

**Canon Davis Memorial Church
Anglican Church of Canada
Sunday, September 3, 2023 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Worship Service: Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Officiant—Rev'd Jon Forbes

Assisted By —John Hayter

Organist—Dorothy Miller

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

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Prelude

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Sentence

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, that we may know what is the hope to which he has called us.

Ephesians 1:17, 18

Processional Hymn # 1

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty

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

Author and Giver of all good things, graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us in all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

1st Reading: Exodus 3: 1-15

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain." But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 105: 1-6, 23-26 45C

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.

Israel came into Egypt, and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham. The Lord made his people exceedingly fruitful; he made them stronger than their enemies; Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people, and dealt unjustly with his servants. He sent Moses his servant, and Aaron whom he had chosen.

Hallelujah!

2nd Reading:Romans 12: 9-21

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn # 435

Take My Life, and Let it Be

Gospel

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 16: 21-28

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Peter is a rock star! He gets his head so puffed up by what Jesus has said about him to others that he thinks he can just talk to the messiah any way he wants! As if Jesus wasn't the leader, but Peter was. Let's just be clear about the scripture today. Jesus is in charge. And he gets to say what is and what isn't.

You can understand Peter's problem, remember he is the top disciple not because he is the best, but because he is enthusiastic! When someone calls me a rock, I usually think they are referring to my ability to be steadfast and strong. Qualities I am rather proud of in my own character. And Peter probably was a great comfort to Jesus and definitely a worthy companion on the journey, we all need a friend like Peter. But Jesus meant that compliment in a totally different way. He actually wanted to build the church on his back, throughout his life. The keys of the kingdom were his. Matthew is signalling to us the readers that the end is coming, and we should pay attention!

Not that Peter wasn't ready to rise to the challenge, he was. Blessed by Jesus, he gets the message loud and clear about the end times and the suffering that will happen. Peter being the enthusiastic fellow he is, he tries to cheer Jesus up. Don't worry be happy. You can almost hear Peter thinking, "You're the Messiah, for crying out loud! You're not going to lose. We've got this game wrapped up!"

But Jesus is serious, he knows what God has planned for the future, and his words are confident. Peter is less confident but he knows what he doesn't want to happen. You can't blame Peter he is looking out for his friend, the messiah. No one wants to see their friends suffer and die. What is all

this talk of being raised up, the disciples never do figure out what Jesus means by that. Peter is thinking of military might and a change in the government. The same thing everyone in history thinks it means.

So Jesus rebukes Peter, not for the last time. You see in the story the parallel between the way Peter is talking about victory and the way the devil tries to tempt Jesus (Matt 4. 10). That is why Jesus tells Peter to get behind him. No one should want to win that way.

Power has a price and what price that is matters. Don't pay the devil. If Jesus listens to Peter now and goes against the will of God in order to annihilate the threat of his own suffering and take the easy way out, he would succumb to the tempter's wager. No, Jesus must keep his own mind on the things of God and lead his disciples in doing the same. Ever been tempted like that?

Peter, like you and I have a place in the world. We all do. Peter's place was as a *follower* of Jesus Christ. We get this loud and clear in the second part of the reading today. Rock of faith vs. stumbling block of the gospel. We have to live like Jesus, for Jesus. the Great Commission tells us clearly that Jesus builds his church through discipleship ("Teaching them everything I have commanded you..."). But discipleship is nothing if it is not acted on. You actually have to get out of your comfy pew and follow Jesus. Not to worry you are not going alone. You've got the Holy Spirit!

So, here you are puffed up like Peter to believe that you can do anything even talk back to Jesus. When you discover the true meaning of life, is to *continuously* follow him. This will mean sacrifice and learning new ways for what really matters; it will mean changing our views, lifestyles, and interactions so that we don't run away from what is hard or uncomfortable or challenging, or provokes our fears. It will mean being honest about our experiences so that we can discern whether what we are enduring is the will of God or something else—whether we are losing something for the sake of Christ or acting selfishly for ourselves in some way. For that is the way of the devil, and we are for Jesus.

We know the end of the story, we know Jesus is coming back. Filled with blessing and honour and glory for those that follow. Or, will we learn on God's judgment day that we pushed and pushed for the kind of life that we thought we wanted, but that led to chaos, despair and shame.

It all comes down to choice. Whom do you follow? You follow all kinds of things. The things you love. Will it be power? Or will it be Jesus? You decide! It is the great gift of God that we all get a say in how the world turns out. You get that choice every single day. "As for me and my house, I will follow the Lord", as Joshua reminds us.

So as you come to the table once again, take a moment to remind yourself of who you follow, and what that means on a daily basis. With a whole room of folks recommitted to follow Jesus. The devil doesn't stand a chance.

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

As We Gather at Your Table

Prayer over the Gifts

Merciful God, receive all we offer you this day. Give us grace to love one another that your love may be made perfect in us. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Eucharist Prayer

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.

**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.

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before

you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,

“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, 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.”

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

we remember his death,

we proclaim his resurrection,

we await his coming in glory;

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation,

the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

Creator of all, you gave us golden fields of wheat, whose many grains we have gathered and made into this one bread.

So may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer after Communion

Almighty God, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. May your holy food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 # 537
In the Cross of Christ I Glory

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.**

Dismissal

Benediction Song *Go Now in Peace*

The flowers on the Altar today are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Good Friends, Marjorie and David Ashcroft and Jean and Jim Bell, a gift of Bill Graham.

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

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.

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.

Four Sundays are still available for anyone who would like to provide flowers for the altar. The Sundays are: the 4th Sunday of March, 4th Sunday of June, 2nd Sunday of August, and 2nd Sunday of September. If you would like to provide flowers please contact Seonaid Laidlaw.

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, October 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.

Happy Birthday to Joanna Hayter, Camryn Carroll and Isla Goulding from all your friends at Canon Davis Memorial Church.

Thank you to all the volunteers who provided coffee and treats for CDM's morning coffee hour in July and August. It was much appreciated by all. Thank you.

Upcoming Events:

On Sunday September 10, please welcome **Christine Wright** of the **Alzheimer Society of Sarnia Lambton**. Christine will join us during coffee hour as our special guest speaker. Please plan to join us for this special presentation.

Once again, on **September 20**, we start the fall season with CDM's delicious "**Fish Dinner**". For reservations or take-out orders, please call 519 344 9531. Cost: Adults \$20.00

Sew Days are coming back to CDM. Saturday September 23, and **Saturday October 28** from 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m. Cost \$20.00 and lunch is provided. To sign up, please call Carol Turner at 519 384 3015

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

Reminders

10 Sept Coffee Hour presentation— Alzheimer's Society

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

20 Sept. Fish Dinner – Parish Hall

23 Sept Sew Days 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

27 Sept Parish Council Meeting 10:00 a.m. Boardroom

1 Oct Harvest Home Freewill Thanksgiving Breakfast