



Seventh Sunday of Easter - B
May 16, 2021

Key Scripture - Acts 1: 16

Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled,

Theme - Matthias, "Gift of God"



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
- † Services will be posted to [Facebook](#). You will find a window to our Facebook Page on our [Website](#). You will also find a link to our [Bulletin Page](#). Services are rebroadcast on COGECO (Your TV) the following Sunday 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.
- † **Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 13 June 2021.**
- † **Stewardship Update**
 - Annual Geranium Sale
 - Geraniums are sold out! Those who purchased will receive a telephone call prior to May 29, 2021 with a scheduled time to pick up their order.

† **Trinity Compost Sale** at REAL

- Plan to pick up a bag or two of compost
- **Sale is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday May 22 & 23**
 - **Curbside pickup will be arranged**
 - **Best Mushroom Compost ever!**
 - **You may Pre-Order through the Office at 613-283-4444**
 - **30 litre bags for \$10.00**
- Did you know that the first week of May is **National Composting Awareness Week** sponsored by the **Composting Council of Canada?**

† “Pitch-in” clean-up party. May 26, 2021, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm Bell Ave. Bring gloves and pruning shears. COVID safety protocols will be followed.

If you do not already track news and events in our larger Church Community, you may wish to [visit the United Church of Canada Website](#). [E-ssentials](#) is a helpful NewsLetter you may wish to consider.

The Day of Pentecost is 23 May, next Sunday. We will celebrate Communion. **The Spiritual Leadership Team will make pre-prepared Communion cups and wafers available for distribution so that we can all celebrate Communion and Pentecost together in our homes.** We are excited by this possibility and will provide more details as to how the elements may find their way to you.

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 MV 97 "Listen, God is Calling"

Listen,
God is calling, through the word inviting
Offering forgiveness, comfort and joy
Listen

Call to Worship

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
Shout to God with loud songs of joy.
For God, the Most High, is awesome, reigning over all the earth.
Sing praises to God this day and every day.
Let us worship God with all we have to offer!
Offer love – heart, body, mind and soul!

Opening Prayer

God of promise and purpose,
We greet this day with thankful hearts.

As flowers open and buds unfurl,
the beauty of your world lifts our hearts in praise.
As children grow in body mind and spirit,
you call us to encourage their faith development.
As adults navigate unfamiliar days,
you call as shepherds and guides.

You lifted up Jesus to be by your side,
as the future opens before us.

Draw close to us in this hour of worship
and show us promise and purpose in our lives -
how we can unfurl with new life
and move into the future with the energy of your Holy
Spirit
and the abiding love of Jesus.

Hymn 661 "Come to My Heart, Lord Jesus"

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; come to my heart today.
Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; Teach me to walk in your way.
Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; Fill me with love today.
Give me the peace and joy That only you can bring.
Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; Give me a song to sing.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; answer my prayer today.
Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

Time With Children

I love hotdogs but it is rare that I have them. Lorraine thinks they are bad for me. However, Lorraine bought 6 hotdogs and 8 hotdog buns for me last week. We do not like to waste food. Sometimes we do, so we compost ... which is good because last week was National Composting Awareness Week. However, I do not think we are supposed to compost Hot Dogs and buns ... Some might argue that Hot Dogs would sit in a preserved state for thousands of years like plastic bags ... So, this present us with a Math puzzle - If you did not want to waste any hot dogs or any

buns and had to have the same number of hotdogs and as you have buns and hotdogs come in a package of 6 and buns in a package of 8 ... how many packages of each do you need?

If you are part of the Allen Household, you might want to call your Grampie Larry. He is an accountant and is figuring this out in his head right now.

I love hotdogs but Hot Dog math is complicated...

Anyhow ... When Lorraine came home with a bundle of Hot Dogs, I was quite happy. As a couple were heating up on the BBQ, I was reminded of a BBQ at John Wiggins' house long ago. John Wiggins is a friend of Dona Egan. One of John's neighbours was vegetarian, so their boy had to eat tofu hot dogs... I kept my eye on the BBQ just to make sure that the Hot Dogs did not get mixed up. Lorraine thought I was being nice by making sure the boy who did not eat meat did not get a real hot dog by mistake ... I was really making sure that I did not get tofu ... I felt a little sorry for the boy... I could not imagine a world without traditional hotdogs. I felt like he was being left out. In fact, his family was quite used to what we called "health food." I do not think the family went to very many BBQs. ... But, you know what?

The boy was quite happy. He preferred his kind of hot dog! I did not have to feel sorry for him at all! He was happy just being there. He was not tied to the tradition like I was...

And here we were, all together in one place, the same BBQ but completely different Hot Dogs. No matter how much I liked my kind of hot dog, the other family liked theirs just as much.

In one of our Bible stories today, the people in the early church had to choose a person to help lead them. They had two choices. Each person was as good as the other but were of a different personality and approach. One person was well defined, he was well established, he was well connected and had a traditional way of being. The other person was from a different community. He came from a different circle but he was just happy to be there.

Do you know who they chose?

The guy who was not as connected to the traditional ways and was just happy to be there. His name was Matthias, which means, “Gift of God.”

I think today’s Bible story is one way of reminding us that no matter who you are ... an insider or outsider, a long established member of the church, community or neighbourhood or brand new, ... or even from no place in particular, you belong. Just like there was room on the BBQ for regular Hot Dogs and Tofu Dogs.

And ... If you go to the grocery store and buy Hot Dogs and Buns ... if the hot dogs come in a package of 6 and the buns in a package of 8, you will need four packs of hot dogs and three packs of buns ... That’s 24 hot dogs and buns all together.

Children’s Prayer

Dear God,

We thank you that your love is not complicated like hot dog math. You called a person in Bible days to help lead your first church whose name simply meant “Gift of God.” Help us accept your simple gift and share it easily with others in word and in deed. Amen.

Prayer of Reconciliation

You have called all your followers to carry the Good News of God’s love and forgiveness.

We cannot always find the words to tell others of our faith.

We are often silent when others criticize the church that bears your name.

We try to act out your love

but it’s hard to tell others why we do what we do for you.

Forgive our hesitation to share the gift you have given us,

and renew our courage to speak of our commitment to you.

Assurance of Blessing

Remember the promise - “What will separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship? Distress? Peril or sword?

Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.”

Let us rejoice that, no matter what is happening around us, no matter what we have done, God’s deep love will never let us go.

Scripture Acts 1:15-17, 21-26;
Psalm 1 (VU 724);
John 17:6-19

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, “Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus - for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.”

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Psalm 1 (VU 724)

Refrain -

Blessed are those who follow the law of God.

Blessed are those who do not follow the counsel of the wicked,
or linger in the way of sinners,
or sit down among those who mock.

**But their delight is in the law of God,
and on that law they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees planted beside streams of water,
yielding their fruit in due season.

**Their leaves do not wither,
and whatever they produce shall prosper.**

Refrain -

Blessed are those who follow the law of God.

As for the wicked, it is not so with them,

**but they are like the chaff,
driven away by the wind.**

Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand
when judgement comes,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

**For God watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Refrain -

Blessed are those who follow the law of God.

John 17:6-19

“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on

behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Meditation "Rose Window" (Young)

Reflection Matthias, "Gift of God"

"Chain Reaction" is a 1996 movie starring Keanu Reeves as a young machinist who is working for a team of scientists on a research project designed to find a way to split hydrogen away from oxygen in water to effectively produce an unlimited supply of cheap, clean energy. ... This under the watchful and seemingly benevolent eye of a government or corporate sponsor. Eureka! Keanu Reeves accidentally discovers the key that unlocks the formula. Unlimited, clean energy is immediately available to everybody. ... Or so one would think ... The story line follows the struggle between the established way where energy is not free but is carefully controlled, makes some people rich and powerful and drives the world economy and our way of life. To introduce unlimited, free energy would upset the established order and strip its leaders of their power and

wealth. In effect, the movie is literally about the free distribution of power and the belief that the establishment would never permit it to happen. It is a wonderful flick for conspiracy theorists young and old. Rotten Tomatoes gave it a rating of 18%. I give it a rating of “A-OK.”

Our primary reading today comes from the Acts of the Apostles. The context is what we would call a regional church council meeting. Peter begins with the primary agenda point of replacing Judas - And it ends with the early church moving in a direction different than its traditional roots ...

*In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, “Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus - **for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.**”*

While it is easy to disparage Judas, he was numbered among the 12 and had a full and legitimate share in the ministry. There is no reason to believe that Judas was a minor player at all or that replacing him was a small matter. Judas had a full share in the Ministry. Judas had a voice and a say in everything the Disciples did. While the Gospels seem to give Peter, James and John primacy among the twelve, they were all pretty much equally present; they sat at the same table when decisions were made. Judas, having a full share in the ministry helped to shape it. No matter how his ministry ended, while he was engaged he had a full say and was clearly influential.

We see the influence of Judas in the story of Mary anointing Jesus at Bethany. It was Judas who raised the concern about the cost of perfume. The other disciples eagerly joined in the complaint. All the disciples were indignant, grieved, and afflicted by this event. Judas raised the alarm and the disciples listened to him. They joined in hearty agreement.

So, the position to be filled is key. It is highly influential. This is not a small thing.

So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias.

It is important to remember that in Scripture, names mean something - So, which of the two will have a voice at the table? Whose voice will influence the other disciples and ultimately the whole movement? Who will help set the course of this movement from the very beginning? Whose are the two voices?

In the passage from Acts, there were two choices **Joseph called Barsabbas, known as Justis and Matthias ...**

Joseph is derived from the Hebrew name Yosef.

The Aramaic noun we call "bar" is cognate with the Hebrew noun "ben" and both mean "one of," ... one of a certain house, one of a certain profession, one of a certain country. These nouns are also the regular words for "son."

So, "Βαρσαββάζ" is a form of form of the Aramaic Bar-Sabba, probably Barsabbas means "belonging to" or "son of the" "Sabbath." Also known as Justus which may mean just, upright, righteous, lawful, legitimate, true or proper... Joseph Barsabbas, AKA Justus ... This speaks nicely to ancient traditions, the established faith and way of Judaism and the Law.

Matthias means simply - "Gift of God." It is of Greek and Hebrew origin, and the meaning of Matthias is "gift of God". It has the ring of simplicity, of freedom, of Grace and of the Spirit.

Again, in Scripture, names mean something - So, which of the two will have a voice at the table? What was God's choice? Who was called of the two equally qualified disciples?

Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

This, of course, is no surprise. The rest of the book of Acts is pretty much about the opening up of the Gospel to the whole world. While born

along the shores of Galilee, this faith was a Gift of God for everybody even to the ends of the earth.

What does this mean for us?

If you have occasion to read the Manual, you will see a number of notations indicating when and where our policies and procedures have been amended. The last few years we have moved from a four to a three court governance model. Changes in our Manual affected since 2019 carry a tone and speak to a freeing up of our means and modes of ministry.

During these pandemic months we have been well served by a disposition within our congregation that is comfortable with or at least capable of working in a fluid and changing environment. Cooperation between our Teams is seamless and it is difficult at times to see where one ends and the other begins.

In our personal lives and faith journeys, we have had to find ways to serve one another and our community that deviate from our regular norms and traditions. Next Sunday, in fact, we will celebrate Communion remotely. The Spiritual Leadership Team will make pre-prepared Communion cups and wafers available for distribution so that we can all celebrate Communion and Pentecost together in our homes at the same time using common elements.

The Christian Community Team continues to deliver lunches and blessings to doorsteps. The Healing Pathway group continues to pray and to reach out in ways for which the program was not actually designed and by the Grace of God, it works. It is clear that as the pandemic overshadowed us, the choice of faithful folk was that of Matthias, the Gift of God, that eagerly deviated from what we had become accustomed to - to a whole new way of thinking, of being, of serving. This willingness to follow the Spirit wherever it leads will serve us well as we continue to discern what the will of God is in our ever changing world.

Hymn 626 "I Heard The Voice of Jesus Say"

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."

I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down, and drink, and live."

I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise;
and all your day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

Invitation to the Offering

The season of Easter comes to a close this Sunday. Yet we will continue to receive the blessings God pours out for us in Christ and in

creation, for God is so good to us. Our gifts to God tell of our gratitude for these blessings and our commitment to share them with the whole world.

Offering Prayer

Eternal and ever-present God bless the gifts we offer you today with the power of your Holy Spirit. Use them and us to witness to the love of Jesus Christ and bring healing and hope to the world in his name. Amen.

Hymn 658 "O Love, That Wilt Not Let Me Go" vs 1,2,3

O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

Prayers of the People

O God, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life,
You have begun the work of creating a new world,
a world where justice is known,

where freedom and healing are available to all people.

We pray for the places in the world that are caught up in violence,

where people are held captive or struggle under oppressive powers,
and where sickness prevails, and medical resources are scarce.

Grant those affected courage and perseverance through your Spirit.

May people everywhere find the fullness of life you intend for us all.

You have begun the work of creating a new community,
a community where love is shared, and all find a sense of belonging.

We pray for groups who are made to feel like they don't belong,
for families that caught up in tension or strife,
and for those who feel isolated or desperate because no one seems to care.

Grant them all courage and comfort through your Spirit.

May people everywhere find the fullness of life you intend for us all.

You have begun the work of making a new creation,
a creation where all that has been broken is being restored,
where all that has been distorted is made right,
and what has been polluted or damaged is renewed.

We pray for the earth, the places where its natural balances are threatened
and species put at risk by human exploitation.

Send your healing Spirit to renew the earth and make us wiser stewards.

May creatures everywhere know the fullness of life you intend for us all.

As you work towards making all things new,
we pray for renewal in our churches and ministries,
for leaders who carry the responsibilities of coping with pandemic demands,
and for church members who feel isolated in the months of distancing.

Send your energizing Spirit to gather the church in ways both familiar and new.

May your servants in every church know the fullness of life you intend for us all
and be empowered to bear witness to Jesus in refreshing ways.

As you continue your work of healing and restoration we pray for friends and family who are burdened with ill health.

We pray for Barb Byam.

We thank you for a sister in the faith and a true friend of the church.

We thank you for folk who have offered encouragement by phone, email and cards.

We thank you for the comfort she finds in them.

When and where friends and family are unable to visit loved ones. When and where birthdays, anniversaries, graduations and milestones are missed,

We pray for your abiding spirit and presence.

Combining all our prayers, spoken and unspoken into one, we remember the words Jesus taught us ...

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 333 "Love Divine"

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Benediction

From the comfort of this place,
to the discomfort of discipleship,
we will serve your people, Loving God.
we will wrap others in your grace.

Listening to the stories of the ignored,
learning the language of our newest neighbors,
we will discover the truth that resides in every life.

Choral Amen

Postlude "Sarabande" (Handel)