

Canon Davis Memorial Church

Anglican Church of Canada

May 1, 2022 — Third Sunday of Easter

'The Draught of Fishes' by James Tissot

Holy Eucharist Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Rev'd Paul Woolley assisted by John Hayter

Dorothy Miller - Organist

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

Tel: (519) 344-9531 - Email: canondavis@gmail.com – <http://www.canondavis.com>

Gathering Hymn *For the Beauty of the Earth (vs 1 & 5)#429*

Greeting p. 185

Kyrie Eleison p. 186

Collect of the Day: O God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, 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 Acts 9: 1-6

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 30: "You have brought me up, O Lord, from the dead." p. 739

2nd reading Revelations 5: 11-14

A READING FROM THE REVELATION TO JOHN

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might forever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell

**down and worshipped.
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn *Jesus Call Us O'er the Tumult (vs 1 & 5)# 432*
Gospel John 21: 1-19

Sermon

Saul heard a voice from heaven. It was Jesus, whom he had been persecuting. It came suddenly, and a light from heaven flashed around him. The experience was so intense that Saul fell to the ground. The light was so strong that he was blinded.

After his encounter with the light and the voice, Saul's life was changed forever. Like Jacob after wrestling with an angel, even his name was changed.

At his baptism, Saul regained his sight and took his new name. Saul the persecutor became Paul the advocate. Voices from heaven change everything.

John heard voices from heaven. John journeyed into heaven and saw it all. How he survived such a startling vision is surprising. John stood among the four living creatures, the angels, the elders – there were myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands. John heard them singing praises.

And then he hears “every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea”. Who could stand such glory? Who could endure the sound of everything that exists singing in full voice?

John shared his vision with the Church, and none of us have been the same since. Now we sing in Liturgy many of the songs John told us about. Now we hope to be in that number that praises the Lamb for eternity. Voices from heaven change everything.

In today's world, if we reported hearing voices from heaven we would be suspected of fanaticism or mental instability. We know that nowadays folks don't hear voices from heaven.

But wait; maybe we do hear voices from heaven. Maybe we encounter voices and visions of heaven every day and just don't notice them.

We religious people, because we are rooted in scriptures that tell miraculous stories, expect our words and visions from God to come in flashes of light and thundering sound. And because these supernatural things are not seen and experienced, we don't expect them anymore.

But maybe these voices and visions are right in front of us.

In the Gospel today, Peter and the apostles hear a voice from heaven. It is the resurrected Christ. This voice from heaven isn't flashy or loud. The voice they hear tells them not to give up on catching fish. The voice they hear tells them “Come and have breakfast”.

What a scene: the risen Lord, the King of the Universe, the Alpha and the Omega, sitting on the beach making breakfast. Yes, it is miraculous that the apostles encounter their risen teacher. Yes, it is miraculous that they catch so many fish that they can't hold them all. But amid the miracles is simplicity. Amid these miracles is everyday life.

This is where Christ meets us now. He meets us in the movements of our life. We need to eat; we need to work. And the risen Christ is there among us. God chose to come among us, and even after the miracle of the resurrection, God chose to make us breakfast.

In the Collect for today, we remember that the “blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread”. We prayed that God would “open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work”. Thus we prayed that God would open our eyes to what is right in front of us.

This is Incarnation: God appearing where we would never expect it. It starts with Advent in that encounter between Mary and Gabriel. It continues with the birth in the manger.

Jesus Christ is part of everything we do. Our life is a miracle. Our life is a prayer.

The creation around us is also a prayer. We miss this all the time in our busyness and weariness.

Look down to the ground and see grass and gravel: there's God.

Look up to the stars: there's God. Look out among the people and buildings and trees: there's God.

Look at the person next to you: there's God.

It isn't that God is the gravel or grass, but the gravel and grass are infused with the creative love of God. It is that God in Christ was incarnate with creation in the form of a human being.

After the resurrection, Christ could have entered the cities and byways in glory and light. He could have amazed the crowds and gotten more people to take seriously what the apostles were preaching. But he didn't. He kept entering into everyday life. Everyday life is blessed.

From Christ's birth to death, the Holy One is submitting to earthliness. Even at his Transfiguration, he stands in a glorious vision with Elijah and Moses and speaks of his impending crucifixion. The Alpha and Omega, who could "take over" the universe, always remain grounded.

Where are our voices from heaven? Where are our visions of glory? They are right in front of us. They are in creation. On this day as the secular calendar commemorates Earth Day, we raise our voices to thank God for creation.

We remember that seeing a stream, a forest, a tiny garden in our backyard deserves a certain reverence. God's creation deserves our love and respect.

God speaks to us now through earthly elements. In Christ, God chose bread, wine, and water to ground us in divine love. In water, we are baptized and brought back to life and given back our inner sight. And like Paul, after we are given back our spiritual vision and washed in that water, we are given something to eat.

God in Christ is known to us in the breaking of the bread. In the Holy Eucharist, we enter into the divine mysteries where somehow Christ is really present.

Water, wine, and bread are the essence of human life. God is present to us in the essence of human life.

God in Christ is feeding us. What could be more earthly than being hungry and being fed? Christ is feeding us.

In our Gospel, Christ puts Peter to the test. He asks him three times if he loves him, and each time he instructs Peter to take care of the people: feed them and tend to them.

The third time Christ asks the question, Peter is hurt. But Peter had denied Christ three times. He needs to make amends for that denial. Christ is rooting Peter in the Christian mission: feed and tend to the people. It's about the people. It's about feeding and caring for souls, and it's all right in front of us.

In the first chapter of Acts, as Christ is ascending into Heaven, two men in white robes appear and say to those gathered: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven?

Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven". In other words: "Don't stand here gazing up forever. Go on your way and proclaim the Gospel".

This is exactly where we can get caught: gazing up to heaven, waiting for a miracle. Life itself is a miracle. Everyday stuff is the prayer. It all goes together, and it is all a light from heaven.

When we come to realize this, then we will be changed forever. When we take time to recognize the beauty of the earth, and the blessedness of those around us, then we will be changed forever.

The Apostles' Creed p. 189

Prayers of the People # 15p. 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 *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service (vs 1 & 3)* # 585

Offertory Response **Doxology** (sung)

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Prayer over the Gifts: Creator of all, you wash away our sins in water, you give us new birth by the Spirit, and redeem us in the blood of Christ. As we celebrate the resurrection, renew your gift of life within us. 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: Author of life divine, in the breaking of bread we know the risen Lord. Feed us always in these mysteries, that we may show your glory to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Glory to God p. 214

Blessing

Mission Hymn *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say (vs 1 & 3)* # 508

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 loving memory of Lois and Harry Turner, a gift of their children Carol, Chris and Blair and families.* **News and Events**

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.**

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Spring Cleaning of Canon Davis Memorial. If you are available to help, please call Karen at 519-344-9531.

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A tisket a tasket, we've lost some of our baskets. The Chancel Guild is trying to locate 5 of our flower baskets that are used for our Easter Lilies or Poinsettias. If you happen to have one, would you kindly please return it to the church.

Upcoming Events:

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May 28 Sew/Craft Day 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cost: \$20.00 Lunch Provided. To reserve a space please **call Carol Turner** at 519-384-3015.

Reminders:

May 14 Spring Cleaning Day at Canon Davis 10:00 a.m.

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