



life giving
life affirming
life changing

September 8, 2020

Order of Service

Church & Chat – Sunday, September 13, 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

Ring 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

May we who ask you for our daily bread give gladly and generously to those in need.

Let us who search for mercy ourselves be quick to let others find mercy with us.

May we who knock at the door of your kingdom keep our own hearts and hands

open wide in welcome. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you. In the unity of the Holy Spirit, god for ever and ever. Amen.

BIBLE READING



Parable of the Friend at Midnight (Luke 11: 5-10)

Jesus said to his disciples ...

“Suppose one of you should go to a friend’s house at midnight and say, ‘Friend, let me borrow three loaves of bread. A friend of mine who is on a trip has just come to my house, and I don’t have any food for him!’

Suppose your friend should answer from inside, ‘Don’t bother me! The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’

Well, what then?

I tell you that even if he will not get up and give you the bread because you are his friend, yet he will get up and give you everything you need because you are not ashamed to keep on asking.

So I say to you: Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For those who ask will receive, and those who seek will find, and the door will be opened to anyone who knocks.”

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom
Thanks be to God.

A REFLECTION



This week we hear a parable from Jesus about prayer. Luke 11 verses 5-10 are just a small part of a longer story about the function of prayer in the life of the apostles of Jesus. The chapter begins with Jesus’ followers asking about how to pray, they have heard that the Baptist, John, has taught his followers to pray, and maybe they figure that Jesus would have something better than that. Jesus responds with the shorter of the two Lord’s prayers, the one without the doxology. Making the point that prayers don’t need to be long or fancy, straight and to the point if fine indeed.

Our work as disciples who follow Jesus is clearly difficult and it is one that will test and try us. These are themes throughout Luke and Acts. Prayer is key, in order to get through the day and along the way.

Petition and regular conversation with God is the way of prayer. We are to be the shameless petitioner. In the middle of the night, throughout the day, at all the most inconvenient times, we are to pray to God. There is never a time when prayer should not be appropriately offered. Jesus is teaching us that this is, “in your face prayer”. Knock on that door prayer. Wake God up! Get God out of bed! But Jesus’ message is clear. God will be even more gracious than a friend who has things in common with you. This is the providence of God.

Jesus’ parable speaks to us in ways that we hardly understand sometimes, and in other ways we get it right away. Parables are meant to be confusing, providing a depth of learning that constantly encourages.

In prayer, we come before the King of Kings, and yet we call him Father. This shows us that prayer is personal and intimate, yet important and life changing. God expects us at our most vulnerable, our most open, and our most desperate times. This gives God something to work with!

This is precisely how God answers our prayers as well - personally. So give God the glory, give God your time, and most importantly, give God the attention needed to speak into your life. John Calvin reminds us that “Nothing is better adapted to excite us to prayer than a full conviction that we shall be heard.” In a world where we often just listen enough so that we can respond – God hears us.

Then God responds and yeah, sometimes the answer is “no”. But always, God treats us better than the neighbor we wake up in the middle of the night. The one who gives us what we want, so that we stop pestering. God give us so much more than that. God gives us the Holy Spirit, so that we can help bring about the Kingdom of God. On earth as it is in Heaven. God’s plan, not ours.

Funny how that happened. We came to God with our deepest desires, our needs, and we are truly heard, and seen by the one who created us, the one who constantly redeems us, the one who sends us out into the world. And then we see that God is good, and we are made better because of our interactions with God. Jesus wants us to understand this, at the very least. Prayer works.

Thanks be to God.
Amen.

Rev. Jon Forbes

SUNDAY HOMILY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prepared by Tricia Clarke



If ever there was a time when we really need our friends, this is it. Whether it be simply, during our isolation, to have someone with whom to connect or to have someone to run errands for you, especially if you are in the vulnerable sector and remain in quarantine.

Sometimes we need to be extra persistent in our requests, as they may be an inconvenience to our friends or relatives. The lesson in today’s parable is to be persistent in prayer. So we ask ...

Hear us o Lord ... As we pray.

We pray for the principals, the professors, the teachers, the teaching assistants, the bus drivers, the custodians, all the support staff and especially for our students as they all return to class in these

uncertain times. Help them make the transition to their new normal as seamlessly as possible. Protect them both physically and mentally.

Hear us o Lord ... As we pray.

We pray for our indigenous neighbours, our friends of colour, and all marginalized communities affected by systemic racism. Help us to acknowledge our white privilege and work peacefully towards becoming a more inclusive, welcoming, universal community.

Hear us o Lord ... As we pray.

We pray for those whose livelihood has been taken away by this pandemic and who now fear losing their homes and being unable to provide for their families. Give them strength and resilience to face each new day with hope and perseverance. Open doors for them and guide them toward a brighter future.

Hear us o Lord ... As we pray.

We pray for those whose lives are in turmoil; for those who wrestle with addiction; for those burdened by anxiety and self doubt; for those who are ill and for those who grieve.

Today, we remember, in particular ...

Robert (Bob) Crew
Marian Sweetman

Bring their families comfort and strength knowing their loved ones will be raised to your greater glory. Wrap them with your unending love as they grieve.

Hear us o Lord ... As we pray.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, in the Niagara Diocese we pray for the Parish of St. Paul, Shelburne. In the worldwide Anglican Communion, we pray for the Anglican Church of South America.

Hear us o Lord ... As we pray.

We pray for this assembly. We pray especially for those who prepare the virtual space for worship; for those who nurture fellowship within this congregation and those who reach out in service to our community. We especially pray for and give thanks to our Open Doors leaders and volunteers for their tireless efforts on behalf of our community.

Hear us o Lord ... As we pray.

In this season of change we give thanks for the beauty that surrounds us: the changing leaves, the cooler temperatures, the bountiful harvests, the spectacular sunrises and sunsets and the anticipation of better days ahead. I close with a Sioux Indian Prayer from the children of Red Cloud Indian School, South Dakota:

O great Spirit,

whose voice I hear in the winds,
and whose breath gives life to all the world,
Hear me! I am small and weak.
I need Your strength and wisdom.

Let me walk in beauty, and let my eyes
ever behold the red and purple sunset.
Make my hands respect the things You have made
and my ears sharp to hear your voice.
Make me wise so that I can understand
the things You have taught my people.
Let me learn the lessons You have hidden
in every leaf and rock.
I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother,
but to fight my greatest enemy – myself.
Make me always ready to come to You
with clean hands and straight eyes.
So when life fades, as the fading sunset,
my spirit may come to You
without shame.
Amen.

At this time, please add your own prayers, aloud or in silence.

(Moment for individuals to offer their prayers)

Together, in hope, let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the
time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

HYMN



(Please see Friday's Eblast for details.)

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

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

+++++

Parochial Committee and Meeting with the Bishop

The posting for Rector of St. Christopher’s is now closed. A meeting will be held later in September with the Bishop and the Parochial Committee to review potential candidates. Please pray for wisdom and discernment over all involved in the decision making process.

+++++

Latest Video

If you missed last Sunday’s Church & Chat, you can view it here: <https://youtu.be/as9e9Q7RvM8>

+++++

If you no longer wish to receive emails from St. Christopher’s, please reply to this email with “unsubscribe” in the subject line.