**We come and worship God,**

**We go our way with souls nourished**

**Canon Davis Memorial Church**

**Holy Eucharist – Celtic Tradition**

July 24th– 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Greg Jenkins and Rev Ray Jenkins – Co-Celebrants

Assisted by Bill Graham

Dorothy Miller – Organist

We come and worship God.

We go our way with souls nourished.

To all who are weary and seek rest;

to all who mourn and long for comfort;

to all who struggle and seek victory;

to all who sin and need a saviour;

to all who are idle and look for service

to all who are strangers and want fellowship;

to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;

and to whomsoever will come

this church opens wide her doors

and in the name of Jesus Christ her Lord

says Welcome.

Opening Hymn #341​God of Mercy, God of Grace

*Celebrant:*​The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ

​the love of God,

​and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

​be with you all.

*People:*​**And also with you*.***

*Celebrant:*​We welcome the dawn

​as a creation from God for a new day.​In the glad light of this morning tide,we celebrate the life-giving radiance ofChrist.

*People:*​**We join together in worshipping our**​**Creator God as Father, Son**​**and Holy Spirit.**

**Opening Prayer**

*Celebrant:*​Bright shining star,

​blessed be each thing your eye lights on.

​Radiant summer sun,

​blessed be each thing your smile touches.​As night and day you warm and bless us,​so one day shall the Lord, your creator

​be our everlasting Light.

First Reading​​Hosea 1:10

Yet the number of the people of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which can be neither measured nor numbered; and in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God.”

Collect​​​**O God, the protector of all who trust in**

**you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy**, **increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Second Reading​​Colossians 2: 6-9

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him,

rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.  See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ.  For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,

PSALM 138

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise;

I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

All of the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.

For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.

The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.  Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Third Reading:​​Luke 11: 5-6

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’

Fourth Reading​​Luke 11:7-8

And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’  "I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

People:

Son of God, work in me and through me that I may shine like the stars.

Shine through me that I may reflect your glorious light, and sharing a sense of wonder may point the way to God

Spirit of Hod, coax me from my hiding place

Draw me out to witness to God's love

Restore my zest for life that all I do be to your glory

In Jesus Christ's name. Amen

Fifth Reading​​Luke 11:9-13

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.  For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.  Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish?  Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion?  If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Sermon

Dear Friends,

One thing that characterizes Anglicanism is prayer.  For heartfelt prayer is usually a companion to faith.  One may wonder what is the point of a prayer if one doesn’t expect a listener for that prayer?

Today’s Gospel story often brings to mind a situation I witnessed as a teenager at a social gathering of workers from my Dad’s business.  I heard a man in his 50’s talking to a woman in her 40’s about religion.  The woman asked the man if he had ever prayed for something.  He responded loudly:‘Yes, I prayed once; —— ‘but it never got answered!’

In today’s Gospel reading, one of its purposes is to encourage us to repeatedly ‘ask’ for what we need in our prayers.  Jesus knows the frustrations that some have when they pray and nothing seems to happen; or more troubling, the opposite happens.  Such situations just seem to add fuel to the arguments of those who debunk what we treasure at the core of our beings.

In this Gospel reading, Jesus is seeking to give us some insights into the context of how it is with prayer.  First of all, the God of the universe is not to be viewed as an omnipotent vending machine.  That may be a frustration to some; but to me that is of great comfort.  God is instead infinitely intelligent.  Therefore, God is able to decide how best to respond to any request.  A number of factors can enter into determining the wisest response.  They might include; timing, magnitude, impact on the one making the request, impact on other people, impact on the planet, and so much more.

A valuable insight is given to us in the story of the self-centred friend.  A request is made of a friend for 3 loaves of bread to help feed a visitor.  The hour is late and the one being asked has locked up his home for the night.  His kids are in bed and he doesn’t want to be bothered — so he refuses.  He does not want to yield to any request, even for a friend.

But the one making the request is tenacious and keeps asking until the man with the bread yields to the relentless pressure, opens the door and hands over the bread.

This is all portrayed in a human context.  It additionally is designed to tell us about spiritual things.  In this regard my mind notes the old saying of ‘be careful what you wish for —you just might get it.’   People like to be able to anticipate things coming to be better in life.  Along the way, they begin to think of what may seem to be key to a better life.  A higher paying job; a new car; more social events; travel to other parts of the world; and more, may sound desirable at one time or another.  They may seem desirable enough for us to work toward them becoming a part of our lives; desirable enough for them to be a part of our ‘wish list’ or maybe our ‘bucket list’.    Sometimes our dreams can be most disappointing when they become reality.

Jesus’ advice to us is to ‘ask’, ‘search’ and ‘knock’; —— in summary, would be to pray for what we might see as desirable.  We also can find ourselves praying for what is needed in the lives of people.  At the top of the list often is healing — healing of others; and yes, the healing of ourselves.   When we think about it; prayers for healing are often prayers of love!

As good as all of these are; this Gospel reading is pointing the way toward another dimension of prayerfulness — sharing our lives with God as we seek God’s sharing in our lives.  Jesus puts it this way:  *…..how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!*

More than this, I sometimes wonder how often the Holy Spirit moves in our lives without our even noticing.  For example, ever notice how when we need them, often people show up in our lives who can and do effectively help us deal with a challenging  situation.  As we become aware of these and similar situations, we can become aware increasingly of them taking place with the passing of time.  With this we find a sense of thankfulness growing in us — a thankfulness we want to express to God in prayer.

The results of this growing awareness is a greater and greater sense of God sharing in our lives as we experience a greater sense of our sharing in God’s life.  That sharing can be expected to grow as our faith matures in our love of our neighbour and in the God who created us, and loves us, and listens to us.

We pray now in the words of Brother Roger of Taizé:

*Holy Spirit, your presence is offered to everyone, and in you*

*we find the consolation with which you can flood our lives.*

*And we sense that, in prayer, we can entrust everything to you.*Amen*.*

**Sermon Hymn  # 572**​***Let There Be Light***

***The Peace***

**Offertory Hymn  # 423**​***How Great Thou Art***

 **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS  God of grace, accept all we offer you this day, as we look toward the glory you have promised. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION  God of grace, we have received the memorialof the death and resurrection of your Son. May your love, poured into us, bring us to your promises. We ask this in the name of our Redeemer Jesus Christ.**

**The Blessing**

**Celebrant:**

**Go forth with the vision of God**

**Sail into the ocean of his love**

**The Sacred Three surround and sustain you**

**Till they bring you to your eternal home.**

**People: Amen**

**Closing Hymn #532 What A Friend We Have In Jesus**

**Celebrant: Go in peace to love and      serve the Lord**

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Benediction Song: Go Now In Peac**

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

Please enter names in the Intercessions Book each week to be read in the service.

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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 Email: 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 still needed for July and August.  Please see the sign-up sheet at the back of the church.**