

Canon Davis Memorial Church
Anglican Church of Canada

Sunday, January 28, 2024
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Worship Service: Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Officiant: Bill Graham Organist: Dorothy Miller
380 Russell St. North (at Maxwell St.), Sarnia, Ontario N7T 6S6

Sunday January 28, 2024—Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

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9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer (BCP) p.4

Processional Hymn # 306
O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

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 ReadingDeuteronomy 18: 15-20

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak - that prophet shall die."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 111BCPp. 477

I will give thanks unto the Lord with my whole heart, in the council of the faithful and in the congregation

The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein

His work is worthy to be praised and had in honour; and his righteousness endureth for ever.

The merciful and gracious Lord hath so done his marvellous works, that they ought to be had in remembrance.

He hath given meat unto them that fear him; he shall ever be mindful of his covenant.

He hath showed his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

The works of his hand are verity and judgement; all his precepts are sure;

They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and equity.

He sent redemption unto his people; he hath commanded his covenant for ever; holy and reverend is his Name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all they that do thereafter; praise endureth for ever...

2nd Reading| Corinthians 8: 1-13

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth - as in fact there are many gods and many lords - yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 1: 21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching - with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

Benedictusp. 9
The Apostles' Creedp. 10
Versiclesp. 10
The Lord's Prayerp. 11
Responsesp. 11

Collect of the Day

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Collect for Peacep. 11
Collect for Gracep. 11

Offertory Hymn # 572
Let There Be Light

Offertory Response
All Things Come of Thee (sung)

Sermon

It was the custom in Mark's time to invite a visiting rabbi to teach in a local synagogue such as the one in

Capernaum. Mark does not tell us what scripture passage Jesus explained in his message. He only gives us the reaction of the two sets of people; the many who were astonished at his authority and the one whom he obviously frightened, though perhaps more by the man than his message.

The scribes were men who spent their time discerning the intricacies of the Jewish law and customs from both the written texts and the oral traditions that had passed from teacher to pupil for generations. They were jealous of their specific role in the Jewish synagogues. Arguments inevitably ensued as to whose interpretation of scripture had greater validity. This only confused people. Jesus' approach was different. He had the authenticity about his teaching that expressed genuine authority.

The man afflicted "with an unclean spirit" created a scene by crying out, obviously in fear., "Have you come to destroy us?". With this frightened question he spoke the truth about Jesus. For whatever reason, the mentally ill frequently fear being confronted with the possible implications of their cure. If Jesus was indeed the Holy One of God, i.e. the Messiah, this sick man could be healed. Perhaps he had become accustomed to being the sick man of the village and benefitting from the compassion people showed him.

Jesus' exorcism and healing miracles were the evidence on which Mark built his case that Jesus was no one other than the Messiah. The miracles expressed both Jesus' personal holiness and divine authority. The witnesses to this first of several miracles were simply astonished and began to ask questions about him. The news about him quickly spread through Galilee.

The New Testament authors used several Greek terms to describe miracles. In English translation these variously became “signs, wonders, powers, and works.” Yet none convey the supernatural event of its own accord or by virtue of the person who does it, whether Jesus himself or one of the apostles. Mark expected his audience to know the answer to the question the people in the synagogue at Capernaum asked, “What is this?” They were not only asking what happened, but what did it mean? To Mark’s audience this was the presence of the God of love and mercy active among these people inauguration God’s rule in this place at this time.

Do miracles still happen? The Biblical meaning of miracles is that God discloses and fulfills God’s purpose in the world especially on behalf of God’s people and for the redemption of those who respond in faith to God’s activity. Jesus revealed that the reign of God’s redeeming love had already begun by his teachings and healing.

Sermon Hymn # 500
Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant

Prayer for the King and Commonwealth p. 12
Prayer for the Clergy and People. P 13
Prayer for All Conditions of Mortals p14
General Thanksgiving (*said by all*) p. 14
Prayer of Saint Chrysostom. 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 Grace p. 15

Announcements

Recessional Hymn # 576
For the Healing of the Nations

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 Alex Scrimgeour, a gift of Sylvia and family.

NEWS AND EVENTS

- Please send all announcements for the bulletin to Karen by 11:00 a.m. Tuesday of each week or call: 519-344-9531 or email: 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

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

Upcoming Events:

- **2024 Vestry** this year is **Sunday, February 4, 2024**, after the service in the Parish Hall. **Vestry packages** are available at the back of the church.

Reminders

**4 Feb Vestry Meeting - Parish
Hall after church service**