



life giving
life affirming
life changing

September 15, 2020

Order of Service

Church & Chat – Sunday, September 20, 2020

10:45 am – Gathering on Zoom

11:00 am – Call to Worship

(Bring a copy to Sunday's Church & Chat; also use for weekly personal devotions)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Jon Forbes

Ringing of the Bell begins our Worship

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All: And also with you.

OPENING PRAYER (Book of Alternative Services)

All: Draw us your Church together, O Lord, into one great company of disciples together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving him in his mission to the world, and together witnessing to his love on every continent and island. We ask this in his name and for his sake. Amen.

BIBLE READING



Parable of the Two Sons (Matthew 21: 28-32)

Read by Gary Fisher

Jesus spoke to a crowd of people ...

“Now, what do you think?”

There was once a man who had two sons. He went to the older one and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’

‘I don’t want to,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing.

‘Yes, sir,’ he answered, but he did not go.

Which one of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The older one,” they answered.

So, Jesus said to them ...

“I tell you: the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the Kingdom of God ahead of you. For John the Baptist came to you showing you the right path to take, and you would not believe him; but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him.

Even when you saw this, you did not later change your minds and believe him.”

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom

All: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLLISmessage



Layperson Looks at the Parable of the Two Sons

Dear Friends:

Sometimes it pays to view a situation from another person’s point of view.

In 1999, thirty-nine members of St. John’s York Mills Parish in Toronto wrote and published a book of meditations entitled, “Forty-Four Days with the Parables of Jesus”.

Each was anonymous and written from the perspective of where the person was on their spiritual journey.

I thought it appropriate to share what the individual wrote about the parable of the two sons (Matthew 21: 28-32) as we explore its meaning and application to our individual and community lives this week.

This is what the layperson penned ...

“The common expression, ‘actions speak louder than words’, sums up the message of this parable.

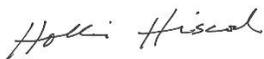
The first son said ‘NO’ immediately, when asked to work in the vineyard. Perhaps he wanted to rebel, perhaps he was too busy with other things, perhaps he did not feel that he had the necessary skills. Later, he repented and did the job. We are not told what made him change his mind, but perhaps he prayed about it or talked to a friend or was quiet in his own mind. How hard it is sometimes to admit we were wrong. The son did the best he could, which was the important thing.

Now we come to the second son who seems reliable. He said ‘YES’ immediately. The father was probably pleased to get such a positive response. But the second son never completed the task. Perhaps he had every intention of going to work in the vineyard, but got busy with other things and did not stick to his word. How well Jesus knows us!

This brings us to the second point in this passage. Just as in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, it was the least likely person who was the kindest. So, Jesus reminds us that often those who appear to be the last may be the first. It was not the theologians, the elders of the temple, who recognized the message from God. Spoken by John the Baptist: it was those on the fringe of society – the tax collectors, the prostitutes.

Perhaps today it is those who live on the street, or those who never enter a church – perhaps God speaks, and they are able to hear. Jesus is saying in this parable, do not judge people by who they are in society. Watch them and see how they act. We can learn from all.”

Now, what do YOU think?



Rev. Hollis Hiscock

SUNDAY HOMILY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Please see Friday’s Eblast for details.)

HYMN

(Please see Friday’s Eblast for details.)

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Rev. Jon Forbes

Prayer As We Plan To Reopen Our Churches

**Eternal God, you call us to life and compel us to love.
Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that the well-being of one another
And our communities is foremost on our hearts and minds
As we make plans to return to our church buildings;
We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

**Call to service – Ringing of the Bell
Chat begins now**

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Latest Video

If you missed last Sunday’s Church & Chat, you can view it here: https://youtu.be/qjiDexPJ_yc

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Jazz Vespers – Words/Music/Prayers



Our third virtual Jazz Vespers is coming to St. Christopher's on:
Sunday, September 20 at 4:00 pm.

Guest Musicians include: Daniel Cunningham Bass
Kevin Mak Piano
Tommy-Lee Metcalfe Drums

Readings & Prayers: Rev. Hollis Hiscock, Rev. Jon Forbes

This month, we will also be featuring another artist, with great excitement.
We will leave this information as a surprise for all who attend!

Please register your desire to attend the Zoom venue at staff@stcb.ca by Saturday, September 19 at noon. Also, we encourage you to attend together, if you are in the same household, allowing us to maximize the number of attendees.

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Order of Niagara – Trafalgar & Greater Wellington

On **Sunday, September 20 at 4:00 pm**, our own Carol Henley will be among those receiving the Order of Niagara via a Zoom service. If you would like to “attend” the service, please email a request with your name, email address and phone number, and city to staff@stcb.ca by Friday, September 18 at noon. Your invitation to join the service will be sent by email on Saturday, September 19.

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A Little Humour to Brighten Your Day

A man and his ten-year-old son were on a fishing trip miles from home. At the boy's insistence, they decided to attend the Sunday worship service at a small rural church. The father forgot to bring any cash, so he reached in his pocket and gave his son a dime to drop in the offering plate as it was passed.

As they walked back to their car after the service, the father complained. “The service was too long,” he lamented. “The sermon was boring, and the singing was off key.”

Finally the boy said, “Daddy, I thought it was pretty good for a dime.”

(St. Thomas' Church, St. John's, NL)

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