



Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Year A
August 16, 2020

Key Scripture - Matthew 15:27

"Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

Theme - Grace that Breaks the Rules



Welcome All

† Newcomers please sign our guestbook



† Special requests may be made through Facebook



[Contact Us](#)

† Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.

- Trinity is an Affirming Congregation and is inclusive of folk who find themselves a part of what is described as “LGBTQ+”
- Our church building is closed but our Congregation is Open and Active in a Ministry of Prayer, Service and Care. We hope to reopen in modified form after Labour Day weekend. Details are pending.

Welcome and Announcements

This week's Phone Tree Message - 12 August 2020

Dear God,

We pray for people who live alone and have gone without human touch for several months.

We pray for folk living in nursing homes, wondering when they will be able to embrace their loved ones again.

We pray for those who sit at a computer screen - interacting but missing the person displayed in front of them.

We pray for children who miss friends and playgrounds.

We pray for anyone with mental or emotional challenges that worsen in isolation.

We pray for everyone to reach out in safe, yet creative ways to check on one another. May we remember that we are called to be your hands and feet. As we connect in new ways, may we go wisely where you call us.

Help us fight this virus and loneliness. And through it all, may we remember you are with us. Thank you that we are never alone.

Amen.

The work of the "Reopening Trinity Committee" continues and details should be available shortly.

- We hope to ensure that all requirements to safely reopen our Church, *no earlier than Labour Day Weekend*, are in place and approved by competent authorities as per EOORC Guidance, "Safely Reopening our Churches."

Our guiding principle will be exclusively your health and safety. Stay safe and encourage the people you love to remain so.

- Trinity United Church News and Updates -
 - **Worship Services are not broadcast during the summer months on On COGECO - Your TV**
 - Services will continue to be available on the Trinity Web Page and FaceBook at 10:30 Sunday Morning
 - **Sunday's Scripture speaks to a Grace that breaks the rules -**
 - **Key Scripture - Matthew 15:27**
 - **"Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."**
 - **Theme - Grace that Breaks the Rules**
 - When children are at the table, crumbs do not just "fall." The admonition, "Do not feed the dog at the table" is routinely and gleefully broken. God's Grace and God's Children often ignore limitations and boundaries.
 - If a lunch delivered to your home would be helpful, we will serve as we are able. Contact the Office.
 - A note from the Stewardship Team
 - Please consider Pre-Authorized Payments (PAR) as a consistent way to support the congregation
 - Grocery / Gift Cards are still available for sale - Contact the Church Office at - 613 283 4444

○ Care

- Our Non-Medical Face Mask Ministry is incredible!
 - As more restrictions are relaxed and the potential for contact increases - Masks are becoming mandatory. Please remember your mask.
 - Masks are available at the church every Tuesday and Saturday from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm. It is a blessing to know that we have many folk in our own Congregation and

community who are so faithful in making masks so that all of us can be safer.



We are grateful for the Town of Smiths Falls and Lanark County. Take Away Meals are subsidized through the generosity of the Community Grant Program and COVID-19 emergency funds.

We are grateful for the teachers and staff of SFDCI and Duncan J. Schoular Public School who volunteer on Saturdays.

Two Guys for Lunch are active partners with us in this community service.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

Elements of today's Worship Service are drawn and adapted from the Presbyterian Church in Canada online Worship Planner.

Introit MV662 "Lead Me, God"

Call to Worship

Let the peoples praise you,

let all peoples praise you!

Let the nations be glad and sing with joy,

for you guide the nations upon earth.

Let the people praise you,

let all peoples praise you!

Prayer of Gathering

Dear God,

You invite all people to receive your blessing.

Justice and right relations have their source in you.

We rejoice to be counted among your children.

Make us one in worship and thanksgiving.

We lift our voices to proclaim your all-encompassing love.

May our praise join with the praise of all your people.

And reach the ends of the earth, for you are our hope.

Amen.

Hymn VU271 "There's A Wideness In God's Mercy"

There's a wideness in God's mercy

like the wideness of the sea;

There's a kindness in God's justice

which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows

are more felt than up in heaven;

There is no place where earth's failings

have such gracious judgement given.

There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that Christ has shed;
There is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.

Troubled souls, why will you scatter
like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander
from a love so true and deep?

For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind,
And the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

Learning with Children

One of my very favourite memories at the cottage was a time a young racoon came to visit. It was on our deck. We heard it at night and we went out to see what it was. It was a friendly, young racoon. I opened a can of sardines and fed it a little bit at a time. The racoon took the food right out of my fingers with its fingers. It was wonderful. Racoons have the most amazing hands and are so smart.

Do you know who thought it was a good idea to feed the racoon?

NOBODY!

Do you know why? - They are smart and destructive.

People with docks are well advised not to feed the ducks. Lots of people do but it is not wise. It can be unpleasant to walk on a duck dock. Ask at home if you do not know why.

Do not feed the dog from the table. ... Have you ever heard that?
Jesus said that. It is a funny thing for Jesus to say.

Jesus was comparing feeding the dog childrens' food to giving away
God's Love to just anybody. Sometimes people around us might say it's a
bad idea but we do it anyway.

Childrens' Prayer

Dear God,

Help us to share your love with others as easily as you share it
with us.

AMEN.

Call to Reconciliation

Our words, our deeds, our lives sometimes build barriers between us
and others, between us and God. But God shatters every distinction, God
reshapes us as new people. Let us come to the One who loves
us, and longs to forgive us.

Prayer of Confession

**We confess that we do not always live as Jesus taught us to live -
times we have not welcomed others;
times we have avoided others because something about
them aroused discomfort.**

Forgive us when we have judged unfairly.

Reveal our prejudice which separates us from others

and our failure to seek goodness in those who seem different.

AMEN.

Assurance of Pardon

While it is true that we fall short of our highest intent, it is a greater
truth that we are forgiven through God's Grace.

In Jesus we are forgiven.

Be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

Scripture Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67; Matthew 15: 21-28

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,
to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

Thus says the Lord God,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Psalm 67 (VU 786)

Be gracious unto us, O God, and bless us;
and let the light of your face shine upon us,
that your ways may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.
Let the nations be glad, and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples righteously

and guide the nations of the earth.

The earth has yielded its harvest,
and you, our God, have blessed us.

Your blessing, O God, be upon us.

May all the ends of the earth revere you.

Refrain -

Let the peoples praise you, God, let the nations shout their joy.

Matthew 15: 21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all.

And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us."

He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."

He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Hymn VU559 "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,

sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
precious presence, precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debt
or daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.

Reflection -

“I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

“It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”

“Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”

***“Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.”
And her daughter was healed instantly.***

This exchange between Jesus and a Canaanite woman and the way it is interpreted is challenging for some. It is commonly taken to be a teaching moment.

In one grouping of interpretations, Jesus is testing the depth of the Canaanite woman's faith. Jesus is resisting in order to create the condition in which the woman would have to demonstrate persistence. A related interpretation has Jesus using the Canaanite woman as a teaching aid for his Disciples; a demonstration of the boundlessness of God's Grace. Jesus is testing the disciples, not the Canaanite woman. ... Heightening fear and anxiety in another human being does not seem to be an appropriate approach to teaching. Especially by one whose prime motivation is love.

In another grouping of interpretations, Jesus is presented as having no intention of helping the Canaanite woman and is taught compassion by her. This too seems awkward; that the one who came to preach and demonstrate love had to be schooled in such a way.

I am not excited by either of these interpretations.

What if Jesus *was not teaching or being taught at all*? What if this is just a reflection or description of how people really speak and interact? What if this is a reflection of how people often, really say "Yes"? It is very common that when we say "Yes," we do so not as a word but as a conversation with a context, especially when "Yes" is challenging. It is also very common that at first, when people are reflecting a difficult context that it sounds like a protest and that the answer will be "No" when all the person is doing is wrapping "Yes" in a describing the challenges that "Yes" implies. I suspect that it is very common in close relationships that "Yes" comes wrapped in what sounds like a protest. It is like clarifying with the person what they are asking.

... Aaahhh ... Can we afford that? ...

... Ooofff ... That will take three days and a team of horses ...

... You know, you have to take out the cupboards to install a new floor properly ...

... You know, we just painted the kitchen last year ...

... We don't have a ladder that long ...

I could do this all day but I think you get the point.

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” Jumping to the front of somebody else's procession and shouting about demons is, ... well ... if you are a fan of the movie “The Imitation Game,” you will have heard the word *“indecorous - not in keeping with good taste and propriety; improper.”*

So Jesus answers -

“It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”

Our pew bibles are the New Revised Standard Version. In this exchange the greek word translated “fair” may be better represented as “seemly.” Jesus is commenting on the context. He is not saying, “No.” There are a number of things that would have been a challenge for Jesus’ followers because of this request. *Jesus is noting that.*

Jesus does something else. The way he notes the challenge is quite clever. He chooses the example of giving the childrens’ food to dogs. What an unsightly and *indecorous* image.

Who gives children’s food to the dogs? ...

Children do!

When you Google, “do children like feeding the dog from the table?” you will get about 148,000,000 results (0.62 seconds). I did not read all 148,000,000 results but the gist of the results I saw was that feeding dogs from the table or feeding dogs people food at all is a very popular bad idea.

If you have a child, grand or great, niece or nephew; pre toddler or toddler, a highchair and a dog, *the two will become fast friends.* If at first

the crumbs merely fall from the table, the child will find such delight in the dog's response or such delight in the excitement of adults keeping the dog in its place that soon the child will look for any opportunity to intentionally drop fistfuls of forbidden delights. It is unseemly. It is indecorous. It is fun and it is wonderful. ***Both the child and the dog love it.***

Children are not alone. While adults may not drop fistfuls of forbidden delights from the table. It is very common that we are compelled to share with the dog ... even when we are advised not to.

“It is not [seemly] to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.” True enough, at least that is what we *say* ... even as we routinely do the exact opposite and love it.

It is common to wrap our “Yes” in a description of a challenge that sounds like a protest. It is common that some of our acts of kindness are ill advised. It is common that our approach to God and to one another is clumsy, indecorous. It is common for us to ignore all of this and to ask and to receive. It is common and it is precisely here in the unseemly, the messy, the indecorous, that God's Grace and healing are needed and received.

Amen.

Hymn VU676 "God, Make Us Servants of Your Peace"

God, make us servants of your peace:
where there is hate, may we sow love,
where there is hurt, may we forgive;
where there is strife, may we make one.

Where all is doubt, may we sow faith,
where all is gloom, may we sow hope;
where all is night, may we sow light;
where all is tears, may we sow joy.

Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek
to be consoled, but to console,
nor look to understanding hearts,
but look for hearts to understand.

May we not look for love's return,
but seek to love unselfishly.
For in our giving we receive,
and in forgiving are forgiven.

Dying, we live and are reborn
through death's dark night to endless day;
God, make us servants of your peace
to wake at last in heaven's light.

**We Respond to God's Word
Offering Ourselves
For The Work And Witness Of The Church**

Invitation to Offering

With deep gratitude for the healing and freedom that Jesus offers, let us present our offerings to God. Through our gifts, may that healing and freedom be shared in God's world in Christ's name.

Trinity Needs Your Help

During these trying times, Trinity's life and work continues in many ways. While our Sunday services and many other things in our lives are on hold until further notice, and our building is closed, our staff and members are still active and operational costs continue.

There will be no opportunity for the regular collection of offerings each week, so Trinity needs you to share your gifts in a different way. We have 4 options:

1. Please visit the www.trinityunitedsf.ca and use the "DONATE" button. It takes you to CanadaHelps.org where you can make a safe and secure, one time or monthly donation as often as you want.
2. This may also be a good time to start using Pre-authorized Payments. The form for that is attached to this post and can be printed off and mailed to the church office at 41 Market Street / PO Box 28, Smiths Falls, K7A 2E7
3. We have also set up an e-transfer account to accept your donation. Please use secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca . Password not required. Please note your envelope number and amount allocated to general church expenses, M&S. and/or capital projects.
4. Of course you can always mail a donation to the church office at 41/ PO Box 28 Market Street, Smiths Falls, ON K7A 2E7

If you require assistance or have any questions about making donations, please do not hesitate to contact the church office at 613-283-4444 or by email at secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca.

Thank you.

Offering Prayer

We place our hope and trust in your loving kindness, leaning on you for all our needs. Because we want to praise you with more than mere words, we bring our gifts to support Christ's mission in the world. Bless these gifts and use our energy for your good purposes, so that all the world will know your loving kindness. Amen.

Meditation "Any Dream Will Do" (LLoyd Webber)

Prayers of the People

Dear God,

We often reach to you in times of desperation with no concern for form or convention. You have compassion for us all in struggle and in joy.

We set before you our hopes and concerns.

Fill us with your compassion as we pray.

For all that we are and all that we do, all we wish we could do and all we long for...

We pray for our church and community, our hopes in the face of great change...

We pray for the choices we make in our country and community, in our homes and workplaces, and for the responsibilities we and our leaders bear ...

We pray for the troubles that weary us, the situations that puzzle us and the uncertainty that surrounds us...

We remember situations that worry us and each person we care about...

You are the Source of peace and new possibility for us all.

Help us trust in your grace for today and tomorrow. Fill us with the strength and hope we need to walk with you, united in your love.

We are thankful that we can experience God in a relationship from which we draw strength, courage and encouragement.

The ways of knowing God - Mother, Father, Friend -

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer;

may be expressed in the prayer Jesus taught us -

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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever
Amen

We Depart to Serve with Joy

Hymn MV79 "Spirit, Open My Heart"

Refrain -

***Spirit, open my heart
to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love,
in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.***

God, replace my stony heart
with a heart that's kind and tender.
All my coldness and fear to your grace
I now surrender.

Refrain -

Write your love upon my heart
as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed,
may my living bring you glory.

Refrain -

May I weep with those who weep,
share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ,
may we welcome one another.

Refrain -

Benediction

Now go, to serve as God's people.

We will work to remove all that divides us from others.

Now go, to share the grace of Jesus.

We will love others just as we are loved.

Now go, to be the Spirit's community.

We will invite everyone to join us in this life of faith and service.

Choral Amen

Postlude "Jacob's Entry into Egypt" (Lloyd Webber)