

Key Scripture - John 12: 23, 24

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.



Theme - The Next Level

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.
- † Annual Congregational Meeting - 2 May 2021 during Worship.

† Stewardship Update

– Fundraising

■ May - Annual Geranium Sale

- Purchase Orders will be taken in April for delivery scheduled for Saturday, May 29. We will follow the careful social distancing that we have become accustomed to and have the pick up outside in the parking lot. We are ordering a sunny, warm day for the event (**Action:** Prayer Team)

■ May 15 and 16, Compost sale at REAL –

- A Fundraiser is planned for the sale of compost from the parking lot at REAL on **Saturday, May 15**. That weekend precedes the May holiday weekend which traditionally all gardeners consider time to plant. **SAVE THE DATE** and plan to pick up a bag or two of compost.
 - **30 litre bags for \$10.00**



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.

Today is Bach-day, J.S. Bach's 336th birthday.

Bach started his organist career at the age of 18 in Arnstadt, Germany, and was responsible for playing three services a week, as well as directing the choir. There was not a lot of organ music around, so he set about composing what he needed. He was also a brilliant improv

performer, but his improvising during the hymns resulted in a letter of reprimand, for "confusing the congregation."

His use of simple melodies, plus his distinctive counterpoint and variation, makes him the most important composer of organ music. He also composed instrumental music, and hymns and cantatas for congregation and choir. The list of his compositions runs to 13 pages in one biography. (Heaven knows when he had time to father 20 children! You may want to leave that out, but I thought it was quite interesting.)

All of the music today, including the Introit, is Bach.

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"

Christ, you lead and we shall follow,
stumbling though our steps may be,
one with you in joy and sorrow,
we the river, you the sea,
we the river, you the sea.

Extinguishing of the Second Lenten Candle

God of all our fear and sorrow,
God who lives beyond our death;
Hold us close through each tomorrow,
Love as near as every breath,
Love as near as every breath.

Call to Worship

Come, all who desire to know Jesus.

Come, all who yearn to see.

Come, all who thirst for the Spirit.

God is in our midst.

Let us praise God's holy name.

We will worship with

heart, mind, strength and soul.

Opening Prayer

Creating God,

Loving Son,

Guiding Spirit,

With springtime and the promise of new life,
you wake us from our slumbers.

We glorify your name for you are faithful to us
through every season of the year and every season of
life.

We are grateful for your patience and persistence,
drawing near to us even through the times we cannot
draw near each other.

You promise hope in Jesus,
drawing life out of death.

Even as his cross looms on the dawn of Lent,
we praise you for Jesus' courage and compassion
which bring renewal to us in the midst of our
challenges.

We praise you for the love that never lets us go.

Hymn 348 "O Love How Deep" vs. 1,3,4.5

O Love, how deep, how broad, how high!

It fills the heart with ecstasy,
that God, in Jesus Christ, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.

For us he was baptized, and bore
a holy fast, and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharply knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.

For us he prayed; for us he taught;
for us great daily works were wrought,
by words, and signs, and actions, thus
still seeking not himself, but us.

For us to wicked foes betrayed,
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us at length gave up his breath.

Time With Children

Children's Prayer

Prayer of Reconciliation

Psalm 51 (VU776)

Refrain -

***God, I call to you for help,
In your mercy hear my prayer.***

Have mercy on me, O God in your great kindness,
in the fullness of your mercy blot out my offences.
Wash away all my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin.
For I acknowledge my faults,
and my sin is always before me.

Refrain -

God, I call to you for help,
In your mercy hear my prayer.

Against you, you only, have I sinned, and done evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence,
and blameless in your judgement.

Guilty I have been from my birth,
a sinner from the time of my conception.
But you desire truth in our inward being,
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean,
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness,
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
Turn away your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

Refrain -

God, I call to you for help,
In your mercy hear my prayer.

Put a new heart in me, O God.
and give me again a constant spirit.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
do not take your holy spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

and strengthen me with a willing spirit.

**Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.**

O God, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Refrain -

*God, I call to you for help,
In your mercy hear my prayer.*

You desire no sacrifice, or I would give it;
you take no delight in burnt offerings.

The sacrifice you accept, O God, is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise

Refrain -

*God, I call to you for help,
In your mercy hear my prayer.*

Assurance of Blessing

Jesus said, come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.

Friends, trust that peace and forgiveness are God's gifts to you this day. Be renewed by the power of the Spirit that moves with you into each new day.

Scripture Jeremiah 31:31-34; Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

Jeremiah 31:31-34;

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when ***I took them by the hand*** to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke,

though I was their husband, says the Lord. ***But this is the covenant*** that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and ***I will write it on their hearts***; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Hebrews 5:5-10

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

John 12:20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour

has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Meditation "Sheep May Safely Graze" (Bach)

Reflection The Next Level

Hymn 295 "The Earth and All Who Breathe"

The earth and all who breathe exist through love divine,
Who formed the sea, the flowering tree, the wren, the fragrant pine.
Each woman, man, and child created from the dust
Is called to share creation's care, a sacred, living trust.

The good, abundant earth is ours to tend and keep,
Yet land lies waste, consumed in haste, and hungry children weep.
The nations proudly build new Babels to the sky.
Their bombs destroy creation's joy; their missiles terrify!

Creation now awaits humanity's rebirth

At last to claim one common aim: to nurture life on earth.

Awake, all humankind, the challenge now embrace;

Apply your strength, your voice, your means, as stewards of God's grace.

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

Invitation to the Offering

A seed surrenders its life to the ground in order to bear much fruit.

What we surrender to God in our offering will also bear much fruit.

As springtime begins, sow the seeds of God's love as you offer your gifts to God.

Offering Prayer

God of new life, we offer you our thanks and praise for the promise of spring and the promise of resurrection in Christ Jesus. Bless our gifts and through them, accomplish more than we can ask or imagine, as they bear fruit in the world you love. Amen

Hymn 328 "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"

Jesu, joy of our desiring,
holy wisdom, love most bright;
drawn by you, our souls aspiring
soar to uncreated light.

Word of God, our flesh that fashioned,
with the fire of life impassioned,
striving still to truth unknown,
soaring, dying round your throne.

Through the way where hope is guiding,
 hark, what peaceful music rings;
where the flock, in you confiding,
 drink of joy from deathless springs.
Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure;
 theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.
You, forever, lead your own
 in the love of joys unknown.

Prayers of the People

Steadfast God,

in the midst of unending change and challenge,
 we give you thanks for your presence to sustain us.
While while it is difficult to accept this long season of isolation,
 we are grateful that you are with us.
You understand our fears; you support and guide us;
 and you give us courage to face the unknown.
We give thanks that you intend goodness for us;
 that your gift of faith supports us;
 and that prayer gives hope
 for goodness to prevail.

Loving God,

in this time of uncertainty,
 we pray for the world you love.

Send your healing Spirit to guide countries and communities
 as they respond to COVID-19.

Bless the work of medical researchers and frontline health care
workers.

Give us patience and good sense as we wait our turn for vaccination.

Send your healing Spirit to bring peace with justice to the world

Bring care and comfort to those who have been hurt in conflict,

wisdom to those who offer leadership in their communities,
and courage to those who advocate for the most vulnerable.

Send your healing Spirit to mend relationships
between religious groups and cultural groups
who find themselves in tension or turmoil.

We pray for mutual respect to grow
between peoples who look at each other with suspicion
and among people who have experienced painful histories
with each other.

Open our hearts and minds
to those whose situations and concerns we don't understand
and bring your gift of reconciliation to us all.

Send your healing Spirit to people we know and the earth you love.

We remember before you friends in grief...

Relationships marked by tension...

Those facing difficulty at work or finding work...

Disagreements in our church or community...

Concerns about the environment we depend upon...

We pray for the continuing ministry of the church
in our neighbourhoods and around the world.

As we prepare to celebrate Easter and Christ's resurrection,
send your healing Spirit to raise our hearts and our hopes
with the promise of new life in Christ.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation and

sustain in us all a willing spirit.

We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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 145 "O Sacred Head"

O sacred head, sore wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown:
how art thou pale with anguish,
with sore abuse and scorn;
how does that visage languish
which once was bright as morn!

Thy grief and bitter passion
were all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression,
but thine the cruel pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Saviour,
turn not from me thy face;
but look on me with favour,
and grant to me thy grace.

What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest friend,
for this thy dying sorrow,
thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever;
and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
outlive my love to thee.

Be near me when I am dying,
O show thy cross to me;
and for my succour flying,
come, Lord, to set me free.
These eyes, new faith receiving,
from thee shall not remove,
for all who die believing,
die safely through thy love.

Benediction

God sends us forth as people of the covenant.

Our hearts are filled with compassion which we will share with others.

Jesus calls us to share hope with all we meet.

Our hands will bring food for the hungry.

The Spirit of hospitality is engraved upon our spirits.

We will welcome everyone we meet with Grace.

Choral Amen

Postlude "Sleepers Wake, the Watch is Calling"