

Key Scripture - Mark 8:33

"Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Theme - Return and Reconciliation



Welcome and Announcements

- † 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
 - With the Stay at Home Order lifted, our church building is open on a limited basis. Our Office Administrator holds Office Hours 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Since we are still in a Pandemic, the main doors will remain locked, please phone ahead or from the main entrance.
 - We are able to meet in person under limitations - 30 Bubbles that may accommodate up to 50 Folk when families are considered.
 - The Service will still be livestreamed on Facebook and rebroadcast on COGECO (Your TV) the following Sunday at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.
 - March 5, this year the World Day of Prayer service will be held virtually. The service has been prepared by women from across Canada; let's join together to pray for the country of Vanuatu. Please,

make your donations directly to the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada.



We are grateful for the Town of Smiths Falls. Take Away Meals are subsidized through the generosity of the Community Grant Program. We are also supported through the kindness of individual benefactors.

Two Guys for Lunch are partners with us.

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

Introit 121 "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"

Seed that dies to rise in glory,
May we see ourselves in you,
If we learn to live your story,
We may die to rise anew,
we may die to rise anew.

Extinguishing of the Second Lenten Candle

In our call to be a blessing,
May we be a blessing true;
May we live and die confessing
Christ as Lord of all we do,
Christ as Lord of all we do.

Call to Worship

We gather together, seeking life in all its fullness.

We gather in God's name, longing for what is real and true.

We gather, drawn by the words of our Creator and Redeemer.

We gather to worship our Lord, who is worthy of all glory and praise.

Opening Prayer

Loving and holy God,

Our Creator, Friend, and Guide,
you speak words of life to us.

In you we find our hearts' desire;
by your grace we are saved.

When the way forward is unclear, you shed light.

When we are troubled, you give peace.

When times are difficult, you stir courage and hope.

Our deepest longing is to know you,
and to be known by you.

In these difficult days, we praise you for your faithfulness to us.

Draw near to us in our time of worship
and open the way before us,

so that we may follow Jesus without wavering,
trusting him to lead us.

Hymn 268 "Bring Many Names"

Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,

holiness in glory, living, loving God:

Hail and Hosanna! Bring many names!

Strong mother God, working night and day,
 planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation, genius at play:
 Hail and Hosanna, strong mother God!

Warm father God, hugging every child,
 feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:
 Hail and Hosanna, warm father God!

Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
 calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:
 Hail and Hosanna, old, aching God!

Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
 saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
crying out for justice, giving all you have:
 Hail and Hosanna, young, growing God!

Great, living God, never fully known,
 joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
 Hail and Hosanna, great, living God!

Learning with Children

We name Dogs, Cats, Calves and other Animals. Some of the young folk we know care for animals and show them at Fairs or as part of 4-H. What name would you give a Lamb?

What kind of Lamb do you think would wander off?

Perhaps it was curious.

Perhaps it saw something good to eat.

Maybe it was not feeling well and walked more slowly than the rest.

Perhaps, even, it was playing hide and seek and hid so well that the rest continued on their way without her or him.

Maybe the Lamb just wanted to be alone and quiet for a while. There are lots of possibilities.

How do you suppose a Shepherd calls a lost Lamb?

Would it be like calling a Kitten or a Puppy?

Children's Prayer

Prayer of Reconciliation

Following you brings joy.

We confess the way is sometimes hard for us.

There are times we settle for an easier way.

Some days we find the task of loving others hard.

**Sometimes we choose anger over forgiveness,
or ignore the needs of our neighbours.**

Forgive us when our commitment waivers.

Forgive us when we take an easier path.

Stir the embers of our devotion and kindle a brighter flame.

Strengthen our determination to follow where you lead

and renew our energy to serve in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Blessing

Believe the good news of the gospel.

We are justified by God's grace.

By grace, we are forgiven and set free to find new life in Christ.

Thanks be to God!

Scripture Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16;
 Psalm 22:23-31;
 Mark 8:31-38

Genesis 17:1-7

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

Psalm 22: 23-31 (VU 746 Part Three and Four)

Refrain -

In the presence of your people I will praise your name.

Give praise, all you who fear God!

Proclaim God's greatness, all you children of Jacob;

stand in awe, all you children of Israel!

For God has neither despised

nor scorned the poor in their distress.

You, O God, have not hidden your face from them.

You heard them when they called to you.

Refrain -

In the presence of your people I will praise your name.

You are the theme of my praise in the great assembly.

I will keep my promise in the presence of those who fear you.

Let the poor eat to satisfaction;

let those who seek you praise you.

May they be in good heart forever!

Let all the ends of the earth remember and turn to you, O God.

Let all the families of the nations bow down before you.

For yours is the dominion, O God,

You rule over the nations.

Refrain -

In the presence of your people I will praise your name.

Even all who sleep in the grave shall worship you;

those who go down into the dust shall bow before you.

I too shall live for you.

Our children shall serve you,

and tell generations yet to come about you.

To a people yet unborn,

they shall make known the saving deeds you have done.

Refrain -

In the presence of your people I will praise your name.

Mark 8:31-38

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

God bless our understanding of this reading.

Meditation "Faith of Our Fathers" (arr. Young)

Reflection Awkward Reunions

Hymn 608 "Dear God, Who Loves All Humankind" vs. 1,4,5

Dear God, who loves all humankind,
 forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind;
 in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
 beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
 let us, like them, without a word,
rise up, and follow thee.

O sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still, small voice of calm!

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

Invitation to the Offering

Jesus challenged his followers to deny themselves in order to follow him. Our offerings express to God our willingness to give not just a little something, but to commit resources we could have used in other ways for others. We are blessed to be able to give.

Offering Prayer

You challenge all your followers to give to God like you did. Receive our gifts and bless them so that we may continue your ministry in this world. Bless us with your courage so our lives speak to others of our love for you and for them. Amen.

Hymn 623 "Dear Weaver, Of Our Lives' Design"

Dear weaver of our lives' design
whose patterns all obey,
with skillful fingers gently guide
the sturdy threads that will survive
the tangle of our days, the tangle of our days.

Take up the fabric of our lives
with hands that gently hold;
bind in the ragged edge that care
would sunder and that pain would tear,
and mend our ravelling souls,
and mend our ravelling souls.

Let eyes that in the plainest cloth
a hidden beauty see
discern in us our richest hues,
show us the patterns we may use
to set our spirits free,
to set our spirits free.

Prayers of the People

Loving God, we thank you for the vision you have for our lives,
the promises you have made to us,
and the journey you open before us.

Today we remember with gratitude:

The ways our lives are held secure in uncertain times by our
trust in you;

Moments in these months of pandemic that made us laugh or
smile;

Moments when we felt your gifts of courage and patience;

Times when you helped us overcome temptation;
The people who love us and give us encouragement;
Gracious God, we are grateful for all these signs of your love in our lives.

Thank you for the hope they bring us. Show us how to share this hope and love with others who are struggling in these difficult days.

Faithful God, we pray for healing and restoration in the world that is our home.

Hear us as we name in silence the needs and concerns we carry today:

We pray for people, places and situations deeply in need of your grace,

especially as they face the fears and frustrations of coping with COVID-19;

We pray for those who struggle to feed, clothe or house themselves and their families, and all those who worry about their economic future;

We pray for those who are weak or vulnerable for any reason, and for all who lack dignity and respect in our community;

We pray for the earth and its well-being, that areas and species under threat will be cared for;

We pray for peace with justice in regions of the world facing turmoil (Here, you may name relevant places in recent news);

And we pray for all those offering leadership and service in these times of hope and anxiety, for those planning how to offer vaccines in our community, and for those uncertain about vaccination;

By the power of your Spirit, O God, work in us and through us. May we bring the light and love of your kingdom into our relationships and our community in all we do and say.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus.

Prayers conclude with:

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

The ways of knowing God - as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; Father, Mother, Friend; may be expressed in the prayer Jesus taught us -

The Lord's Prayer

We Depart to Serve with Joy

Hymn MV 30 "It's A Song of Praise To The Maker" 1,2,4 or 1,3,4.

It's A song of praise to the Maker,
the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's A song of praise to the Maker,
the gray whale sings in the sea,
and by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a call of life to the Giver,
when waves and water-falls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver,
when high tides break on the shore,
And by the Spirit you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker, too.

It's A chorus of all creation;
 sung by all living things.
It's A chorus of all creation;
 a song the universe sings,
and by the Spirit you and I
 can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

Benediction

Go now with God, on your journey through Lent.

We will discover the new name given to each one we meet.

Go now with Jesus, walking wherever he leads.

We will put all our fears, as well as our longings, behind us.

Go now with the Spirit, who is always full of surprises.

We will share the good news called Jesus with everyone.

Choral Amen

Postlude "The God of Abraham Praise" (Arr. Young)