



Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost - B
September 12, 2021

Key Scripture - Mark 8: 30

"And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him."



Theme - How Do You Know the Answer?

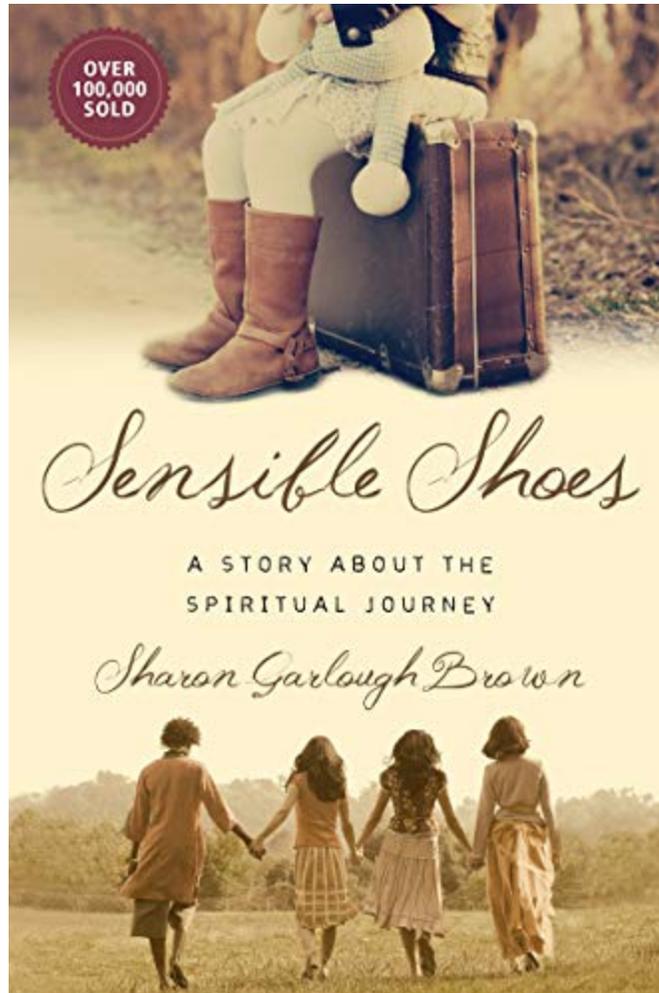
Welcome and Announcements

- † Newcomers please sign our guestbook
- † Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
 - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation
- † We continue to pray for those who were impacted by the legacy of Indian Residential Schools.
- † 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 Healing Pathway Ministry** 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.
 - If you wish to have a conversation and / or book an individual healing session, email -
 - trinitysmithsfallshealingpathway@yahoo.com

Looking Ahead

13 September, 1:00pm - The Spiritual Leadership Team is hosting a book study, **Sensible Shoes: A Story about the Spiritual Journey.**

- [Video call link](#)



- Sharon Garlough Brown tells the moving story of four strangers as they embark together on a journey of spiritual formation:
 - Hannah, a pastor who doesn't realize how exhausted she is.
 - Meg, a widow and recent empty-nester who is haunted by her past.
 - Mara, a woman who has experienced a lifetime of rejection and is now trying to navigate a difficult marriage.
 - Charissa, a hard-working graduate student who wants to get things right.

- You're invited to join these four women as they reluctantly arrive at a retreat center and find themselves drawn out of their separate stories of isolation and struggle and into a collective journey of spiritual practice, mutual support and personal revelation.
- Along the way, readers will be taken into a new understanding of key spiritual practices and find tangible support for the deeper life with God.

15 September, 9:30am - Bible Study. [Listen Up! Bible study](#) - the Gospel of Mark Part 1 - Mark 1-8

- [Video call link](#)

26 September - Orange Shirt Day

- This Orange Shirt Day is also the first observance of a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This is a time when we can reflect on the residential school system, and our ongoing responsibility to make reparations.

17 October, 10:30am - A Service of Remembrance and Reunion

- The Christian Community Team hopes to host a form of Memorial Service for folk whom we lost during COVID and could not properly acknowledge as a congregation. We will remember in word, in prayer and fellowship.
- We will monitor COVID limitations closely and adjust if necessary.

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

Interlude

MV 6 "Holy Spirit, Come Into Our Lives" vs. 1

Give us a spirit of wisdom, an understanding heart.

Give us a spirit of knowledge, and lead us to the truth.

Chorus -

Holy Spirit, come into our lives. Holy Spirit, make us truly wise.

Call to Worship

Come, people of God, worship the One who listens to our prayers.

We will worship the One who hears us.

Come, people of God, worship the One who watches over us.

We will worship the One who cares deeply for us all.

Come, people of God, worship the One who offered his life for us.

We will offer thanks and praise to the One who gives us life.

Opening Prayer

Through your Spirit, you sweep through the ages.

Be among us now to fill us with amazement at the wonder of creation and creativity.

Call to us that we may hear your voice in beauty, in witness, in song, and in prayer, and respond with all that we have to offer: body, mind, soul, and spirit.

Whisper to us when we doubt your goodness and despair of hope in a world fraught with signs of destruction, that we may yet hear your still small voice. Amen.

Hymn 264 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life. thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Time With Children

Children's Prayer

Prayer of Confession

Christ calls on us to “lose our life in order to save it”;

To “take up our cross and follow” in the ways of justice and peace.
Like the disciples before us, we are often amazed and overwhelmed by
this command.

It is easier to close our ears to this challenge and our hearts to such
risk.

Silence

Words of Assurance

God's words and actions are never careless;

In sending Jesus Christ to the world, God offers a model and a
companion, a source of ever-flowing love and acceptance and wisdom.

In Christ we are forgiven all our failings, and given strength to start again.

Scripture Proverbs 1:20-33;
 Psalm 19 (VU 740);
 James 3:1-12;
 Mark 8:27-38

Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom cries out in the street;
 in the squares she raises her voice.
At the busiest corner she cries out;
 at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
 and fools hate knowledge?
Give heed to my reproof;
I will pour out my thoughts to you;
 I will make my words known to you.
Because I have called and you refused,
 have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,
 and because you have ignored all my counsel
 and would have none of my reproof,
I also will laugh at your calamity;
 I will mock when panic strikes you,
 when panic strikes you like a storm,
 and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
 when distress and anguish come upon you.
Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
 they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.
Because they hated knowledge
 and did not choose the fear of the Lord,
 would have none of my counsel,

and despised all my reproof,
therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
and be sated with their own devices.

For waywardness kills the simple,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
but those who listen to me will be secure
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.”

Psalm 19 (VU 740)

Refrain -

The precepts of our God give joy to the heart.

The heavens declare the glory of God;
and the vault of the sky reveals God’s handiwork.

One day speaks to another,

and night shares its knowledge with night,

And this without speech or language;
their voices are not heard.

But their sound goes out to all the lands,

their words to the ends of the earth.

Refrain -

The precepts of our God give joy to the heart.

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun
which comes out like a bridegroom from under the canopy,
like an athlete eager to run the race.

Its rising is at one end of the sky,

it runs its course to the other,

and there is nothing that is hidden from its heat.

Refrain -

The precepts of our God give joy to the heart.

God's law is perfect, refreshing the soul;
God's instruction is sure,
giving wisdom to the simple;
God's precepts are right, rejoicing the heart;
God's commandment is pure
giving light to the eyes;
God's fear is clean, enduring forever;
God's judgements are true,
every one of them righteous;
more desirable than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
pure honey from the comb.

Refrain -

The precepts of our God give joy to the heart.

By them is your servant warned;
for in keeping them there is great reward.
But who can discern unwitting sins?
O cleanse me from my secret faults.
Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins,
lest they get the better of me.
Then shall I be clean and innocent of great offence.

Refrain -

The precepts of our God give joy to the heart.

Let the words of my mouth
and the thoughts of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O God,

my strength and my redeemer.

James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I

am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Meditation "The River Meets the Sea" (Harbridge)

Reflection How Do You Know the Answer?

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Why did Jesus tell his disciples not to say who he was?

Everything that the people thought about Jesus came from what they heard about him, not what they heard from him.

The fact is that you do not really know about anybody until you live with them.

If you want to know who Jesus is, you have to live with him.

Hymn MV 10 "Come And Seek The Words Of Wisdom"

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,
she who danced when earth was new.
Follow closely what she teaches,
for her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice,
showing us what love must do.

Listen to the voice of Wisdom,
crying in the marketplace.
Hear the Word made flesh among us,
full of glory, truth, and grace.
When the word takes root and ripens,
peace and righteousness embrace.

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;
nurture all who seek rebirth.
Spirit-guide and close companion,
bring to light our sacred worth.
Free us to become your people,
holy friends of God and earth.

Invitation to the Offering

Jesus asked his disciples what could anyone give in return for the gift of life? He challenged us to take up our cross and follow him. Whatever

we offer him speaks of how we take up his challenge. So, give with grateful, loyal hearts.

Minute for Mission A Fresh Start: Aria's Story

We all know what it's like to need a fresh start. But some of us have more support systems and opportunities in place to help us get the new beginning we need.

Aria was in the third year of getting a law degree when she discovered she was pregnant. Without close family to lean on and limited financial resources, she had to take a break from school and go to work. To support herself and the child she was expecting, she took two jobs, arriving at the first at 6 a.m. and finishing the second at 10:30 p.m.

“I was on the unstable side of things, trying to find stable housing and later, daycare. I just needed a start. I was on my own,” she says.

A social worker referred Aria to the Massey Centre, an organization supported by your Mission & Service gifts that helps pregnant and parenting adolescents aged 13–25. At the Massey Centre, Aria enrolled in maternity classes and motherhood programs, received help getting her driver's licence, and found stable housing.

“As a young person, I was thrown into the world. I never had the start that I would have liked. I had to figure a lot of things out. The best part about being at the Centre is that I feel like I am in a safe, supportive environment, and I am around other moms in the same situation. The staff are like family to me. They show up for you, and that's important,” she says.

Aria is a proud mother of a happy, healthy 17-month-old boy named Amari. She is finishing the fourth year of her law degree and has important dreams.

“I want to be a good mom. I feel that I am a good mother. But I want a good job so I can support Amari and help other people. I had a rough start in life. That’s why I’m studying law. I’m hoping to be of some use as a lawyer to benefit young people who went through things like I did,” she says.

Your gifts through Mission & Service give ambitious, intelligent young moms like Aria as well as their beautiful children the stability they need to thrive. Make a gift to Mission & Service today. Choose to give families a fresh start. Thank you!

Offering Prayer

Generous God, you poured out your love for us through Jesus Christ, who gave up everything on the cross. We bring what we have to offer you in love and loyalty. Receive our gratitude and bless all that our gifts can do to share your love for Christ’s sake. Amen.

Hymn MV 63 "Long Before My Journey's Start"

Long before my journey’s start,
 When in my youth I searched in my heart,
I would pray for her, wait for her,
 Wisdom, my road, my goal, and my star.

From the blossom to the seed,
 Long has she filled my cup in need,
May I cling to her vine, taste of her wine,
 Wisdom, my life, my perfect design.

When I stretched my hands to the sky,
When in despair my soul raised a cry,
I was saved by her gaze, led in her ways,
Wisdom, my love, the light of my days.

Prayers of the People

EOORC Prayer Cycle

Storrington Pastoral Charge

The Storrington Pastoral Charge, firmly rooted in the Christian Faith, and adhering to the values of the United Church of Canada, strives to function as one community with two places of worship.

We celebrate the strengths and relationships that we share and commit ourselves to the ongoing support of both congregations.

Battersea United Church

Inverary United Church

<http://storrington.weebly.com>

WCC

The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

A year-long prayer journey through every region of the world

Ghana, Nigeria Intercessions

We are thankful for:

- Christians and Muslims who take risks to work for dialogue and reconciliation, and people of disparate ethnic groups who strive together for the common good
- churches who have been faithful in spreading the Good News, serving the people and pursuing justice in these societies

- economic growth from natural resources, where it benefits all people – and especially the poor – in these nations
- how people, especially in Nigeria, have been sustained by God in the face of attacks and violence in the context of the movement of population groups and from extremist elements like Boko Haram.

We pray for:

- those affected by violence and terrorism, and that such violent attacks might cease
- leaders of churches, that they might speak out courageously against political, social and economic injustices
- Just and peaceful relations between members of different ethnic groups and between Muslims and Christians
- Those who suffer from malnutrition and diseases such as malaria, whooping cough and HIV and AIDS
- Better stewardship of the environment and natural resources.

Prayers

O God,

by the power of the Holy Spirit,

set our hearts on fire with a new love for Christ and for one another.

Renew our desires and labours to serve others.

We seek healing from division, poverty and injustice
in all parts of the world.

We long for life which is full and free.

Give us the courage to take risks to build a highway in the desert
and let us find protection under the shadow of your wings.

Amen.

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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

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

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

Let us ponder the challenge of Jesus this week:

Who do we say Christ is in our lives, our community, our world?

Let Holy Wisdom shine through all our pondering,

and lead us to recognize and serve our Risen Savior in all our
encounters.

Amen.

Choral Amen

Postlude "The Holy City" (Adams)