

**Canon Davis Memorial Church
Anglican Church of Canada
Sunday, October 1, 2023 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Worship Service: Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Officiant—Rev'd Jon Forbes

Assisted By —Bill Blunt

Organist—Dorothy Miller

380 Russell St. North (at Maxwell St.), Sarnia, Ontario, N7T 6S6

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Prelude

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Sentence

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them and they follow me.

John 10:27

Processional Hymn # 262

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

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

And also with you.

Almighty God, **to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Glory to God in the highest, **and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered by your Holy Spirit into one, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

1st Reading: Exodus 17: 1-7

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EXODUS

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78: 1-4, 12-16

Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come the praise-worthy deeds and the power of the Lord, and the wonderful works he has done.

He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

He split open the sea and let them pass through; he made the waters stand up like walls.

He led them with a cloud by day, and all the night through with a glow of fire. He split the hard rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink as from the great deep. He brought streams out of the cliff, and the waters gushed out like rivers.

2nd Reading: Philippians 2: 1-13

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death - even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work

out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn # 259

For the Fruit of All Creation

Gospel

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 21: 23-32

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

So Jesus just cleared the temple. Remember the answer to What Would Jesus Do?, can always be, that he made a whip and turned over the tables. This is no Jesus meek and mild. And so there are questions to be answered by the establishment. They demand that Jesus tell them who he thinks he is: by what authority is he changing and teaching things, and who gave him the right to do so?

If these Pharisees think they can outwit Jesus, they've got another thing coming. They shouldn't have confronted him in public because now they are stuck; caught in a display of duelling authority and they have to try to keep the crowd on their side. This will be a problem, for these leaders did not embrace John the Baptist, who seems to have been a particularly influential figure among this crowd. They also imply that they know what is at stake—they acknowledge that John's authority came from heaven, but they choose to not believe him or his message of reform and preparation. Their past actions mean they should answer that they viewed his authority as earth-originating, but the crowds—their base—won't like that. The leaders hedge their bets for what the crowd will accept and say, "We don't know." Liars.

Jesus chooses to answer their question with a question, yet he makes his point much more clearly. His question about John the Baptist's authority proclaims that his authority is the same as John's. Plus, Jesus and John aren't really the type to defend their authority: they are too busy living it.

Then Jesus tells this short parable— it might make you scratch your head because it doesn't seem to address the question of authority. This only matters if you come down on the side of the Pharisees in the argument. Remember parables teach about God and the Kingdom of Heaven. Not how things are, but how they could be.

Jesus' parable begins with the Pharisees. Notice the repetition of words in the story: Which of the two did the will of the father? You see these leaders of the church are stubborn and focused on their power. They don't want to own up to the fact that Jesus (and John) are from God because they are the ones who are supposed to be sent by God. Jesus and John are cutting into their position of power. They should have recognized this and repented. Not because it was the right thing to do, but because in seeing Jesus they are experiencing God in their midst. Not laws but grace. This is what the first son in the parable shows us, who initially said no but changed his mind and went to work like his dad asked!

And Jesus is ever gracious, they can still change their minds and their ways. Even in judgement, there is kindness and opportunity. Jesus's last sentence (verse 32) is quite telling, though: "For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him." In other words, even after they saw the proof of John's authority play out in people's lives, they continued in their obstinance. We all know people like this.

I think it was because the Pharisees didn't want to give up the sense of control they had. Maybe they were just lazy or rebellious. But as Jesus explains, The second son, who at first did the acceptable thing, still bailed. How often are we just like these temple leaders who failed to be obedient to God's will? Even when we get a second or third chance to stop and repent, to make things right, our shame and self-centeredness can get in the way.

Okay, now remember this whole story takes place in public. Jesus is teaching the crowd in the temple when the leaders come to hound him with their question of authority. So when Jesus opens his parable with, "What do you think?" he isn't just asking the leaders—he is asking everyone listening to decide for themselves whose authority they will follow, and what kind of "obedience" they will exhibit. So before we get too worked up about what the temple leaders did, maybe we need to ask ourselves the same question. Who do we follow? The rule book or the living God? The proof of authority always shows up in the good fruit of the people's lives.

Lives of goodness, kindness, self-control, patience, love, joy, peace, generosity, and gentleness. This is where we will find people who understand the heart and will of God and who seek God's face. Then we will find people who care less about the power aspects of authority and more about knowing the one who rules our hearts, Christ Jesus. Then we can go about creating the kingdom of Heaven here on Earth. Then we can prove that God's Grace is what gives us power in the world, not some dusty old book. The book is only as good as the lives of the people it changes. It is a good book, ya know. The Good Book: because it brings us into a relationship with Jesus. So who do you say that I am? Where does your authority come from? It comes from the one we follow. Jesus Christ the Lord.

The Apostles' Creed:

Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

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 let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy.")

For peace from on high and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our bishops, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Charles our King, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For Sarnia, for every city and community, and for those who live in them in faith, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For good weather, and for abundant harvests for all to share, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel by land, water, or air, for the sick and the suffering (especially . . .), for prisoners and captives, and for their safety, health, and salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our deliverance from all affliction, strife, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offences, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died (especially . . .), let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Remembering (. . . and) all the saints, we commit ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord.

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications to you, and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together you will hear their requests. Fulfil now our desires and petitions, as may be best for us, granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come eternal life; for you, Father, are good and loving, and we glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, in the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

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: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

The Confession: 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.

Absolution: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm

and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Hymn # 429

For the Beauty of the Earth

Prayer over the Gifts

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ we behold your glory. Receive the offering of your people gathered before you, and open our hearts and mouths to praise your great salvation, the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Eucharist Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right that we should praise you, gracious God, for you created all things. You formed us in your own image: male and female you created us. When we turned away from you in sin, you did not cease to care for us, but opened a path of salvation for all people. You made a covenant with Israel, and through your servants Abraham and Sarah gave the promise of a blessing to all nations. Through Moses you led your people from bondage into freedom; through the prophets you renewed your promise of salvation. Therefore, with them, and with all your saints who have served you in every age, we give thanks and raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives you praise. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners; he opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to the poor and to those in need. In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

On the night he freely gave himself to death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, " Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “ Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Gracious God, his perfect sacrifice destroys the power of sin and death; by raising him to life you give us life for evermore.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection, and looking for his coming again in glory, we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who eat and drink at this table may be one body and one holy people, a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer:

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.

Breaking of the Bread

“I am the bread of life,” says the Lord. “Whoever comes to me will never be hungry; whoever believes in me will never thirst.”

Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who trust in him!

The Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer after Communion

Father in heaven, strengthen the unity of your Church, so that we who have been fed with holy things may fulfil your will in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Doxology

Glory to God, **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 # 420

Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens Adore Him

Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his son Jesus Christ and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and those you love for ever more. **Amen.**

Benediction Song *Go Now in Peace*

(found in the back of the blue hymn book)

Dismissal

The flowers on the Altar today are given to the Glory of God for the members of CDM who are like family, from John, Elaine, Joanna, Sarah and Nikki.

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 email canondavis@gmail.com or call 519-344-9531.

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 after service in the parish hall for a time of fellowship and to celebrate CDM's **Harvest Home Freewill Thanksgiving Breakfast.**

Happy Birthday to Carol Spence, Jean Laidlaw, Mike Dawson and Brianna Dodkin from all your friends at Canon Davis Memorial Church.

Thank you to those who donated towards the decorations for our Harvest Thanksgiving Service, and to the Chancel Guild for decorating the church. The church looked lovely. Thank you also to those who provided and served the Harvest Thanksgiving Breakfast. Your hard work is always appreciated. Thank you.

Upcoming Events:

Reminders

- 1 Oct** Harvest Home Freewill Thanksgiving Breakfast
- 8 Oct** Thanksgiving Service
- 18 Oct.** CDM's Roast Beef Dinner
- 25 Oct.** Parish Council Meeting in the Boardroom at 10:00 a.m.
- 28 Oct.** Sew Day – Parish Hall.