

Canon Davis Memorial Church
Anglican Church of Canada
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
19th November, 2023

***We Come and worship God.
We go our way with souls nourished.***

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November 19, 2023 — Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Service of the Word

Processional Hymn # 342 *We Praise You, O God*

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

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, that you have again brought us together on the Lord's Day to praise you for your goodness and to ask your blessing. Give us grace to see your hand in the week that is past, and your purpose in the week to come; through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Officiant: Dear friends in Christ, as we turn our hearts and minds to worship almighty God, let us confess our sins.

People: 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.

Officiant: Merciful God, grant to us, your faithful people, pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Officiant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us reconcile to God and one another a sign of Christ's peace.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of the world. Free us from all that darkens and ensnares us, and bring us to eternal light and joy; through the power of him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading Judges 4: 1-7

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JUDGES

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Haroshethhagoiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years. At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'"

Officiant: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 123 (*Response in bold.*)

To you I lift up my eyes, to you enthroned in the heavens. As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
So our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he show us his mercy.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, for we have had more than enough of contempt,
Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, and of the derision of the proud.

Second Reading | Thessalonians 5: 1-11

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE THESSALONIANS

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live

with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Officiant: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel Matthew 25: 14-30

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Jesus said, "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Officiant: The Gospel of the Christ

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Collaborative Talents November 19th, 2023

Matthew 25:14-30

Today's Gospel conveys the message of responsible stewardship and the importance of using one's abilities and resources for good. During Jesus' time, the concept of a formal church as we know it today did not exist. However, people did contribute to the worship and religious practices of their time. They participated in synagogue services, observed Jewish festivals, and engaged in communal rituals. Individuals often demonstrated their faith through acts of charity, adherence to religious laws, and communal prayers. In terms of talents, people likely contributed through skills such as craftsmanship for the construction of the temple, musical abilities for worship, and teaching within the community. The Gospel accounts also highlight various individuals, such as fishermen and tax collectors, who left their professions to follow Jesus, using their talents and experiences to contribute to his ministry. While the organizational structure may differ from contemporary churches, the essence of using one's talents for the glory of God was evident in the way people lived out their faith.

during Jesus' time. Those who chose to live for the glory of God, especially in following Jesus during His time, did encounter conflicts and resistance from various quarters; but it's important to note that experiences varied widely, and many Christians coexisted peacefully with others of different beliefs. However, conflicts did arise, and navigating them often required open dialogue, understanding, and a commitment to promoting mutual respect and tolerance. In the classic Canadian tale called "The Hockey Sweater", a young boy in a small village is a devoted fan of the Montreal Canadiens hockey team. When his beloved Canadiens jersey becomes too small, his mother orders him a new one. However, a mix-up occurs, and he receives a Toronto Maple Leafs jersey instead. The story unfolds as the boy copes with being the only one in his community wearing the rival team's colours. While "The Hockey Sweater" is more about embracing differences and overcoming challenges, it indirectly portrays the idea of using one's talents or passions to foster unity and understanding within a community. It's a beloved story that has become an integral part of Canadian literature and culture. The young boy faces the dilemma of receiving a Toronto Maple Leafs jersey instead of his beloved Montreal Canadiens jersey. Instead of accepting the situation, the boy writes a letter to the company, asking for a Canadiens jersey to replace the one he mistakenly received. The resolution comes when the company sends a package, and to the boy's dismay, it contains not one but several Toronto Maple Leafs jerseys. The boy, feeling defeated, wears one of the Leafs jerseys to play hockey with his friends. The story concludes with the realization that, despite the team jersey differences, they are all just kids playing hockey together.

The story's message revolves around unity, friendship, and accepting differences, emphasizing that even though the boy's passion lies with the Canadiens, he can still find common ground and camaraderie with those who support a different team.

The theme of learning to support a different "team" or religious perspective is quite relevant for fostering understanding, acceptance, and unity among people of different faiths. Embracing diversity in religious beliefs and practices is an essential aspect of promoting tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

Just as the boy in "The Hockey Sweater" found common ground with his friends despite their different team affiliations, individuals from various religious backgrounds can come together, recognizing shared values, promoting respect, and building bridges of understanding. Interfaith dialogue and cooperation contribute to a more harmonious and inclusive society, emphasizing the importance of acceptance and goodwill among people of diverse religious beliefs.

The teachings in Matthew's gospel, particularly the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), can be interpreted as a call to use one's abilities and resources for the betterment of humankind. The idea of investing and multiplying talents can extend beyond individual skills to include acts of kindness, charity, and efforts to contribute positively to society, aligning with the broader concept of love and compassion emphasized in Christian teachings.

Let us pray....

God of gifts, thank you for the blessings you have given us. May we always use our gifts and talents in a way that demonstrates kindness, humility, and compassion. May we continue to do our part in developing our gifts for the betterment of our community. Amen.

Sermon Hymn #439 *Blest Are the Pure in Heart*

Officiant: Let us confess our faith as we say.

**People: 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 we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.

For this community, our country, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

For Todd our bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in the Church.

For our own needs and those of others.

Silence.

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

Hear us, Lord.

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence. *(The people may add their own thanksgivings.)*

We will exalt you, O God our king;

And praise your name for ever and ever.

We pray for those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence.

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

Gracious God, you have heard the prayers of your faithful people; you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Grant our requests as may be best for us. This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Offertory Hymn # 85 *Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless*

Offertory Response *All Things Come of Thee*

People: Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Officiant: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

**People: 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.

Officiant: Glory to God

**People: 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.**

Announcements

Recessional Hymn # 445 *God the Creator*

Officiant: May the God of hope fill us all with joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Sung Benediction ***Go Now in Peace***

(in the back of the blue Hymn book)

***The Flowers on the Altar today are given to the Glory of God,
and in loving memory of Hettie and Bill Graham and in thanksgiving
for blessings received, a gift of Bill Graham.***

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

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 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 for **Coffee Hour** after service for a time of fellowship in the parish hall. Also welcome to Maegan Knight of Victim Services of Sarnia Lambton as she joins us today for a special presentation.

•
St. John in -the-Wilderness Wednesday December 6 at 12:00 noon John's Restaurant - ACW Christmas Party. Please see the poster at the back of the church. The invitation is extended to all women, even if you are not part of the ACW. There will be crafts, games, a door prize and an opportunity for women to gather and share a time of Fellowship. To register contact Leslie Grieve at lesliegrieve91@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

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November 25th – CHRISTMAS MARKET - 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Parish Hall (There Will Be No Tea Room This Year). For sale: our famous turkey pies, beef pies and shepherds' pies, deli items, baked goods, soup, and chili. Also, trinkets, treasurers and crafts. And a **Raffle for a Throw Blanket** donated by Carol Turner. The **Winner** to be selected at 8:00 p.m. on December 9 at the Festival of Lights. Tickets for the Raffle are \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00.

•
December 3 CDM Christmas Dinner at 4:00 p.m. Free Will Offering required from CDM Parishioners, your attendance RSVP at 519-344-9531 by Tuesday November 21. Sign-up sheet is also available at the back of the church. Thank you.

•
“Festival of Lights” event for Canon Davis on Saturday, December 9th, 6:30 – 8pm. Admission: a non-perishable food item. The church will be decorated inside and out. Lights will be strung on as many trees/bushes as possible. There will be Carolers, refreshments, baked goods and “Stain-glass” cards for sale, but most importantly introducing Rev'd Jon Forbes to the community. **If you have strings of lights you would like to donate for this event, please either bring them to the church or contact Ginny 519-332-4764**

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December 10 - 9 Lessons and Carols Service, with Wassail following in the Parish Hall – Food donations for the Wassail are welcome but not necessary. Please speak to John or Sheree Lynn

Reminders: November

Nov 22 Parish Council Meeting 10:00 a.m. Boardroom

Nov 25 Christmas Market 9:00 to 12:00 p.m.

Reminders: December

Dec 2 10:00 am is Decorate the church for the Festival of Lights on December 9th.

Dec 3 CDM Christmas Church Dinner 4:00 pm

Dec 6 St. John in-the-Wilderness Christmas Party - John's Restaurant

Dec 7 Please bring Shortbread and Gingerbread cookies bagging for **Festival of Lights at 1:00 pm**

Dec 9 Chancel Guild meeting at 9:30 a.m. to decorate the church for Christmas

Dec 9 Festival of Lights – 6:30 pm. to 8:00 pm

Dec 10 Nine Lesson and Carols Service with Wassail following the service.

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Day – Service of the Word. 9:30am. Ginny Schleihauf

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00 pm. HE – Rev'd Jon Forbes

Dec 25. No Christmas Day Service