**Canon Davis Memorial Church**

*Anglican Church of Canada*

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

August 7, 2022

**“*Be Ready When the Master Comes and Knocks”***

Officiant: Rev’d Paul Woolley​Server: Bill Blunt ​Reader: Seonaid Laidlaw

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THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

**Gathering Hymn #383**​***Jesus Shall Reign Where’er the Sun***

**Greeting**​​p. 185

Kyrie Eleison​p. 186

**Collect of the Day:  Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love, joy, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

1st reading​ISAIAH 1:1, 10-20

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH
The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation - I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.**

**The Word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 50:1-8, 23-24:

The REFRAIN for this Psalm is:  **Our God will come and not keep silence**.

The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken; he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God reveals himself in glory.

**Our God will come and not keep silence**.

Our God will come and will not keep silence; before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm.
He calls the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgement of his people.

**Our God will come and not keep silence**.

"Gather before me my loyal followers, those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."
Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; for God himself is judge.

**Our God will come and not keep silence**.

Hear, O my people, and I will speak: "O Israel, I will bear witness against you; for I am God, your God.I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; your offerings are always before me.

**Our God will come and not keep silence**.

Consider this well, you who forget God, lest I rend you and there be none to deliver you. Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honours me; but to those who keep in my way will I show the salvation of God."

**Our God will come and not keep silence**.R

2nd reading​HEBREWS 11:1-3, 8-16

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS
Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old and Sarah herself was barren because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn**​**#385**​***Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness***

Gospel​​LUKE 12:32-40

**Sermon**

In the gospel text from St. Luke, Jesus is quoted, as saying, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Our problem is that none of us can do this. Most of us have spent our lives in a never-ending journey, searching for something thatwill give meaning to our lives.

A number of commentators have noted that we are a bit like thecharacters in the story of The Wizard of Oz.

We might look like lions, except we are afraid.

Like the tin man we might be bright and shiny on the outside butdon’t have any of the internal characteristics that help to bring fulfillment.

Or, like the Scarecrow we are most agile but don’t have wisdom.And some of us, much like Dorothy, are just lost and trying to find a way home.

All of the characters in The Wizard of Oz – which we might say is amarvellous literary window into our lives – essentially begin each statement with, “if I only.” If I only had courage. If I only had a brain. If I only had a heart. If I only could find my way home.

Jesus encourages us to remove the “if only” phrase out of our speech and thinking. Let us look at the three gifts promised in today’s Gospel lesson and look at how the “if only” phrase can be eliminated.

“Don’t be afraid.” Someone known for boldness in thought and action was once asked how fear of failure had been overcome.That person shared a reflection about the cross. The person said,” I came to understand that the cross is a test for us. We had God right here with us, in the person of Jesus. God was here to lead and love us out of this mess we are in. And what did we do? We killed him. I know myself well enough to know that I would have been in the mob yelling for crucifixion had I been present at the actual event. There is something in me that can’t stand absolute love and goodness, even though I crave it. So, the cross test is one that I failed. I failed it completely. And God’s answer to my failure is love, forgiveness and presence in my life forever. I can almost imagine forgiving someone who kills me. But then creating and sustaining a relationship with such a person is totally beyond my ability to imagine. Only God can do that. **When I reflected on my failure in the cross, and God’s answer, then I decided I need never be afraid of any failure ever again. I have already failed and God loves me and is present with me.** It would be silly and a waste of time to be afraid.

To live in the Kingdom of God is to live in a realm without fear. Jesus said in this text we are not to fear because it is God’spleasure to give us the kingdom. But the absence of fear is achieved only when we are filled with love. Being filled with love for God is the door we open to enter the Kingdom where there is no fear. This is good news. But it is scary. Perhaps this is the reason that the angels always say when they appear “don’t be afraid.” The shepherds who heard the announcement of Jesus’ birth from angels first had to hear, “fear not”. There is irony in all of this. Living without fear because we are filled with the love of God can be a fearful idea.

The next promise from Jesus in this text is that we can enjoy our stuff forever. We can have an eternal purse.

There is a parallel text that says we are to “lay up treasure in heaven.” Now the treasure of heaven, the stuff of an eternal purse, is not money. There is no divine electronic fund transfer device, no Visa cards. The treasure of heaven is relationships. A person who tithes to God through the local congregation and then makes anoffering to God by giving money to other Godly causes and programs, said, when asked about this behaviour, “I do what I do because I want to spend eternity with people I love.” This Christian understands the consequence of giving to God means the work of God in this world can be done. A part of that work is sharing the good news about Jesus. When this good news is shared people are drawn to Him. They are led to claim him as Saviour and submit their lives to his Lordship. They enter that realm of love which we call the kingdom of God. That kingdom is eternal. We are the treasure of heaven for each other. Even though most of us do not know each other very well, we will have a very, very long time to get to know each other. It will seem like an eternity.

There once was a rich man who died. A group of his friends asked his accountant, “What did he leave?” They were seeking to find out the size of his estate. The accountant replied, “he left it all.” Jesus‘invitation in this text is to send it on ahead in the form of relationships grounded in the love of God. You might ask yourself,“Who do I love enough that I would want to spend eternity with him or her?” Your answer will be a resource for reflection.

The final promise of Jesus in this text is happiness. So far, we are called to live unafraid after having given away our stuff. Now we are told that this is the way to happiness.

The word “blessed” is most appropriately translated as happy. The text calls “blessed” or “happy” those who are ready for the Lord’s return.

How can we be ready for the Lord’s return? Some interpret this question in a moralistic way. The readiness we are dealing with in the text had little to do with morality. Morality and virtue are good in and of themselves. They need no justification. In reality, none of us, no matter how good we are, is ready for the Lord’s return just because we are good.

Readiness for Jesus’ return is grounded in the quality of relationship that we have with Him. When the love of one’s life walks in the door after an absence the response is immediate happiness. A grandparent embracing a grandchild after a long separation is an illustration of what readiness is in this text. The readiness is a consequence of love.

Let us go back to the Wizard of Oz. The four heroes of the storywere able to give up their “if only” postures. At the ceremony at the end of the tale, each of the heroes is given a gift, like a college diploma. The real gift of college is a combination of learning and of building relationships. The four heroes of the story discover how to live without their “if only's” through the learning and relationships of their journey. The courage, wisdom, heart and home they sought they ultimately discovered by being with each other and seeking together. The Christian life that Jesus is promising is much like this. In relationship with Jesus and through learning about him we grow into the promises of today’s Gospel lesson. As we grow in love, we grow less and less fearful. As we grow in love, we discover ourselves focused more and more on eternal relationships. As we grow in love, we await Jesus’ coming not with dread, but with joy.

Perhaps, it is scary to think about living this way, but remember the first thing the angels always say, “do not be afraid.”

The Apostles’ Creed​p. 189

Prayers of the People  # 17​p. 123

**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​​​​​​       p. 191

The Peace

**Offertory Hymn**​​***Just a Closer Walk with Thee***

Offertory Response ​**Doxology**(sung)

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below.**

**Praise Him above, ye Heavenly Host.**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

THE CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

**Prayer over the Gifts:** Father, receive all we offer you this day, and grant that in this Eucharist we may be enriched by the gifts of the Spirit. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer  # 4  ​p. 201

The Lord’s Prayer​p. 211

Breaking of the Bread  # 4​p. 212

Communion

**Prayer After Communion:**Eternal God, grant to your Church the unity and peace that we have tasted in this Eucharist, the fruit of your life-giving Spirit. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Glory to God & Blessing​p. 214

**Mission Hymn**​**#467**​***Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go***

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 memory of Reginald*

*and Kate Haddon, a gift of their family.*

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**News and Events**

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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.

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If you would like a home visit with Communion or know of someone who would, please let Rev. Ray know as he and/or a Lay Visitor will be available in the coming weeks.

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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 for August.  Please see the sign-up sheet at the back of the church.**

**Upcoming Events:**

**18 Sept 2:00 p.m**. The **Christian Music Café** is coming to Canon Davis.

Please join us for this monthly musical event.  Refreshments and treats will be available.  Free will offering.

**21 Sept**​Please mark your calendar as CDM’s famous and delicious

​“**Fish Dinner”**is back with in house dining.

**28 Sept**​**Parish Council Meeting 10:00 a.m. in the boardroom.**