

Canon Davis Memorial Church
Anglican Church of Canada

July 23, 2023 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Service: Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Officiant: Bill Graham
Organist: Donna Taylor

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Sunday July 23, 2023—Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (BCP) p.4

Opening Hymn # 572
Let There Be Light

Greeting

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Exhortationp. 4
General Confessionp. 4
Absolutionp. 5
The Lord's Prayerp. 5
Responsesp. 6
Venitep. 6

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

1st ReadingGenesis 28: 10-19A

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place - and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 139: 1-11, 22-23 BCPp. 509-511

2nd Reading Romans 8: 12-25

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh - for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ - if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience

The Word of the Lord

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Benedictus p. 9

The Apostles' Creed p. 10

Versicles p. 10

The Lord's Prayer p. 11

Responses p. 11

Collect of the Day Almighty God, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence. Give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives 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 # 576

For the Healing of the Nations

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

Sermon

Many of us are familiar with the tagline of a credit card company that asks, "What is in your wallet?"

This implies that their credit card should be there. What we carry in our physical wallet can tell a lot about who we are as a person. Where you live, where/how you spend your money, organizations to which you belong can all be determined by what is in your wallet. Similarly, in the parable of the weeds, it seems that Jesus is asking the crowd- "What is in your spiritual wallet?" There is a choice to be made and Jesus' teaching in the chapter is intended to serve as an advertisement for the Kingdom of God. The parable of the weeds is the second parable in Jesus' third teaching unit in the Gospel of Matthew.

In both the preceding and following parables Jesus employs the genre of teaching about the kingdom of heaven. The Kingdom of God is the focus of Jesus' teaching. Reference to the Kingdom of heaven is unique to the Gospel of Matthew. In this Gospel, the kingdom of Heaven delineates differences between the realm of God's kingdom and the Kingdom of the Roman emperor. The people of the first century Mediterranean would have experienced it, the emperor's kingdom is on earth. The Kingdom of Heaven is where God reigns. The act of Jesus coming into the earth represents them in breaking of God's kingdom on earth.

In the first Gospel from last week about the Sower, when anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart, this is what was sown on the path. What was sown on the rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy. Such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among the thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. What was sown on good soil, is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty and in another thirty.

Thus, this makes the gospel a political document as the writer is proposing an alternative understanding of the world, one that would oppose the political leaders of this time. Which kingdom will prevail? Whose empire will you participate in? One must choose their allegiance -to God or to the emperor. This is attested to the parable today.

Jesus begins by telling the crowd, "The Kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everyone slept, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away." Right away, the crowd is alerted to the fact that there is opposition to the kingdom of heaven, there is an enemy who seeks to do harm. Things such as "us versus them" or "body or soul" "savage versus civilized", or good versus evil" are ways in which we attempt to distill our world into two realms. Doing this results in the us losing the ability to see the collective best interests and common goals. This is really evident today with the political decisions in the political scene in the U. S. A. Such distinctions often overshadow the shared desire to identify with common good of all citizens and result in conflict that can easily escalate into violence.

Evidence of dividing our world into two is found in this parable. Jesus teaches let them grow together until harvest then collect the weeds first and have them burned and then gather the wheat and put it in his barn. Growing them together prevents the demise of the other. Likewise, our tendency to split our world into two-believers and non-believers or saints and sinners is not useful. We are in this world together and must grow together whether it is our planet, our country, our community, or our congregation, we must grow together and allow the Great Judge, God, to do the separating in God's own time. We need to acknowledge that we need each other to survive.

Matthew alludes to the diversity that can be found in the kingdom of heaven. We need to be careful not to replicate the hierarchical and oppressive system from the kingdom of earth into the kingdom of heaven. In this teaching unit, Jesus provides further explanation to his disciples. However, this time, he is prompted by them asking him to explain the parable. He tells them, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the angels are the reapers. The harvest belongs to the Son of Man. We are the fruit of Christ's labour. The angels collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers and they will throw them into the furnace of fire where there will be weeping and

gnashing of teeth. We must learn that actions have consequences, if one sows hatred and discord that is what one will reap.

We must acknowledge that the causes of sin are not simply our personal struggles, but more so our societal ills. The causes of poverty-war, greed, selfishness, etc.- are sin. It is not for us to judge one another or to separate ourselves from each other. If our spiritual wallet is to contain a license issued by the kingdom of God, we must live peacefully, and compassionately with all, recognize that we are necessary for each other to survive.

Sermon Hymn # 434

The Love of Jesus Calls Us

Prayer for the King and Commonwealthp. 12

Prayer for the Clergy and Peoplep. 13

Prayer for All Conditions of Mortalsp. 14

General Thanksgiving (*said by all*)p. 14

Prayer of Saint Chrysostomp. 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.

The Gracyp. 15

Closing Hymn # 577

God of Grace and God of Glory

Dismissal

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People**Thanks be to God.**

Sung Benediction**Howard's Blessing** (vs. 1-2)

The Flowers on the Altar today are given to the Glory of God, and in loving memory of Brian George and his parents Ken and Ev George, a gift of the Family.

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 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:

On Friday September 15, at 7:00 p.m. All Saints Anglican church is hosting a Free Concert: An Evening of Music in Memory of Eleanor Vargo.

Featuring: St. George's Choir, Georgian Singers, Wavesong Vocal Ensemble, Bluewater Chordsmen, Ollie Case on the organ, Mark Blayney on the guitar and more...

**Congratulations To Wendy and Greg Baker
On their Marriage Saturday, July 15, 2023
from All their friends at Canon Davis Memorial Church**