



THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 25, 2020

We celebrate our relationship with the first peoples of this land and, with gratitude, we acknowledge the territories on which our Church building and community, lives and moves and has its being.

We give thanks for the peoples of the Wendat, the Anishinabee, the Mississauga of the Credit and the Haudenosaunee communities, and we recognize the enduring presence of Indigenous peoples on this land.

GATHERING

OPENING PRAYERS

What does God require of us?

To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

What does God command of us?

To love God with all our heart, and all our soul, and all our mind, and all our strength, and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

But to presence, and abundance, and grace in our struggle.

Let us worship the God who believes in us, and trusts in us, and abides with us.

Let us worship the God who will ask much of us, but will be beside us every step of the way.

COLLECT

Loving God,

**You not only welcome us, you receive us into yourself.
Give us courage to be so open to others, to let them become
so dear to us, that we might share not only your gospel
but our lives, through Christ, who makes room for us all.
Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

DEUTERONOMY 34:1-12

Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, the headland of Pisgah which faces Jericho, and God showed him all the land – Gilead as far as Dan, all of Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the western sea, the Negev, and the stretch of the valley of Jericho, the city of palms, as far as Zoar. Then God said to Moses, “This is the land I swore to Sarah and Abraham, to Rebecca and Isaac, to Leah, Rachel, and Jacob that I would give to their descendants. I have let you feast your eyes upon it, but you will not cross over.” So there in the land of Moab, Moses the servant of God died as God decreed, and he was buried in the valley opposite Beth Peor in the land of Moab, but to this day no one knows the exact burial place. Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyesight was strong and he was still quite vigorous. For thirty days the Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab, until they had completed the period of grief and mourning. Now Joshua ben-Nun, was filled with the spirit of wisdom, and Moses had laid his hands on him, and the Israelites gave him their obedience, carrying out the order God had given to Moses. Since then, no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom God knew face to face. There is no equal to all the signs and wonder our God caused Moses to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all Pharaoh’s officials and the whole land. How mighty the hand and how terrifying the displays of power that Moses wielded in the sight of all Israel!

Listen for the Leading of the Spirit!
Thanks be to God.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert on the Law, attempted to trick Jesus with this question: “Teacher, which commandment of the Law is the greatest?” Jesus answered: “‘You must love the Most High god with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.’ That is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: ‘You must love your neighbour as yourself.’ On these two commandments the whole Law is based – and the Prophets as well.” While the Pharisees were gathered around him, Jesus asked them a question: “What do you think about the Messiah? Whose descendant is the Messiah?” They said, “David’s.” Then Jesus asked, “Then how is it that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls the Messiah ‘Sovereign’? For he says, ‘The Most High said to my Sovereign, “Sit at my right hand until I place your enemies under your foot.”’ “If David calls the Messiah ‘Sovereign,’ how can the Messiah be a descendant of David?” No one could reply, and from that day on no one dared ask him any more questions.

Listen for the Leading of the Spirit!
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

MARGARET RODRIGUES

MUSICAL REFLECTION

DAN GOOCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Gracious God,
Hear our prayer.

JESUS’ PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,
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 forever. Amen.

Glory to God,
Whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the church, and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

Take a moment to share the peace with those in your household and in the comment section of the video.

CELEBRATIONS, NEEDS, AND REFLECTIONS

We respond to the prayers of our friends

God, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

OR

Thanks be to God!
Hallelujah!

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.*

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
God and Mother of us all,
bless you now and forever.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go into the world hopeful, grateful, useful, leaders of liberation,
proclaimers of God's love!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Building up for God!

The mission of St. John's Church is to build a community of caring believers committed to Christ, to work for justice and service to all in need. We gather to praise God, and to give and receive support to meet the challenges of our daily lives and ministries. We call on everyone to come and join us.

We are not a building. We are an accessible, accepting, diverse community. We are young and old, able-bodied, and disabled, employed and unemployed. We are married, single, divorced, straight, and LGBTQ2S+. We are from all over the world, yet we could live next door. You will find open minds and open hearts at St. John's.

Ministry Team: Fr. David Bryan Hoopes, Interim Priest in Charge; The Rev. Dawn Leger, Priest in Charge, on leave; The Rev. Evelyn Butler, Deacon; The Rev. Bob Shantz, Honorary Assistant; The Rev. Margaret Rodrigues, Honorary Assistant; Edna Bovas, Director Family and Youth Ministry

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We are an inclusive and family-friendly community located at
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