

Canon Davis Memorial Church
Anglican Church of Canada
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
27th August, 2023

We Come and worship God.
We go our way with souls nourished.

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August 27, 2023 — Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Service of the Word

Processional Hymn # 532
What a Friend We Have in Jesus

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

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together on the Lord's Day to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing. Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past, and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Officiant: Dear friends in Christ, as we turn our hearts and minds to worship almighty God, let us confess our sins.

People: 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.

Officiant: Merciful God, grant to us, your faithful people, pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Officiant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us reconcile to God and one another a sign of Christ's peace.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, we are taught by your word that all our doings without love are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading Exodus 1:8, 2:10

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we.

Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land."

Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh.

But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites.

The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live.

So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them."

So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, "Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live."

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months.

When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said.

Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it.

When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Officiant: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 124 (*Response in bold.*)

If the Lord had not been on our side, let Israel now say; if the Lord had not been on our side, when enemies rose up against us; then would they have swallowed us up alive in their fierce anger toward us; Then would the waters have overwhelmed us and the torrent gone over us; then would the raging waters have gone right over us. Blessed be the Lord! he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth. We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

Second Reading Romans 12: 1-8

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE ROMANS

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Officiant: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel Matthew 16: 13-20

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Officiant: The Gospel of the Christ

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

The question Jesus posed to his disciples, "Who do you say I am?" (Matthew 16:15), was not a trick question, but rather a significant moment that aimed to prompt them to articulate their understanding

of his identity and mission. Jesus often used questions to encourage deeper thought and self-reflection among his disciples.

The context of this question is important...and it's worth noting that although Jesus had been performing miracles, healing the sick, and displaying his divine authority, his true nature and purpose were not always immediately grasped by his disciples due to the profound nature of his teachings and the spiritual significance of his mission.

There are several stories of individuals who achieved remarkable things in their lifetimes but were relatively unrecognized or underestimated by the majority of people. These stories often highlight the idea that greatness or achievement doesn't always come with immediate fame or widespread recognition. Here are a few examples:

Vincent van Gogh:

The Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh is a classic example of an artist who achieved greatness posthumously. During his lifetime, he struggled with mental health issues and poverty, and he only sold a few paintings. He produced a significant body of work, including some of his most famous pieces, such as "Starry Night," but he was not widely recognized as a brilliant artist during his lifetime. It was only after his death that his paintings gained immense acclaim and he became one of the most celebrated artists in history.

Emily Dickinson:

The American poet Emily Dickinson is known for her innovative and distinctive poetry. However, during her lifetime, her work was not widely published, and she lived much of her life in relative seclusion. Only a handful of her poems were published anonymously, and she garnered very little recognition as a poet during her lifetime. It was only after her death that her poetry was fully appreciated and she gained widespread acclaim.

These stories serve as reminders that recognition and success don't always align with the immediate impact of one's contributions. Many individuals who achieve greatness may go unnoticed or unappreciated during their lifetimes, but their legacy can eventually become widely recognized and celebrated as their work continues to influence and inspire future generations.

While the disciples did experience moments of confusion and struggled to fully grasp the depth of Jesus's mission during his time on Earth, their understanding gradually deepened as they witnessed his teachings, actions, crucifixion, resurrection, and post-resurrection appearances. This process of growth in understanding is reflective of the complex and profound nature of Jesus's identity and the transformative impact of his ministry.

Jesus's question to his disciples was not meant to elicit their personal convictions and understanding of his identity, beyond his miracles. It was a way to guide them, and us, toward a deeper comprehension of his divine nature and mission as the Messiah and Son of God.

So, "Who are we?" Our identity in Christ — ties us to others, in our church community and beyond, like parts of the same body.

If we have gifts of compassion and empathy, then it is our duty to minister to those in need. If we are wronged, then we forgive.

If we have gifts of teaching, teach to improve the whole body. Of encouragement, encourage. Of leadership, then by all means, lead!

The difference is that, in Christ, we understand that our gifts are not our own to use for our own benefit, but to use for the benefit of the whole community.

And so, today's readings ask us some big questions. Who is this man Jesus? Who are we in relation to him? And what consequences do these answers have for how we live our life and how we relate to the world around us?

I hope we can all take some time this week to give them the space they deserve.

Let Us Pray:

"Cause me to hear Your
Loving kindness in the morning;
for in You do I trust:

Cause me to know the way where I should walk;
for I lift up my soul unto Thee (Psalm 143:8) Amen

Sermon Hymn # 619
Fairest Lord Jesus

Officiant: Let us confess our faith as we say.

People: **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 we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.

For this community, our country, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

For Todd our bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in the Church.

For our own needs and those of others.

Silence.

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

Hear us, Lord.

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence. *(The people may add their own thanksgivings.)*

We will exalt you, O God our king;

And praise your name for ever and ever.

We pray for those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence.

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

Gracious God, you have heard the prayers of your faithful people; you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Grant our requests as may be best for us. This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offertory Hymn # 508

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Offertory Response*All Things Come of Thee*

People: Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Officiant: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

**People: 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.**

Officiant: Glory to God

**People: 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 # 434
*The Love of Jesus Calls Us***

Officiant: May the God of hope fill us all with joy and peace in believing
through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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 Pat Knowles,
the Rinker and Redden family members,
a gift of Gerry Rinker and family.***

***We pray for the repose of the soul of
Myrna Andrews and Paromita Deb-Rinker***

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:

4th Sunday of March,

4th Sunday of June,

2nd Sunday of August

2nd Sunday of September.

If you would like to provide flowers please contact Seonaid at 519-336-6036

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 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

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 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 our Harvest Thanksgiving Freewill Brunch on Sunday October 1 after church in the Parish Hall.

Reminders

10 Sept Coffee Hour presentation—Alzheimer Society

15 Sept 7:00 p.m. Free Concert All Saints Anglican Church: An 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 Thanksgiving Freewill Brunch