**Canon Davis Memorial Church**

*Anglican Church of Canada*

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 17, 2022**

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**“*Christ in the House of Mary and Martha”***

Rev’d Paul Woolley – Officiant – Assisted by Tom Brown

Dorothy Miller - Organist

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THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

**Gathering Hymn**​​***Great is Thy Faithfulness***​

**Greeting**​​p. 185

**Gloria - Hymn #365**​***Glory to God on High***

Kyrie Eleison​p. 186

**Collect of the Day:  Almighty God, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence. Give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

1st reading​AMOS 8:1-12

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF AMOS  
This is what the Lord God showed me - a basket of summer fruit. He said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the Lord said to me, "The end has come upon my people Israel; I will never again pass them by. The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day," says the Lord God; "the dead bodies shall be many, cast out in every place. Be silent!" Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practise deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat." The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds. Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who lives in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt? On that day, says the Lord God, I will make the sun go down at noon, and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on all loins, and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son, and the end of it like a bitter day. The time is surely coming, says the Lord God, when I will send a famine on the land; not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, but they shall not find it.  
AMOS 8:1-12

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 52​**“I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever.”** ​p. 771-772

REFRAIN **I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever**.  
  
You tyrant, why do you boast of wickedness against the godly all day long?  
  
You plot ruin; your tongue is like a sharpened razor, O worker of deception.  
  
You love evil more than good and lying more than speaking the truth.  
  
You love all words that hurt, O you deceitful tongue**. R**  
  
Oh, that God would demolish you utterly, topple you, and snatch you from your dwelling, and root you out of the land of the living! **R**  
The righteous shall see and tremble, and they shall laugh at him, saying, "This is the one who did not take God for a refuge, but trusted in great wealth and relied upon wickedness." **R**

But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God;

I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever. I will give you thanks for what you have done and declare the goodness of your Name in the presence of the godly.**R**

2nd reading​COLOSSIANS 1:15-28

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS  
He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in thefaith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel. I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn  #439**​***Blest are the Pure in Heart***

Gospel​​LUKE 10:38-42

**Sermon**

My undergraduate degree includes a major in Philosophy and a minor in Religious Studies.

Many of the times when I mention Philosophy, people grin, and inquire jokingly, about the true answer to the question,“if a tree falls in a forest with nobody present, does it make a sound”, which you probably recognize, as a long-standing bit of humour about the study of Philosophy. (I generally tell those people that it would be better to ask physicists or experts in acoustics for the answer.)

Simply put, philosophy is the study of how we think and view reality. In that regard, today’s gospel puts forth an important viewpoint. By the way, Philosophy and Theology are sister subject areas. Both terms come from Greek: Philosophy means: ‘love of wisdom’,  whereas Theology is, about the question ‘how do we understand God’?

When a question about something is asked of someone trained in Philosophy and you are expecting a definitive answer you might be frustrated, since ‘so-called answers’ to philosophical questioning just simply generate further questions and considerations.

If I can reference that question about a tree falling in a forest, a philosopher might simply respond to the person asking with, “how do you define sound”. This of course then leads to other questions, and that is the process of philosophy.

It’s a bit like the TV game show Jeopardy, where the correct response is always a question. Or if you are a fan of Dr. Phil, who listens to all the poor choices that someone has made, and then he typically responds with a line like, “but does that work for you.”

We will see that in the Gospels, Jesus often responds with questions to the person who posed an original question to him. In some cases, his response may not be grammatically a simple question but rather a statement that makes the inquirer think deeply about what they are saying or doing.

We might call Jesus a great philosopher since, in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), Jesus was asked by a lawyer, attempting to justify himself, ‘And who is my neighbour?’ Then after he tells the story of the Samaritan Jesus poses this question back to the lawyer, “Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers”. In today’s message, we read that Martha who is **distracted** by many tasks asks Jesus why her sister Mary is not helping her. Jesus responds in a way that causes Martha to stop and seriously reconsider the situation.

“**There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part”**

We might take from this that attending to your faith and spirituality is of the utmost importance.

If you are seeking a definitive answer to one of life’s problems and instead you find a further question or something else that compels you to stop and consider what you are doing or thinking instead, you are then challenged to stop and ponder the situation. Deep thought is often transformational. This thinking, of course for Christians, needs to be coupled with prayer. Deep thinking about the utmost important questions of life and existence, changes how you see and understand the world.

When I was ministering in the US, I had the opportunity to participate in many church growth and church planting workshops. At one of these events, there was a church planter who included in his promotions for a beginning congregation, this statement, “come check out the Episcopal Church, where you don’t have to check your brain at the door.”

That great priest and thinker of the early Anglican reformation, Richard Hooker, said that religious thinking should be based on; ‘scripture, reason, and tradition’, and that it would then be balanced like a three-legged stool.

Religious groups that ask that you believe in their interpretations, edicts, and practices without any possibility of free thought or the slightest questioning simply stifle the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was constantly rebelling against the scribes and Pharisees, the religious lawyers of his day. Their system was one of doing the correct things by slavishly following numerous laws, without stopping and considering if they made any sense. Religious groups that don’t allow any independent thinking, can become dangerous. At the extreme, this can lead to disasters like Jamestown.

Now, the story of Mary and Martha has often been taken as an example of works versus faith. The claim is that some people think that they can work their way into heaven by work and good deeds. They contrast that with Mary who sat at the feet of Jesus, like a student and listened to the words of Jesus., while Martha was frantically working.

I think that you can easily take that too far.

One biblical commentator interprets the situation, this way,‘Martha was busy preparing a seven-course meal, while Jesus would have been satisfied with a sandwich.’ So maybe Martha was simply overdoing things. Jesus wanted Mary and Martha to be balanced. He wants that for us too.

So, let me leave you with some questions and considerations.

Are you more like Martha or Mary?

Are we living balanced lives?

Do we all need to spend more time listening to Jesus, and considering our faith?

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​p. 192

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

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:**O God, accept our praise and thanksgiving. Help us in all we do to offer ourselves as a true and living sacrifice; through Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer # 4​p. 201

The Lord’s Prayer​p. 211

Breaking of the Bread # 4​p. 212

Communion

**Prayer After Communion:**O God, as we are strengthened in these holy mysteries, may our lives be a continual offering, holy and acceptable in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Glory to God​p. 214

Blessing

**Mission Hymn#505**​***Be Thou My Vision***

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 John Manton and loved ones, a gift of Joyce Manton and family.*

**News and Events**

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Please send all announcements for the bulletin to Karen by **10:00 a.m. Tuesday** of each week. E-mail:[canondavis@gmail.com](mailto:canondavis@gmail.com).  Or Call: 519-344-9531

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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 needed for July and**

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

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**Day by Day book**for August, September and October is available at the back of the church.  Cost: $1.50

**Upcoming Events:**

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**18 September 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.