

**Canon Davis Memorial Church  
Anglican Church of Canada  
Sunday, July 30, 2023 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

*Officiant—Rev'd Jon Forbes*

*Assisted By — Bill Graham*

*Prayers of the People - Ginny Schleihauf*

*Organist—Dorothy Miller*

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

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**Prelude**

**Announcements**

**THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY**

**Sentence**

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

*John 6: 68*

**Opening Hymn #378**

***Crown Him with Many Crowns***

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

**And also with you.**

Almighty God, **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Glory to God in the highest, **and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Collect of the Day**

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**1st Reading:** Genesis 29: 15-28

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

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" Laban said, "This is not done in our country - giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years." Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 105: 1-11, 45c** (*to be read responsively*)

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples.

**Sing to him, sing praises to him, and speak of all his marvellous works.**

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Search for the Lord and his strength; continually seek his face. Remember the marvels he has done, his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,

**O offspring of Abraham his servant, O children of Jacob his chosen.**

He is the Lord our God; his judgements prevail in all the world.

**He has always been mindful of his covenant, the promise he made for a thousand generations:**

The covenant he made with Abraham, the oath that he swore to Isaac, which he established as a statute for Jacob, an everlasting covenant for Israel, saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan to be your allotted inheritance."

**Hallelujah!**

**2nd Reading:**Romans 8: 26-39

### **A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS**

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn # 461**  
***Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus***

**Gospel**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Matthew 13: 31-33; 44-52

The Gospel of Christ.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Sermon:**

Welcome back to the ongoing story in the Gospel of Matthew where Jesus tells parables about the Kingdom of God. Remember that parables are little stories that take something we know about and teach something about the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven. It is a uniquely Jesus thing to do.

Today we get a few different parables, most of which I am sure you have heard before the kingdom is like a mustard seed, it is like yeast, it is like a treasure that can be buried and it is also like a pearl. All small things that have big potential.

The kingdom is also like a net full of fish that needs to be sorted. The kingdom can also be said to be like old and new treasures that are meant to be put on display. Six different ideas that you might be familiar with, I'm going to go ahead and assume that there is an image here that works for you. What do you know about, what are your favourite kinds of stories and how might Jesus turn that into a parable about the kingdom? A little homework for you to do.

The first four images share the trait of being small but mighty. We begin with the mustard seed. It was the smallest seed known in the region, but it could grow into a rather lush—and large—bush (almost treelike!) that was solid enough for bird nests. Unimpressive at its origin, *like a baby born in a stable*, the mustard seed will become a home for many living things. So it is that the Kingdom of God welcomes many into the security of its branches.

Likewise, just a small amount of yeast, as it is mixed and made indistinguishable (hidden) in the flour, will make the dough rise. It is such an effective image of change that, based on the biblical imagery, during the sixteenth-century English language usage “leaven” began to be associated with anything that “produces profound change by progressive inward operation; a pervasive influence that transforms something” (*Oxford English Dictionary*). As Jesus himself notes to his disciples, “Watch out and beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” Matthew 16.6 The yeast and its leavening effect can be good formation or malformation; not all inner transformation is Kingdom transformation. But! Even a small amount of goodness and hope, a small dose of the Kingdom, has the ability to spread itself throughout our lives and leaven or change, our entire existence... not to mention how much others might enjoy us! *Like believing that just a touch of his cloak is enough to heal us...*

Then there's the treasure that is found and then purposefully hidden in a field. The treasure-keeper decides that this treasure is worth keeping safe and so they do whatever they must to be able to buy the field in which they have hidden the treasure. In order to preserve this seemingly small treasure (they are able to bury it without much toil, it seems), they sell everything they have in order to own the field.

Jesus is transitioning our focus from the small-beginnings-but-big-impact of his Kingdom to a sense of its priceless value. Once we've gotten to experience it, we'll want to hold onto it—if we know what we've got. Apparently, burying precious things was a common practice, so it was quite possible that you could be walking around (and over) priceless things all the time, completely unaware. And isn't that what the Kingdom of God is like? Us, walking around and missing its presence all the time? We miss out because we cannot see what is waiting just below the surface of things, both in our own lives and all around us. *Like the little children that the disciples tried to keep from Jesus, the Kingdom belongs to those we do not have the eyes to see.* If we knew what we were missing, we'd run to secure it so that we'd never miss out ever again.

The last comparison of the Kingdom to a small thing is to the pearl. Here, the one who searches for it is rewarded, though they still have to invest in order to enjoy it. But, the merchant knows what they are looking for, knows how much it is worth, and is ready and willing to give up everything else in order to keep the pearl of great value. *Like Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”* (John 6.68-69)

The yeast and the mustard seed imagery remind us that the Kingdom has a powerful transformative effect. The way that the treasure in the field and the pearl are bought through the willingness to part with everything else of earthly value, reminds us that God's Kingdom is not of this world and requires thorough commitment and sacrifice, and here is the hard part - putting away of the old self so that the transformed new self can thrive.

The final comparison makes one more turn and helps us look at the Kingdom from a new perspective. Thus far, the images have helped us take an *internal* look, but the net draws our attention to the death and resurrection reality of the Kingdom (just like the parable of the wheat and the weeds last week). Here, we are told that the Kingdom is a big ol' net which doesn't care what it catches and impacts with its goodness and transformative presence in the here and now. The time will come (on judgement day) when the good and the bad stuff will all be sorted and whatever does not belong in the Kingdom of God will be dealt with. But for now, whoever gets caught up in its movement, gets caught up in its movement.

It is the thing that I love about the church and the community that makes it up. You never know who you are going to find, anyone can get caught up in the net. Sure, a time will come when God will sort us all out, but until then, it is our job to sow the seeds, like the sower, or more properly THE sower. Wiley niley. As far as you can throw them. Talk about the kingdom, invite people in, and be transformed in the process. Amen

#### **The Apostles' Creed:**

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

**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 let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy.")

For the peace from on high and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our bishops, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For Charles our King, for the leaders of the nations, and for all authority, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For Sarnia, for every city and community, and for those who live in them in faith, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For good weather, and for abundant harvests for all to share, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel by land, water, or air, for the sick and the suffering (especially), for prisoners and captives, and for their safety, health, and salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offences, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died (especially ), let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Remembering (... and) all the saints, we commit ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

**To you, O Lord.**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications to you, and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together you will hear their requests. Fulfil now our desires and petitions, as may be best for us, granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come eternal life; for you, Father, are good and loving, and we glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, in the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

#### **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:**

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

**The Confession:** 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.**

**Absolution:** Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**Offertory Hymn # 628**

*O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High*

**Prayer over the Gifts**

**God of grace, accept all we offer you this day, as we look toward the glory you have promised. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Eucharist Prayer #4**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right to give you thanks and praise, O Lord, our God, sustainer of the universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home; by your will they were created and have their being.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill; you made us the stewards of creation.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

But we turn against you, and betray your trust; and we turn against one another. Again and again you call us to return. Through the prophets and sages you reveal your righteous law. In the fullness of time you sent your Son, born of a woman, to be our Saviour. He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities. By his death he opened to us the way of freedom and peace.

**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said, "Take this, and eat it: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup of wine; he gave you thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”  
**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

**The Lord’s Prayer:**

**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.**

**Breaking of the Bread:**

“I am the bread which has come down from heaven,” says the Lord.  
**Give us this bread for ever.**

“I am the vine, you are the branches.”  
**May we dwell in him, as he lives in us.**

**The Communion**

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Prayer after Communion**

**God of grace, we have received the memorial of the death and resurrection of your Son. May your love, poured into us, bring us to your promises. We ask this in the name of our Redeemer Jesus Christ.**

**Doxology**

Glory to God,  
**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.**

**Recessional Hymn # 210**

***Yours Be the Glory, Risen, Conquering Son***

**Blessing**

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his son Jesus Christ and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and those you love for ever more. **Amen.**

**Benediction Song**

***Go Now in Peace***

*(found in the back of the blue hymn book)*

**Dismissal**

***The flowers on the Altar today are given to the Glory of God from Sally and Rev Ray Jenkins in memory of our parents, Marion and Manley Samson, and Doris and Newton Jenkins and Aunt Alice Jenkins***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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



**CANON DAVIS MEMORIAL CHURCH  
UPDATE AS OF JUNE 30, 2023**

The members of Canon Davis Memorial have had a very busy first half of the year. We have all been fundraising for ACW, pie making and we held two delicious luncheons and a Strawberry Social. The Sew Day group was busy with their monthly luncheons and activities and the Ways & Means with their monthly dinners and raffles.

We have had the continued support from our tenants with their rental incomes. Through our current giving's we have reached 49% of our goal.

Fundraising in our community for London Rd School Playground Equipment has been successful. Through monthly Meat Raffles so far **\$1680.00 has been raised.**

CDM is sending two youth to Camp Huron from London Rd School. The Lambton Deanery, CDM's Ladies Guild and CDM have covered the cost of camp for these two youth.

Everyone has worked very hard these past six months to support their church. As of the end of June we have brought in a total of **\$55,700.93.**

**We thank you!**

Our expenses unfortunately have increased due to a huge increase to our annual insurance costs, major maintenance for the organ repairs and the boiler system. Along with our monthly expenses in Repair & Maintenance and Utilities which have increased as well. Due to increasing cost, it has left us with a total of **\$67,258.24.** This leaves us with a deficit of (\$11,557.31). With all that said, we feel we remain in a good financial position.

On a lighter note, we have had new members join CDM. We have celebrated the retirement of Rev Ray Jenkins and the Installation of a new licensed lay reader, Ginny Schleihauf. We have also been able to fill the position of Deputy Rector's Warden which had been vacant for a couple of years with Ginny Schleihauf. We have had two baptisms, the great grandchildren of Doug and Shirley Frew. We also had a wedding at CDM between Wendy Vicary and Greg Baker.

Last but far from least, CDM has been blessed with our new minister, Rev'd Jon Forbes. It has been a wonderful two months already. Parish Council is so pleased with all the great comments from parishioners. Jon is truly a joyous addition to our family. Let us continue to move forward as a loving, caring and hospitable church in Sarnia.

God Bless 🙏  
Carol Spence, John Hayter and  
Sheree Lynn Hayter

**NEWS AND EVENTS**

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).

If you would like a home visit with Communion, please contact the office as a Lay Visitor will be available in the coming weeks.

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

**Upcoming Events:**

**Reminders**

**15 Sept ... 7:00 p.m. Free Concert All Saints Anglican Church: An Evening of Music in Memory of Eleanor Vargo.**