**October 2, 2022 — 17th Sunday after Pentecost**

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

**Gathering Hymn  #  330**​***O Praise Ye the Lord***

**Greeting**​​p. 185

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

**Kyrie Eleison**​p. 186

**Collect of the Day: Almighty God, you have built your Church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. Join us together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may become a holy temple, acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

1st reading​LAMENTATIONS 1:1-6

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF LAMENTATIONS

How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations! She that was a princess among the provinces has become a vassal. She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has no one to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they have become her enemies. Judah has gone into exile with suffering and hard servitude; she lives now among the nations, and finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress. The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the festivals; all her gates are desolate, her priests groan; her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter. Her foes have become the masters, her enemies prosper, because the Lord has made her suffer for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe. From daughter Zion has departed all her majesty. Her princes have become like stags that find no pasture; they fled without strength before the pursuer.

 The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 137**

*Refrain: O pray for the peace of Jerusalem.*

By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, when we remembered you, O Zion. As for our harps, we hung them up on the trees in the midst of that land.  For those who led us away captive asked us for a song, and our oppressors called for mirth: "Sing us one of the songs of Zion."

**O pray for the peace of Jerusalem.**

How shall we sing the Lord's song upon an alien soil? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill. Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.

**O pray for the peace of Jerusalem.**

Remember the day of Jerusalem, O Lord, against the people of Edom, who said, "Down with it! down with it! even to the ground!"  O Daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction, happy the one who pays you back for what you have done to us!  Happy shall he be who takes your little ones, and dashes them against the rock!

**O pray for the peace of Jerusalem.**

2nd reading​2 TIMOTHY 1:1-14

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO TIMOTHY

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. I am grateful to God - whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did - when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the lying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn  #352**​***Amazing Grace***

Gospel​​LUKE 17:5-10

**Sermon -**

**Mustard Seed Faith**

"If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you! What are we to make of this!

Well, in Mark it says, “He did not speak to them except in parables”(Mark 4:34).

In 1990 when the Hubble telescope was launched, there was a problem. When the primary 8-foot diameter mirror, was ground, one of the test instruments that measured the curvature was improperly assembled leading to an improper reading. The curvature was offby about 1/50th of the thickness of the paper that today’s bulletin is printed on. As a result, the telescope’s pictures were out of focus.

The first servicing mission, in 1993, was able to install a set of correcting optics to fix the problem - very much like a pair of glasses can fix someone’s eyesight problems. This fix proved successful and has led to the wealth of discoveries and amazing images provided to us by the Hubble one the years.

You see, very small things can and do make a big difference.

Parables are the Hubble telescopes of faith and wisdom. In fact, the word “parable” itself is etymologically related to the word“*parabola*,” both meaning in some sense “comparison,” “reflection,”or even “relationship.” Both reflect light and truth.

Both make it possible for us to see what we would otherwise not see. As spiritual telescopes, parables bring the gospel message into focus and challenge us to look ever more deeply into the mysteries of life and faith, and discover realities that we might never understand without these parables. This is why our Lord loved them so. And unlike the unfortunate makers of the Hubbletelescope, Jesus always got his parables exactly right.

There are some things of course that parables cannot do. They do not tell us much about the weather or engineering, for instance. They do not deal with the nature of the material world the way science and the Hubble telescope do. They do not even attempt to explain some of the deepest mysteries of faith, such as the Trinity or the Incarnation. And parables are not simple allegories in which we correlate each character in the narrative to God or us or Christ himself. Parables often raise more questions than they answer. Butin raising the right questions, help to bring us closer to our true nature and to a deeper understanding of our relationship to God’s kingdom. Put another way, parables focus us on life’s essentials

The language of the parables is the language of faith – opening usto the kingdom of God at work in our everyday lives.

In that sense, parables may seem on the surface to be ordinary andeveryday stories. They are about everything from seeds and shrubs to lost coins and wasted money. Nothing very exotic. Nothing people today – two thousand years later – cannot identify with. Yet the words of the parable offer more than quaint images of the commonplace in life. They are about the things of this life considered as means of grace and growth. They are about the kingdom within.

The kingdom is the key. Jesus does not say for instance that we ourselves are like the mustard seed. On the contrary, left to our own devices most of us would probably remain solitary and small-minded creatures of our own comfort and pleasure. We would not have the grace to live and grow into the life of the kingdom. It is rather the kingdom working within us that is the source of all we can become. And to that, there is no spiritual limit. Yet the kingdom in all its abundance cannot be contained or manipulated by mortals like ourselves, no matter how much we may wish it were otherwise.

In the Gospels, Jesus repeatedly tell us that ‘The kingdom is at hand’, however, we cannot grab hold of it and own it. It is not for sale at any price.

In our post-modern, scientific and mathematical number-crunching,digital world, stories and parables may seem ancient, and obscure.“Don’t tell us what something is like,” we might be tempted to say.“Tell us what it is. And be precise about it.”

But the kingdom of which our Lord speaks does not work that way. It never just “is.” It does not fit comfortably into our post-modernnotions of life and order. The truth cannot be measured in megabytes or cannot be viewed through the lens of a telescope. It is always “like.” It is always found in relationship to the things and people of this life to which our Lord compares it. As the seeds in today’s Gospel account might sprout and grow, though we may never know precisely how, so the kingdom may grow within our hearts. The words of the parable, planted within us, have the power to powerfully alter our spiritual existence.

So how can something so transitory have such power? After all, the parables themselves are often of little substance, sometimes hardly more than extended similes. How can they make any difference to us today? A renowned meteorologist, Phil Merilees, remarked thatit might be possible for one flap of a seagull’s wings to change the course of weather forever.

Our Lord would have loved this image. Jesus turns to parable and metaphor because no other language or speech can begin to describe the kingdom. The kingdom’s growth and potential could give new meaning to the word “exponential.” The idea of almost infinite numbers fail to encompass the kingdom of which he is speaking. And yet the meaning of the kingdom is found in the smallest of seed and grain.

And the meaning of the kingdom is found within each of us as well. Few of us are great and mighty by the world’s standards. Not many of us will run for office or be appointed to positions of prestige and power. Few of us will make it big on Bay Street or Star in films. Yet none of this matters in the life of the kingdom. The kingdom of God is of a different order entirely. The effect of the kingdom at work in our lives will never be measured in dollars or popularity. We will never know the good we have done with simple acts of kindness and love. With the simple flap of our spiritual wings, we may well change the divine dimension of our world forever. That is the parable of our lives. The kingdom is at work in the smallest cell of our body and every tiny breath of our spirit.

“With what can we compare the kingdom of God?” Jesus asks. Or what parable will we use for it?

The famous eighteenth-century French philosopher and cynic, Voltaire, was no friend to religion as it was known in his day. Yet in one of his wisest sayings for which he became famous, he captured the meaning of the parables in the lives of Christians of any age.

“How infinitesimal is the importance of anything I can do,” he wrote.“But how infinitely important it is that I should do it.”

That is the parables of the kingdom and the lesson of the mustard seed. Our lives are more than the sum of days lived and dollars earned. Life has meaning beyond the walls of our home or workplace. It has meaning beyond the walls of self-interest and ego. We live in relation to one another and to the world around us. And in that relationship, we find the meaning of the kingdom and the worth and value of our lives. And that my sisters and brothers is something that is infinitely important.

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 # 399**​

***Now Thank We All Our God***

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:** God of truth, receive all we offer you this day. Make us worthy servants, strong to follow in the pattern of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer  # 4  ​p. 201

The Lord’s Prayer​p. 211

Breaking of the Bread  # 4​p. 212

Communion

**Prayer After Communion:**Almighty God, may we who have been strengthened by this Eucharist remain in your steadfast love, and show in our lives the saving mystery that we celebrate. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Glory to God & Blessing​p. 214

**Mission Hymn**​***#*350**​

***Stand Up and Bless the Lord***

Officiant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People:​​**Thanks be to God.**

Sung Benediction​***Howard’s Blessing****(vs 1-2 in the back of the Hymn Book)*

*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.

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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](mailto: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.

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Thank you to the members of CDM who donated to this year’s Kidney Walk last weekend.  We raised over $2500.00.  Elaine and Joanna.

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

**Upcoming Events:**

**Oct 16**​**Christian Music Café at 2:00 p.m. Tentative**

**Oct 26**​**Parish Council Meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Boardroom**