ's followers if we have alove for them and for everyone we meet.

We are to take the same standard of love that Christ commanded his disciples to apply to everyone and you are to apply it to all areas of our life, in our public and our private life.

We all have to have consistency in our relationships, I know of some people who treat their bosses and their fellow workers and their clients or their customers better than they treat members of their family. I recognize in these things that many of us need to hear the special word God has given us about loving everyone as Christ loves us.

We need to think about how Christ gave himself for us - how he served us - how he bent down and washed the feet of his disciples  - how he gave his time - his energy - his attention - to them  - and how for them - and everyone - he endured without protest - without fighting back false accusations - slander - and even injury unto death.

What makes your love for others different from the love that non-Christians show?  How do you love as Christ loves?

I read an article some time ago about a device that was on the market that looked like a smartphone. It was sold fornineteen dollars. It gave the appearance of the real thing, but it was totally fake.  It was for people who couldn’t afford areal cell telephone, but don't want their friends to know it. The amazing thing is that more than two hundred thousand people bought these fake phones.

A survey was done by a psychology professor.  The purpose of the survey was to find out what people think of those who wear eyeglasses.

Shoppers in a mall were asked to look at pictures of men and women with and without glasses and rate them according to certain characteristics. The results were quite interesting.  Men wearing glasses were considered more intelligent and more trustworthy than those without.

In the rating of women for intelligence, however, glasses made no difference.  But glasses did add an air of financial success to both sexes.  Women with glasses were generally considered more competent than those without glasses.  After the survey was completed, the professor bought himself a pair of fake eyeglass frames to wear at counselling sessions!  He wanted to look competent, too, I suppose.

There are a lot of fakes in this world my friends -but there are some things in life you cannot fake.  Love is one of them -- it has defining characteristics - the characteristics of Christ - and it produces a fruit that cannot be mistaken - a fruit that keeps on growing and spreading - and changing your family - changing your friends - changing your world-changing yourvery life...it produces love -and joy and peace and patience and faithfulness and gentleness and self-control.

How do people know that you are disciples of Jesus? How will people know that you are not being a ‘fake christian’?

By this they will know you are my disciples - says Jesus - “if you have love for one another.”

The Apostles’ Creed​p. 189

Prayers of the People  # 15​p. 122

**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**​*One Bread, One Body, One Lord of All (vs 1 & 3)*​# 73

Offertory Response ​**Doxology**(sung)

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

**Prayer over the Gifts:**Gracious God, you show us your way and give us your divine life. May everything we do be directed by the knowledge of your truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord**.Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer  # 2  ​p. 196

The Lord’s Prayer​p. 211

Breaking of the Bread  # 8​p. 213

Communion

**Prayer After Communion:**God of love, in this eucharist we have heard your truth and shared in your life. May we always walk in your way, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Glory to God​p. 214

Blessing

**Mission Hymn**​*Where Cross the Crowded Ways (vs 1 & 6)* ​# 592

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 blue hymn book)

*The****Flowers on the Altar****today are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Albert, a gift f Betty and family. .*

**News and Events**

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Please send all announcements for the bulletin **by 10:00 a.m. Tuesday** of each week.  E-mail:canondavis@gmail.com or call:  (519) 344-9531.

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If you would like to speak with Rev’d Paul Woolley, he can be reached at 519-464-2055 or Email:paul@woolley.com.

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Please join us for **Coffee Hour**after service for a time of fellowship in the parish hall. **Volunteers for coffee goodies are needed.  Please see the sign up sheet at the back of the church.**

**Upcoming Events:**

**Reminders**:

**May 18**​**Drive In Take Out BBQ Chicken Dinner** – Cost Adults $20.00

​​​​Children  $12.00 Call 519 344-9531 to place your order.

**May 25**​**Parish Council Meeting 10:00 a.m. in the Boardroom**

**May 28** ​**Sew/Craft Day** 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.