



Fourth Sunday in Lent - B
March 14, 2021

Key Scripture - Ephesians 2: 8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God -- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.



Theme - A Way Prepared

Welcome and Announcements

- † Newcomers please sign our guestbook
- † Special requests may be made through Facebook
- † 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.
 - Office Hours are 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday - Thursday.
 - Please phone ahead or from the main doors to gain entrance.
 - Our new Office Administrator is Andrea. You will find her to be a warm, welcoming and wonderful addition to our Ministry.
- † We are able to accommodate 30 Bubbles or up to 50 when households are considered.
 - One of our COVID limitations is that we are not permitted to sing in public. Some folk would like to stand. Please feel free.
 - We live stream on Facebook and rebroadcast on COGECO (Your TV) the following Sunday at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.



We are grateful for the Town of Smiths Falls. Take Away Meals are subsidized through the generosity of a Community Grant. 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

Sunday's Reflection

This Sunday is the Fourth of Lent. Our Scripture reading is a comfort for those who are tempted to take on responsibility and worry that is not their own -

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Ephesians 2: 8-10

While Paul notes boasting over a success that was not your own doing, we are similarly anxious about things over which we have little control or that are not our responsibility to resolve.

- we are what [God] has made us ...
- for good works which God prepared beforehand

When we are able to regard ourselves and our work as Gifts prepared by God, then we can step back from the expectation that everything is up to us. We are revoked from both boasting and worry. God has it in hand.

Introit 121 "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"

Gentle Jesus, mighty Spirit,
Come inflame our hearts anew,
May we all your joy inherit
If we bear the cross with you,
If we bear the cross with you.

Extinguishing of the Second Lenten Candle

Give us eyes to see you clearly,
Make us children of your light;
Give us hearts to live more nearly
As your gospel shining bright,
As your gospel shining bright.

Call to Worship

Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever.

God gathers God's people from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

Let us thank the LORD for such all-embracing love;

Let us praise God for God's wonderful works to humankind.
**We will worship God with thanksgiving
and tell of God's deeds with songs of joy.**

Opening Prayer

Gracious God,
Great and wonderful are your works!
Your steadfast love is everlasting.
You have come among us in Jesus.
Where there is darkness, you bring light.

Where there is sadness, you speak hope.
Where there is despair, you bring new possibilities.
You bring healing for the sick, and forgiveness for the sinner.
You bring justice for the oppressed, speaking truth instead of
lies.
Stir us with your Spirit, O God, in this time of worship.
Awaken our joy and reverence
as we offer you our songs and our silence, our prayers
and praises,
for you are our God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, one God, world without end.

Hymn 642 "Be Thou My Vision" (Irish Traditional)

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art -
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for my fight;
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r;
raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Time With Children

St Patrick's Day Mailout.

Children's Prayer

Prayer of Reconciliation

Merciful God,

Even as we praise you, we are aware of our challenges.

**We are sometimes quick with our assumptions,
more focused on our perception than on the reality
of those around us.**

**We are distracted by speculation,
rather than seeking your light and truth.**

Forgive us.

Awaken our spirit of commitment and compassion.

**Give us a new vision of your purposes
and our place within them,**

so we may serve you more faithfully, day by day. Amen.

Assurance of Blessing

By grace we have been saved through faith. This is not our doing but God's gift to us.

Know that God forgives you, and forgive one another.

So may the peace of Christ be with you.

Scripture Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (VU831 Part One and Two)
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

Numbers 21:4-9

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (VU831 Part One and Two)

Refrain -

O give thanks to God for steadfast love.

O give thanks, for God is gracious;

God's steadfast love endures for ever.

Let the redeemed of God say so,

those redeemed from trouble,

whom God gathered in from the lands,

from the east and the west,

from the north and the south.

Refrain -

O give thanks to God for steadfast love.

Some lost their way in desert wastes,
finding no place to settle;
hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.
Then they cried to you, God, in their trouble;
you rescued them from their distress.
**You led them by a straight path,
till they reached a place to settle.**
Let them thank you, O God, for your steadfast love,
for the wonders you do for us.
**For you satisfy the thirsty,
and fill the hungry with good things.**

Refrain -

O give thanks to God for steadfast love.

Some suffered because of their sinful ways,
afflicted on account of their wrongdoing.
**They loathed every kind of food;
they came close to the gates of death.**
Then they cried to you, God, in their trouble.
You rescued them from their distress.
**You gave the word and healed them;
you saved them from the grave.**
Let them thank you, God, for your steadfast love,
for the wonders you do for us.
**Let them offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.**

Refrain -

O give thanks to God for steadfast love.

Ephesians 2:1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ***For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.***

John 3:14-21

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light,

so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Meditation "Star of Logy Bay" (Traditional)

Reflection A Path Prepared

Hymn 318 "Christ Be With Me" (St Patrick)

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

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

Invitation to the Offering

The season of Lent leads us to the Cross. As we contemplate Jesus lifted up for our sakes, consider what his mercy and grace means for you. Let your offering express your thanksgiving.

Offering Prayer

You gave without counting the cost. Bless these gifts with your generous love. Send them and us into the world with the same hope and healing we have found in you. Amen.

Hymn 273 "The King Of Love My Shepherd Is" (St. Columba)

The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

Prayers of the People

Generous God,

With your mercy, you have made us alive together with Christ.

By your grace we are saved,

and promised hope for life with you.

You have shown us riches through your grace and mercy,

and we offer our gratitude, now and always.

We pray that all will know the fullness of your gifts

in ways that touch deepest needs.

We pray for those dear to us

and all those we've come to lean on in the months of the pandemic...

We pray for those who are struggling in isolation or frustration...

for all those who experience illness or pain in body, mind or spirit...

for all who have lost someone or something central to their lives

and have to cope with grief and loss...

May all these know your grace and mercy.

We pray for peace and safety in the world...

for countries struggling to care for their citizens

and to rebuild their economies...

for all who do not receive the respect

and consideration they deserve...

for all those persecuted for their faith or their views...

for all who are disenfranchised and long to live in freedom...

May all these, your children, know your grace and mercy.

We pray for your church around the world and for the congregations we know...

for the work of Faith Communities across Canada
and the ministries they lead ...

for the learning we have gained in outreach during the pandemic
and all who have connected to your church in new ways...
and for other leaders who are finding this time of planning
and decision making stressful...

May your church in all its many expressions know your grace and
mercy.

We pray for the concerns on our hearts this day,
for fears and frustrations...
for troubled relationships...
for doubts and the hopes which compete within us...
for any need of healing and support...

May we, your children, know your grace and mercy.

We offer the prayers through Jesus who taught us to pray.

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 135 "Beneath The Cross of Jesus" (St. Christopher)

Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand:
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land,
a home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus
my eyes at times can see
the very dying form of one
who suffered there for me;
and from my smitten heart with tears
two wonders I confess,
the wonder of his glorious love,
and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, your shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all, the cross.

Benediction

Wherever you are, whoever you are,
never forget you are God's community.

Share God's enduring love.

Whoever you are, wherever you might be,
know always that Christ is alive in you.

**Share Christ's enduring light
into the shadows of uncertainty.**

Now in this moment, and in every moment to come,
remember you are gifted by the Spirit.

**Share those gifts of grace, of hope,
of justice, of peace with everyone.**

Choral Amen

Postlude "The Squid Jiggin' Ground" (Scammell)