

Key Scripture - Mark 6:31

"Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.

And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick ... and begged him



Theme - No Time for Leisure

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
- † We continue to pray for those who were impacted by the discovery of unmarked graves at Residential Schools.
- † Given the fact that the population may not be fully vaccinated until early Autumn; Trinity will not resume "In Person" Worship until September.
- † Services are pre-recorded during the week prior to the Sunday they represent, then posted to [Facebook](#). You will find a window to the 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.
- † **The Annual Congregational Meeting will be September 12, 2021.** At which time, we should be able to have more than 10 people in person.
- † **We are pausing the Grocery Gift Card program.**

† 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.

Healing Pathway Ministry - Distance Healing Circle - Trinity United Church

While in-person sessions are inadvisable during the Pandemic, the Healing Pathway Ministry will be offering a group distance healing session for twenty minutes starting at 1:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

Distance healing is a form of prayer which recognizes that we are all One in the Source of Life. We open to the Sacred Spirit and to allow the Healing energy of the Spirit to flow.

You are invited, if you wish, to join the virtual circle via [Zoom](#)

If you wish to have a conversation and / or book an individual healing session, email -

trinitysmithsfallshealingpathway@yahoo.com

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 62 "There Is Room For All"

There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;

There is room for all, sheltered in God's love.

And I rejoice and sing,

“My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust.”

There is room for all, there is room for all.

Call to Worship

In moments of anxiety, God leads us to still waters.

O God, we come to you.

In moments of confusion, God leads us in right paths.

O God, we come to hear your voice.

In moments of loneliness, God is with us.

O God, we come into your presence, seeking your love.

In all our moments, God is with us.

So we come to praise the One who restores our lives.

Opening Prayer

God our Maker,

In summer we easily marvel at the world you have made,
the colours of sunrise and sunset filling the horizon,
the intricate beauty of flower gardens and natural parks,
the quiet dignity of a river in its course, and
the steadfast presence of a rock face carved over time.

You show us how each small piece of your creation
depends in many ways on all the others.

Summer growth depends on spring rains;

health for each creature depends on the wise balance you have
set between each species;

the quality of life, on the respect we show one another.

Wise and patient God,

We marvel at the world you love.

Our worship joins the songs of all creation to bring you praise,
honouring you and the relationships you have set between us all,
through Christ, firstborn of all creation. Amen.

Hymn 330 "Jesus Shall Reign" vs. 1,3,4

Jesus shall reign where e'er the sun

does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

Blessings abound wheree'er he reigns:
and prisoners leap to lose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
peculiar honours to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud Amen!

Time With Children

Hello Young Folk,

School is out but it is hard to tell the difference when you actually walk by a school. For much of the school year, while school was on, it was not really in. In most other years, there would be old scribblers, broken pencils and crayons and projects in the recycle bins ... and the bins would be full. There would be evidence of a hasty retreat on the last day of school everywhere. Custodians and contractors would rush in, clean up, refinish floors and paint classrooms. I don't know if it will be the same this year or not. I do know that whether school meets in person or electronically, it is really nice to have a break. If you are not in a physical school and your old scribblers and projects are not in a recycle bin ... and you are already home like you were most of the year ... What does a summer break look like? What are you taking a break from?

Well ... even though you had school in your own home ... You were not doing things in your own time. Your schedule was controlled by somebody else. You did not have to be in school but you had to be somewhere. So time was not your own and you did not have the freedom to do what you wanted, when you wanted. Of course, this was made even

worse because of COVID. Many people felt trapped and tired. You may have felt that way too. There may have been lots of time but it was not your own and you were quite limited in what you could do.

But school is out and more and more people are vaccinated and we are becoming more and more free. Have you and your family talked about what you are going to do?

In the Gospel lesson today, we read of how busy Jesus was and how hard it was for him to take a break. Everywhere Jesus and his Disciples went, people looked for them and wanted something, so much so that *“they had no leisure even to eat.”* Even when Jesus wanted a rest, people found him.

I think it is wonderful that when we talk about being like Jesus, we can remember that he needed a break; just like you. Just like parents, grandparents, everybody. I think it is also wonderful that no matter how important you think your work or routine is, resting from it is important too. I saw on Facebook that some of you were playing in the Mississippi River near Pakenham ... It looked like the place that Jesus would cool his feet too.

This Summer, as things open up, have as much fun as possible. If you can, try to make sure the adults around you remember to have fun too. Believe it or not, that's what Jesus would do.

Children's Prayer

Dear God,

We thank you for school and for school breaks. Summers and weekends, March Break and Christmas too. We thank you for the scientists and Doctors and Helth Care Folk who invented and delivered vaccines so that we can be more free to do what we love.

We thank you for fun and friends and family. Help us to enjoy all of them this Summer and always; while we are young and until we are old.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession

God our Maker,

As we marvel at your creation, we confess we often take it for granted.

We don't know what to make of the effect of our so-called advancement.

We live as if our lifestyles make no impact on the earth.

We confess it is hard to change.

Yet we wonder if the way we live is pleasing to you.

For all the ways we put your creation at risk and harm the earth,
we ask for your forgiveness.

Teach us how to live in this marvellous world with love and respect
for you and for your whole creation.

Words of Assurance

God has made peace with us through Jesus. In Christ, all things hold together. Accept the peace of Christ and make peace with one another in his name.

Scripture

Jeremiah 23:1-6;

Psalms 23 (VU749);

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall

be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Psalm 23 (VU749)

Refrain -

My shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want.

God is my shepherd,

There is nothing I shall lack.

You, God, make me lie down in green pastures,

You lead me beside peaceful waters;

You revive my spirit,

You guide me in right pathways for your name's sake.

Refrain -

My shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, You are with me,

Your rod and your staff are my comfort.

You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies;

You anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

And I will dwell in God's house my whole life long.

Refrain -

My shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want.

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Meditation "Whispering Hope" (Winner)

Reflection No Time for Leisure

There were a number of accusations leveled against Jesus as he ministered along the shores of Galilee -

He was a Samaritan,

He was possessed of an unclean spirit,

He was a Drunkard,

He did not keep the Sabbath.

These were not unreasonable claims.

He was a Samaritan - Samaritans were Children of Israel. Israel was portioned into 12 Tribes. 11 of those Tribes had territory. One of the 12, the Tribe of Levi, was a priestly Tribe that owned no territory but lived among the other 11, having responsibility for the Temple in Jerusalem. They were a religious class. The Tribe of Judah is where we derive “Jew” and they formed the Southern Kingdom. The rest were the Northern Kingdom. The difference between the two was how they saw their governance and the centre of religious life. For the Jews, it was Jerusalem. For Samaritans, it was dispersed throughout the Kingdom. In effect, the difference was a preference between a confederation and a strong centralized, federal state ... With Jerusalem being the centre.

Jesus was of a Rabbinic tradition. Those of a centralized, priestly tradition would easily and legitimately suspect that he was a Samaritan. Clearly, in his parables, Jesus was sympathetic to the Samaritans ... although he was, in fact, a Jew. This accusation did not come from nothing.

He was possessed of an unclean spirit - In a world view in which all unseen power or knowledge was thought to be Spiritual or Supernatural, any such power that was not part of an official understanding or under official control would be suspect. In the language of the day, this was “Demonic.” So there was a certain logic to this complaint.

He was a Drunkard - You are known by the company you keep. Rightly or wrongly. This was not a random accusation.

He did not keep the Sabbath - Jesus healed on the Sabbath and his disciples plucked heads of grain. ... On the Sabbath. This was not an unreasonable concern,... given the culture and the way folk framed their understanding at that time. Added to this is today’s Gospel - ***“Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were***

coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them.

It was very difficult for Jesus to find a sabbath, to have leisure time. Leisure is different from rest or recovery. Rest and recovery is what you must do because you are exhausted or require a recharge in order to resume your work. Leisure is what you do because you want to do it. Leisure is what you do because you enjoy it.

There are a few references to Jesus being asleep in a boat, where folk do not have access to him but this is not leisure. At best, this might be rest. In today's Gospel, they are in a boat headed for a place of leisure. The boat is not that leisurely place. Neither Jesus nor his disciples are in a place where they can do what they want, they are where they have to be in order to recharge ... perhaps ... in reality, the time in the boat is where they have to be in order to get to their place of leisure. They are away from the crowd but this is not a leisure cruise, it is at best an escape.

So, ... What did Jesus do for leisure? Does the Gospel lesson today hold a clue? I think it does.

When you are busy or your schedule is not your own and you come to a pause. A pause that is not long enough for leisure but is long enough for you to daydream about leisure ... what you would do, if you could ... and you speak ... What do you talk about? ***“What are you doing on the weekend?”*** ***“Have you seen the new movie?”*** ***“Is your boat in the water?”*** ***“Are you going to the Hunting camp?”*** ***“Getting the bike out?”*** ***“Going dancing?”*** You talk about leisure, but that small break is not it. The break in your routine, while you wait for more work or more mandated activity or while you are not in control of your own schedule ... is at best a little rest or recovery time in which you can think about leisure, but it is not leisure. What did Jesus think about while he was on the boat, What did Jesus think about while resting or while he had time to daydream? This is a clue to what leisure was for Jesus ...

*As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, **because they were like sheep without a shepherd**; and he began to teach them many things.*

because they were like sheep without a shepherd; Why this image? Why this point of reference? Likely because it was where Jesus' mind was while on the boat, ... Jesus daydream of leisure ...

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.

For Jesus, it seems, his place of leisure may have been that quiet, pastoral place. Apart from the boat, where Jesus could find a brief period of rest or perhaps brief restoration, where did he go to actually get away from the crowd? On the road, it might have been one of those lonely places where he went away to pray ... but even there, folk found him; just as they found him in today's Goepel, ***As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd***; ... Where was that place that Jesus could not normally be found? We remember much later in the Gospel that Judas had to lead the guard to the Garden, ... this quiet place seemed to be his sanctuary. Perhaps an echo of -

***He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;***

The Garden of Gethsemane may have been that place.

The point for us is not that we choose the same leisure time or activity that Jesus did, some might. Others might find leisure on a deck, or at family gatherings, a road trip, a stamp collection, Mall crawling, cliff diving ... The point is that it is something we choose that is not simply resting so we can work again or restoration to recover.

Why is this Scripture important today? Why is leisure important now?

The past 16 months have been outside of our control. The past 16 months have eliminated or greatly reduced our access to leisure. Being stuck at home because of a Pandemic is not leisure ... for most it is not even rest or recovery. Isolation is stressful, it is very far from leisure and is not even restorative. Unemployment or reduced employment is not leisure, nor is it restful. Constant uncertainty and change is not restful or restorative even if or when you are not immersed in business. The last 16 months has not been leisure.

It is anticipated that there will be an elevated level of normality in the Autumn. Our church will be open. I suspect schools will look close to normal. Restaurants, government offices, and our various workplaces will be much closer to what we remember. In this space, in this “in between time,” as things open up and we regain more and more control of our schedules - please remember this - Time for leisure, real leisure, doing what you want for yourself is legitimate and important and cannot be overlooked.

I confess that when I first looked at the Lectionary readings for today, my first instinct was to view Jesus' need to get away as a limitation. Somehow, I completely missed the point of leisure. Somehow, I de-legitimized leisure and saw only how Jesus had to get away from work, ... not that getting to a place of leisure was right and correct and good ... In this passage, we are reminded that leisure is not a compromise we make with work, it is a legitimate need that cannot be neglected.

So, if as things open up, you find yourself planning your work, those things you must do, meeting pressing needs that were perhaps delayed, postponed or pushed off ... remember also to plan your play and protect it ... Jesus did, he had a garden ... What will you do for leisure? ... It is holy, it is legitimate, it is necessary and it is “Christ-like.” Do not neglect it. Amen.

Hymn 672 "Take Time To Be Holy"

Take time to be holy, speak oft with your Lord;
abide in him always, and feed on his word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, let him be your guide,
and run not before him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.

Take time to be holy, be calm in your soul,
each thought and each motive beneath his control.
Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love,
you soon shall be fitted for service above.

Invitation to the Offering

God's goodness flourishes around us in this season of growth and re-creation. Our gifts to God are a token of our gratitude for all we receive in creation. These gifts will also help God's goodness flourish through the ministries we undertake in Jesus' name.

Offering Prayer

God of goodness and growth, receive our gifts and our gratitude for the fruitfulness you provide. Bless our gifts with your Spirit so that they may accomplish more than we can ask or imagine, for the sake of Christ, our Friend and Saviour. Amen.

Hymn 405 "New Every Morning" vs. 1,2,5

New every morning is the love
our wakening and uprising prove;

through sleep and darkness safely brought,
restored to life, and power, and thought.

New mercies, each returning day,
hover around us while we pray;
new perils past, new sins forgiven,
new thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

Only, O God, in your dear love,
fit us for perfect rest above;
and help us, this and every day,
to live more nearly as we pray.

Prayers of the People

Good and generous God,

In Jesus Christ you came to us, promising life in abundance.

We give you thanks today for the abundant gifts we receive in him -
the assurance of your love day by day;
the relief of your mercy when we recognize our own failings;
hope to sustain us when things seem bleak; and
peace that comes when we trust ourselves to your eternal
keeping.

These are the gifts that matter,
so for all these gifts and other blessings we recognize around us,
we give you thanks in these moments of silence ...

Generous God, today we pray for all whose lives seem empty of joy -
because the going is tough, and friends still seem far away...
because their hearts are filled with disappointment...
because their sorrow and grief are keen this day...

(Keep silence for 15 seconds)

Support each one in your abundant compassion.

Generous God,

We remember before you those whose lives are empty of peace and hope -

because they are struggling with illness or disability...

because they are powerless in the face of violence

or other forces beyond their control...

Especially today we pray for all those facing discrimination

because of their culture or their religion, and

those still struggling to overcome the effects of the pandemic...

(Keep silence for 15 seconds)

Send your peace and promise with signs of new possibility and real hope.

Generous God,

We remember before you those for whom life is frustrating -

because they are without work...

because they have made poor choices and cannot find a way forward...

because what comes next does not seem clear...

(Keep silence for 15 seconds)

Support each one in your abundant mercy and lead them in new paths.

Good and generous God,

Fill us with energy and compassion to reach out to those facing

difficult times.

May we become the gift we have received in Jesus,
for it is in his name we pray, saying the words he 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 626 "I Heard The Voice Of Jesus"

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.

Benediction

Go, to greet strangers and dear friends equally.

Share God's steadfast love as we seek to live in faithfulness.

Go, to share Christ's compassion with everyone.

Tear down dividing walls and build bridges of hope.

Go, to live as one as the Spirit gathers you with others.

Build communities that welcome all, especially the outsiders.

Choral Amen

Postlude "Jesus Shall Reign"

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run,
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head.
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
 dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
 their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
 the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
 and all who suffer want are blest.

Let every creature rise and bring
 the highest honors to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
 and earth repeat the loud amen.