**Canon Davis Memorial Church**

*Anglican Church of Canada*

**22nd May 2022 – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

***Jesus Healing at the Pool of Bethesda***

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

Officiant – Ginny Schleihauf

Organist – Dorothy Miller

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

(519) 344-9531 – Email: canondavis@gmail.com

 **BCP Morning Prayer**

**Opening Hymn***For the Healing of the Nations (vs 1&2)*​**# 576**

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​Acts 16: 9-15

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was saidby Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 67​ ​   BCPp. 409

2nd Reading​Revelation 21: 10, 22-22:5

A READING FROM THE REVELATION TO JOHN
And in the spirit, an angel carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day - and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be

in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel​John 5: 1-9

Benedictus​p.  9

The Apostles’ Creed​p. 10

Versicles​p. 10

The Lord’s Prayer​p. 11

Responses​p. 11

**Collect of the Day   Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you riches beyond imagination. Pour into our hearts such love toward you, that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  Amen.**

Collect for Peace​​​​​​​​​​​​​​p. 11

Collect for Grace​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​​p. 11

**Offertory Hymn *Breathe on Me, Breath of God***​#**649**

**Offertory Response**   *All Things Come of Thee*

Sermon​​ ​​​

For many years the site of this pool, Beth-say-ta,in Jerusalem was lost, covered with the debris of many centuries; but about 20 years ago it was discovered and excavated. (I was in Jerusalemshortly after the porticoes or porches to this poolwere discovered.) The pool is located to the north part of the Temple Mount, near what is now called St. Stephen's Gate, which is, in fact, the site of the Sheep Gate mentioned in today’s Gospel. In these porches, set at various levels around the pool, during Jesus time it was the habit of many to gather during feast days, hoping for a healing miracle.

In any Bible, other than the King James Version, we will notice that Verse 4 is missingin chapter 5 of today’s Gospel. Many versions include the verse in a footnote which explains why these people were there. They believed in a rather superstitious way that from time to time when the water was “stirred up”-- when it would rise rapidly and then sink again -- that this was caused by an angel who visited the pool, and the first man who got into it when it was “stirred up” would be healed.

The facts, of course, are that the pool of Beth-say-ta, like many similar pools in the Jerusalem area, is an intermittent spring. At times water is released in surges from hidden reservoirs in the hills around the city of Jerusalem, causing these springs to rise and fall suddenly. This is what gave rise to the superstition about an angel stirring up the pool. Undoubtedly healings did occur there. Even today healings take place in these special areas where people will go, believing they can be healed. When people believe they are going to be healed, and they are in a place where healings have occurred, manyare cured. Thus the pool at Beth-say-ta had established a reputation as a place where people could be healed.

If ever we are tempted to think that God’s healing depends on the quality or quantity of a person’s faith, this passage offers a strong corrective. The man whom Jesus heals shows no sign of faith in Jesus, or of gratitude for what Jesus has done for him. Later in the chapter we see that when confronted by the religious authorities about carrying his mat on the Sabbath, he deflects blame to the man who healed him, whose name he has not even bothered to learn. And when he meets Jesus again and learns his name, he immediately tells the authorities the identity of the man they seek. Perhaps the man thinks that if the authorities go after Jesus, they will leave him alone.

The man, although made well, seems blind to the power and presence of God in Jesus and more concerned about his standing with those in positions of earthly power. He wastes no time in reporting Jesus’ identity to the authorities, presumably knowing that they will turn their judgment on Jesus. The good that Jesus does is met not with faith or gratitude, but with persecution. Yet Jesus continues doing the life-giving work of his Father, regardless of the consequences.

One might wonder why Jesus chose this particular man to heal out of all the invalids lying around the pool of Beth-say-ta. It seems like he could have made a better choice! Yet here we see that the compassion and healing power of Jesus are not reserved only for those who are “deserving” — for those whose faith is great and who respond to healing by believing in and following Jesus. Certainly Jesus heals such people also. But here Jesus heals one whose lack of faith leads him to cooperate with those who would later persecute him.

John’s Gospel does not answer the question of why certain people are healed and others are not. But this passage makes it clear that healing is not a matter of having “enough” faith (as if that could be measured), because this is not how Jesus operates. Clearly he does not heal for the benefits to himself in gratitude or praise or devotion. He heals people simply because this is the work of God the Father through him. (John 5:17).

John’s Gospel tells us from the beginning that “no one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known” (John 1:18). The God whom Jesus makes known is a God who does not discriminate in giving good gifts, a God who wills that ***all*** may have life, and have it abundantly (10:10).

Amen

**Sermon Hymn** *God, Whose Almighty Word*#**560**

Prayer for the Queen and Commonwealth p. 12

Prayer for the Clergy and People.           p. 13

Prayer for All Conditions of Mortals ​​p. 14

General Thanksgiving ​​​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.**

**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

Announcements

**Closing Hymn***Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*(vs 1 & 2)​#**585**

Dismissal

Officiant ​Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People​​**Thanks be to God.**

**Sung Benediction**​***Go Now in Peace***

​*(Found in the back of the blue hymn book)*

The **Flowers on the Altar** this morning are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Chuck Curran, a gift of his wife, Marion and children.

**NEWS AND EVENTS**

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Please send all announcements for the bulletin to Karen by **10:00 a.m. Tuesday** of each week. E-mail:canondavis@gmail.com.  Or Call: 519-344-9531.

·

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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A huge **thank you** **to all the volunteers** who came out for CDM’s Clean Up Day Saturday May 14th.  What a difference you have made!  Thank you.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Wednesday, June 22**

**LADIES LUNCH GET TOGETHER**

**OLIVE’S AT 12:00  NOON**

A GET TOGETHER for all the ladies (members, volunteers & friends) of Canon Davis Memorial Church. We used to do this in the past and thought it would be nice to bring this tradition back again. It was always nice to sit around, chat and have someone wait on us. No cooking or cleaning-up required. It has been some time since some of us have seen each other.

We need to let Olive's know our head count on Thursday, June 16th. Also, if on the day of the luncheon you are unable to attend please let Carol Mercurio know. We need to confirm our head count that morning. If you require a ride to and from Olive's please let us know and a ride will be available. Please contact​:

Carol Mercurio at 519-491-9319 or Karen in Office at 519-344-9531.

Praying everyone will be able to make it out for this relaxing and fun event. See you there.

**Reminders**:

**May 25**​​Parish Council Meeting in the boardroom.