

Norman Kennedy Presbyterian Church

June 14, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH:

- **Exciting News.** The SK Gov't guidelines for Places of Worship give permission for re-gathering in person with a limit of 1/3 of our capacity seating in the sanctuary. The Session of NKP feels confident that **starting Sunday JUNE 28th** we can and will return to our church building.

Please note the following:

- ✓ the service will begin at **10:30 a.m.** (this will be the chosen time for all summer – June, July & August)
 - ✓ designated (social distancing) seating will be necessary – you may not be able to sit in your usual spot. An usher will give directions.
 - ✓ a bulletin will be available which you can pick up upon arrival
 - ✓ offerings can be deposited in a plate at the back as you enter or exit
 - ✓ hand sanitizer will be available and you are encouraged to use it as you arrive
 - ✓ weather permitting, doors will be open and left open so no need to touch door handles
 - ✓ No Sunday School classes – parents are advised to bring a story book from home for your own children or to help them focus and learn about what is happening in public worship
 - ✓ hymns will be projected on the screen or will be printed in the bulletin
 - ✓ please bring a face mask to wear during singing times (disposable ones will be on hand)
 - ✓ our max. capacity is 45 and we feel confident that for all who want to come, there will be room
 - ✓ if you are sick or have a compromised immune system please stay home or take extra precautions
 - ✓ an email version of the service will be available and sent to those who request it
- It will be wonderful to come back to the church – remember **JUNE 28th @10:30 a.m.**
 - The church flower beds are looking good with new flowers planted – thank you Mona White for getting your hands dirty in doing that!
 - On our first Sunday back, we will have a **flower/plant display** which will be our 'in memory' display which we did not get to do at Easter. If you would like a plant in memory of a loved one, your donation along with the name would need to come to the church office by June 21st please.
 - TODAY & next Sunday, June 21st you will still receive the Worship Service by written text. Thanks for supporting us in this method of worship over the last few months.
 - If you have difficulties opening the links to musical accompaniment or special features, contact Taeyang (306-999-5113)- he will give you some guidance.
 - **LADIES** – you are all invited to a **LUNCH & FELLOWSHIP** Time on **Tuesday June 30th** at 12 noon at the Church. The invitation is to all – a welcome is extended by the

Ladies Fellowship Coordinator even if you have not attended the Ladies Fellowship meetings - this is just for connecting & conversation– **all NKP Ladies are welcome.** We will order in Chinese Food and have 'social distant' fellowship in the church hall. Let Mae Morris know by Sunday, June 28th if you will come as that will be the last day to reserve a spot!

- Those who use **The Daily Bread** devotional booklet, the one for June, July & August, it is now available – come by the church to pick up your copy.
- **BOOKCLUB** – let's meet at the church on Wednesday, June 24th 7 p.m. to discuss the book we started in January and to choose something for the summer. Come with suggestions please.
- Food Bank Bin is located in the Narthex and you can contribute to it anytime – on Sunday or when the church office is open. Also, the recycling bin is available.
- Please take note of this: the NKP website is up and active again. Here's the address: www.nkpchurchregina.ca Check it and our FB page.
- Special music contributions are provided for our 'email' worship services. Thanks to those singing and to Sumi & Taeyang for recording these parts of our worship.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WORDS OF GREETING:

Welcome to Norman Kennedy Presbyterian Church! You are the Church! I am the Church! We are the church together! We are the church gathered in spirit but scattered in our various homes. As the People of God, we come together in this common time to worship, to learn, to pray, and to go with God's blessing.

SONG OF PREPARATION: 'I will enter His gates...'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=920eNryNCms>

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart
I will enter His courts with praise
I will say this is the day that the Lord has made
I will rejoice for He has made me glad
He has made me glad, He has made me glad
I will rejoice for he has made me glad
He has made me glad, He has made me glad
I will rejoice for he has made me glad

CALL TO WORSHIP:

We enter this place with thanksgiving because
we know that the Lord to whom we belong is our Shepherd and our King
**We rejoice over the steadfast love and faithfulness of God
enduring forever—to all generations.**

Come, let us worship God with praise and joy,
and with thanksgiving in our hearts.

OPENING PRAYER:

We worship you, O God, with joyful noise - with words of praise and adoration
spoken and sung in the name of Jesus who brought your love song to us in person.
In harmony with you, he puts new words in our mouths and new intentions in our
hearts, especially a new understanding of power. Power shaped by love and
righteousness, justice and mercy. We now know that power is not to be used to
exploit or dominate, but to serve others as willingly as Jesus did. His life and death
demonstrated how the love of power could be transformed by the power of love.
We gather here today to celebrate your rule of love in our hearts as we experience it
in Jesus and through the enabling gift of your Spirit.
This we pray in the name of Jesus, our Servant King. Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE: #291 *'Thou whose almighty word'*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNfR3r1WuEY>

*1 Thou whose almighty Word
Chaos and darkness heard,
And took their flight;
Hear us, we humbly pray,
And where the gospel day
Sheds not its glorious ray,
Let there be light!*

*2 Thou who has come to bring
On thy redeeming wing
Healing and sight,
Health to the sick in mind,
Sight to the inly blind,
And now to all humankind
Let there be light!*

3 Spirit of truth and love,

*Life giving, holy dove,
Speed forth thy flight!
Move on the water's face
Bearing the lamp of grace,
And in earth's darkest place
Let there be light!*

*4 Blessed and holy three,
Glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, love, might;
Boundless as ocean's tide,
Rolling in fullest pride,
Through the world far and wide,
Let there be light!*



CHILDREN'S TIME:

- A BIBLE VERSE TO LEARN:

“Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” (Exodus

20:12)

- SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:



What is this picture? It is a TREE! But the people on the branches tell us that it can be called a family tree – notice it even includes their pets!

You and I know that it's not the kind of tree we actually see outside – its more like a pretend tree to show how people in families are all connected.

Sometimes a lot of people are connected to each other and sometimes only a few people. You probably know some of your family connections – your mom and dad, your brothers and sisters of course, your grandparents. But then you hear about **'cousins by the dozens'** – who are all those other people you are related to?

Sometimes they are people you have never met. But they are still your relatives because their parents and your parents were brothers or sisters or their grandparents and your grandparents and on and on it goes.

Jesus had a family tree. His tree is described in the Bible and it goes on and on and in naming his relatives. It's important that we know about Jesus' family tree because it tells us that God, His Father in heaven, knew and planned for a very long time that Jesus would come into the world to be our Saviour. And when we become part of God's family – by baptism and by believing in Jesus we are called Jesus' brothers and sisters. We are included in the family – **we have a place on the Family Tree of God!** When I think of how big that tree must be, I have a hard time imagining something so big because there are people on it from all over the world and from all the thousands of years before we even lived. But I am thankful especially that I have been welcomed to be part of the Family of God. I hope you are thankful as well.

- SOMETHING TO DO:

Could you make **2** family trees to show me?

(You can use the template here – please ask your mom and dad to print it off for you.) The first tree you make can be of the family your live with. Put everyone's name in the tree. The second tree you make, I would like you to fill in the blanks with names of people in your church family whom you feel close to – there won't be room for everyone, even though we are connected to everyone. But maybe you will pick the people from the church to put on you church family tree who are the people who sit close to you, or someone who teaches you in Sunday School, or someone who always says hi to you. I know its been awhile since you were in church so you may have to try hard to remember and you may need to ask your mom for the person's name. But try your best to show on your church tree that you feel close to some others who also attend our church. Of course, we'd like to post your family tree pictures if you can send them back to the church.

<https://family-tree-template.org/free-family-tree-template/>

SONG FOR THE CHILDREN: (this song is about family connections)

Father Abraham Has Many Sons

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3DjT6kS4-4>

Father Abraham had many sons
Had many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them
And so are you

So let's just praise the Lord

[Yell "right arm" and move right arm, as if marching.]

Father Abraham had many sons
Had many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them
And so are you

So let's just praise the Lord

[Yell "right arm, left arm" and move both, as if marching.]

Father Abraham had many sons
Had many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them
And so are you

So let's just praise the Lord

[Yell "right arm, left arm, right foot" and move all, as if marching.]

Father Abraham had many sons
Had many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them
And so are you

So let's just praise the Lord

[Yell "right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot" and move all, as if marching.]

Father Abraham had many sons
Had many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them
And so are you

So let's just praise the Lord

[Yell "right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, chin up" and move all, as if marching.]

Father Abraham had many sons
Had many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them
And so are you

So let's just praise the Lord

[Yell "right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, chin up, turn around" and move all, as if marching.]

Father Abraham had many sons
Had many sons had Father Abraham
I am one of them
And so are you

So let's just praise the Lord

[Yell "right arm, left arm, right foot, left foot, chin up, turn around, sit down" and move all, as if marching. Sit down at the end.]

+++++

CALL TO CONFESSION:

In the Gospel, God promises to pour out grace and peace on all those who belong to Jesus Christ: to all who turn to Christ in repentance and faith. Let us now, therefore, humbly confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (unison)

Holy God, you are our Shepherd, yet we have strayed from the security of your fold to follow our own desires. You desire that the light of your face would shine on us, yet we prefer to hide ourselves in shadows. Because of our wandering, we have exchanged the rich feast of love, grace, and acceptance you offer us for the bread and drink of tears. You have called us to share your light with others; we have brought dishonour to you and scorn upon ourselves. Restore us, O God, for we turn to you. We are your people, your flock, your vine. Give us life, for we call upon your name, through Christ our Lord, the One who is at your right hand. Amen

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Friends, hear the Good News! Jesus Christ, whose coming was promised long ago by the prophets, has been declared to be the Son of God by rising from the dead. He has the power to save us from our sins and to send us out in his name to share grace and peace with all people. Therefore, I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ: we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

AMEN.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

(sing this to the 'Be still & Know' tune...OR just read it as a prayer)

Be still and know that God is here.

Be still and know that God is near.

Be still and know that God is here.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

- Lectionary Psalm: Psalm 100 (responsive)

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

² **Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.**

³ Know that the Lord is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ **Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.**

⁵ For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.

- Matthew 1:1-17

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

² Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram,^[a] ⁴and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph,^[b] ⁸and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos,^[c] and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹² And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel,^[d] and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴and Azor the

father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵ and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

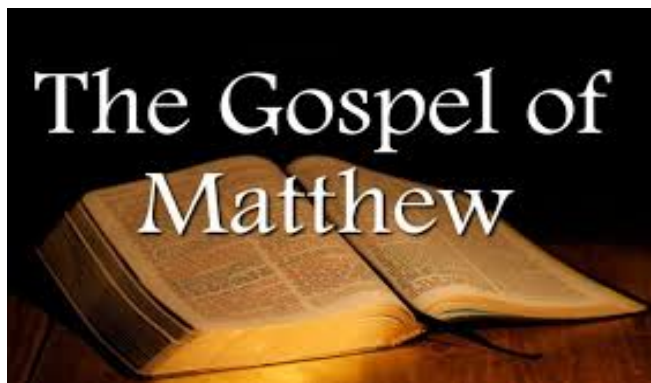
¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

- 1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God



The TEACHER
according to Matthew
(sermon series)

June 14, 2020

The study of a Gospel is my plan for the summer months. I introduced last Sunday that we would undertake a journey through the Gospel of Matthew so that we know what was meant by Jesus when he commissioned the disciples (and us) to go and preach and teach and live in such a way that everyone we meet will know Jesus, as Saviour and Lord. Matthew, as one who met Jesus and whose life was radically changed as a result, writes the Jesus story so that we and all generations will come to know and follow this master Teacher.

I am also asking that you read this Gospel over the summer months – reading it through at least once, more if you have the time and discipline.

Last week we met the author, one of the 12 chosen by Jesus to be in his inner group of learners and to be with Him through life and ministry – to his death, and to be witness of His resurrection and ascension. Through the eye-witness accounts of the disciples, and the written account of some of them, this would be the way the ‘Good News’ of Jesus would be preserved and passed on to the succeeding generations.

We begin a study of the gospel and a gospel. We use that word, gospel, in different ways. In English, we have an expression that says ‘gospel truth’ – by that we mean the absolute or indisputable truth. The phrase probably meant more when the general population actually knew the Bible or enough about the Bible to know that it was true. In current society that phrase is probably only used by those with some church influence in their background.

The word ‘gospel’ is sometimes used gospel with a capital ‘G’ – that indicates it is a reference to one of the four books which begins the New Testament. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are all called ‘Gospels’. That is, they are books which record the message of the deeds of God for salvation of His people. Gospels are not biographies in the modern sense. They do not give us in many places a complete account. Often times, we are left wishing that the author had told us more. **But the purpose of GOSPEL is that it is the record of what God has done to save us.**

You might recall that the Gospel writer John, at the very end of his Gospel, says that if he were to write everything that he could write about Christ, that he supposed that the world could not contain all the books that he could write about him. But even his Gospel only contains certain things but enough, as each other Gospel as well, - enough for the benefit of our salvation and growth.

So, the Bible contain 4 Gospels, written by 4 different authors, but each one contains ‘THE GOSPEL’. By that, I mean, each one contains the ‘good news’ of salvation. “Good news of great joy...a Saviour!” The gospel is the good news of salvation addressed to a world lost in sin. This news is for the Jews and for the Gentiles. Commentators and Bible teachers provide helpful insights in identifying the audience most likely to connect with each writer – John is more theological in his Gospel and always emphasizes that Jesus is the Saviour of the world. Luke is written specifically to convey the Gospel to the Greeks. It is said that Mark is written explicitly to convey the Gospel to the Romans. And Matthew wrote to convey the Gospel to the Jews. For sure, Matthew is written in language and in style and in concept designed to appeal to those who knew the Old Testament. But for our purposes, I would also ask that as we read Matthew, we would remember his encounter with Jesus while he sat at his tax booth. Keep in mind that Matthew encountered a Jesus who changed his life completely! I think **Matthew writes the**

story of Jesus so that you and I and all readers would believe and come to know that Jesus can change our lives completely as well!

That is a very strange statement given the passage I choose for today's reading and our reflection. *(I am thankful today that you are reading this passage for yourself – because to do so in a public reading I would have stumbled over many of those names!)*

That being said, and if you have ever taken Bible reading seriously, at some point in your Bible reading plan, you have come across this chapter of Matthew 1.

I suspect you have done as I have – either skip it entirely or just skim over it.

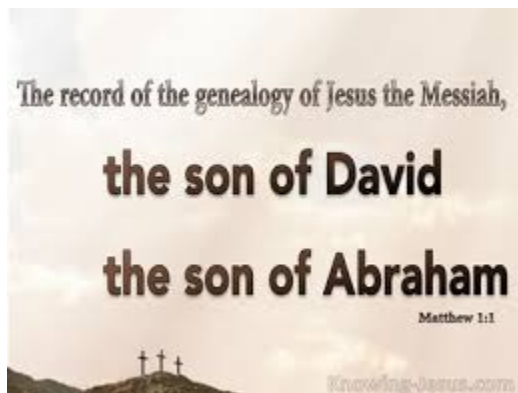
If Matthew wants his Gospel to change lives, how then could this 'family tree' chapter change my life?

Genealogy reveals and uncovers fascinating facts. Along with skeletons in the closet and other identity issues which may or may not be authentic but allow for some interesting imaginings.

For many, many, people filling in the blanks on a family tree is their most time-consuming hobby. Spurred on by the sleek advertising of those who have developed the websites to do so. You of us have not heard of and seen advertisements for 'Ancerstry.ca' / 'Family Search. Org' / 'Find my past.com' / 'My Hertiage.com' / etc. This craze about knowing your 'roots' was apparently sparked by Alex Haley's 1976 book 'ROOTS'. That story revealed that there is a need, intellectually and emotionally, to know where you came from and who were your people and what was the experience of those in your past.

Genealogy is important! Genealogy can certainly mean different things to different people. Genealogy validates family stories, it looks for famous people who may be in your family tree, it seeks out your connection to historical events, it confirms land ownership, it searches for traits or medical conditions you may have inherited. Some cultures are more prone to value genealogy than others.

Especially the Jews. Matthew understands this and begins his Gospel setting out clearly that Jesus is the promised Messiah – and he does that by tracing Jesus' family tree all the way back to Abraham. This was significant because the prophecies regarding a Messiah always spoke of the connection with David's kingly line of ancestors.



Matthew begins his account of the story of Jesus with a genealogy. “A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ”, is how he starts his book. As the first gospel, as the book which begins the New Testament – and a book to which we might direct those who ask about the story of Jesus – a genealogy may be a discouraging place to begin. It provides for that criticism whereby some

assume the Bible is a bunch of ‘so and so begat so and so’ and so on!

But **the first chapter of Matthew is important.** It tells the family connection of Jesus to those whom God had chosen and worked through in the past. The promise of God to the people of God began in Genesis and is traced through all of scripture. When Jesus came on the scene to fulfill God’s plan of salvation, it was very important that he was proved to be the one promised – son of Abraham, son of David. Of all the ancestors listed these 2 carry the most weight. For Abraham was always ‘father’ – the one God called to a new land, a new life, a new commitment in faith to the one true God: Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer. For David, a King of God’s own choosing, a man after God’s own heart, a leader who expanded the kingdom and represented a kingdom of God’s rule in the heart and soul of the people. These 2 were the hinges on which all of their history and faith hung. They were the BIG branches on the family tree!

This ‘Genealogy’ chapter proves that Jesus meets the requirements as the descendant who was to come, as prophesied. It proves he is the Messiah. It opens the way toward and into the ‘new kingdom’ – the one that later chapters in Matthew’s Gospel will detail as a kingdom of heaven on earth, which Jesus came to initiate!

What this chapter passes on to us, although we are not literally descendants of Abraham, is that we are children of God. That God has a big and extensive family. We know from Jesus own teaching that we are grafted in branches to this tree of God. By virtue of God’s grace, we are children of God, so teaches the apostle Paul.

The list of names given here may not be all that familiar even if we are well read in the Old Testament stories. A few names stand out and their stories serve to remind us that they lived like we do – some were deceivers, some were unfaithful, some were worshippers of other gods, some were in dysfunctional families, some were leaders, some were living ordinary lives. Yet God’s plan to send a Saviour included them as they were one step toward that fulfillment. This gives me hope. This assures me that we can be in the family tree even if our story has some terrible

chapters. God extended grace in the past to those who were fumbling along and messing up in their lives – He will do the same for any of us.

And so these observations:

First is that God goes to great lengths and is infinitely patient to keep His promise to save us. It was in the Garden of Eden where rebellion and sin entered the world, and even there, God promised an off-spring that would crush the head of Satan. Because of Noah, a generation was saved and the hand of God can be traced to the sacrifice substitute which saved Isaac from Abraham's knife. The saving of His people was always God's intention. Matthew makes it clear in this genealogy that Abraham by faith understood the need for a substitutionary sacrifice. The arrival of Jesus at a particular time and in a particular place would be this fulfillment and this is the Saviour who would be a blessing for all nations.

The second observation is that God will establish a new kingdom and Jesus will usher this in. Despite the history and the stories of their past as the promised people of God, the page has turned with the arrival of the Messiah. Matthew will focus on all that Jesus came to fulfill and what he came to establish. The kingdom is Matthew's theme - the good news of the Kingdom –God's continuing plan to have a people, to have a place, to have a fulfilled plan of redemption.

Matthew will talk about the breakthrough of the kingdom and the arrival of Jesus in His incarnation. He announces the coming of the kingdom at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, and at the end of the book Matthew speaks about the final consummation of the coming of that kingdom in the teaching about the church on the mount of Olives near the end of Jesus' life. So, from the first page of Matthew to the last page, we will see the unifying theme of the coming of the kingdom of God in the appearance of the king Himself, who is the Messiah of Israel and the fulfillment of the kingdom given to Judah.

This gospel written by Matthew is like telling the family story to relatives who don't know it yet. We are those relatives. In the weeks ahead, let's listen up and learn and choose to live in ways that show we are 'the family' – that being children of God is a blessing and we want to honour His name. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF RESPONSE: # 331 'The God of Abraham Praise'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZZAp7FzwXg>

¹The God of Abraham praise,
who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days,
and God of love;
Jehovah, great I AM,
by earth and heaven confessed:
I bow and bless the sacred Name
for ever blessed.

²The God of Abraham praise,
at whose supreme command
from earth we rise, and seek the joys
at his right hand;
we all on earth forsake,
its wisdom, fame and power;
and him our only portion make,
our Shield and Tower.

³He by Himself hath sworn
I on His oath depend
I shall on eagle wings upborne
To heaven ascend;
I shall behold His face
I shall His power adore
And sing the wonders of His grace
Forevermore.

⁴The whole triumphant host
give thanks to God on high;
"Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost"
they ever cry;
hail, Abraham's God and mine;
I join the heavenly lays;
all might and majesty are thine,
and endless praise!

INVITATION & PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS:

Jesus is present with us when we read, listen and hear His Word preached, and also in and through one another as the body of Christ. As Christ's body, we are called to share our gifts, ourselves, and Christ's presence, with those in need.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFQ_H4c8WW0

Doxology: ***Praise God from whom all blessings flow***

Praise Him all creatures here below

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication:

O God, the Shepherd of your people, bless the gifts we now offer to you. May they provide relief for those who find themselves in extreme distress, and may they also enable the church to raise up a new generation of leaders. In this act of worship, we offer not only these gifts, but also ourselves, our souls and bodies, as living sacrifices to you. Use us, we pray, to share your presence among all who are in need. In the name of Jesus Christ, who is at your right hand, we pray. Amen

Special Music Presentation: 'Be Magnified' sung by Jessica, Rachel & Mabel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWji8C2xzqY&feature=youtu.be>

PRAYERS of the People and the Lord's Prayer:

Eternal God, You, who has no beginning and no end, we come into Your presence with praise and thanksgiving for You have come to us in the most personal way. We do not have a God who is distant or unconcerned – we come in worship and prayer to a God who has invited us to call you 'Father'. And so we do – 'our Father' we love to be in your presence where we can experience Your love, Your mercy, Your compassion. You know us – you know our needs – you know most of all that we need You. We give You thanks this day for Your Son who came to live and teach and work among the people of your choosing for a time. We give You thanks that in His coming He fulfilled all prophesy and was indeed the Messiah – the Saviour of the world. We give You thanks for the writing of the Gospels whereby we learn the best news which has changed and continues to change our lives. Open our eyes, ears and hearts to more and greater things as we study the Gospel in these coming weeks. May we have open eyes to see Jesus in new and fresh ways; may we have

open hearts to be changed and to work for change in our society because being your kingdom people demands it of us.

Heavenly Father, this world we live in has troubles – many of which come to the surface daily it seems. We pray for peace and justice. We ask forgiveness when we have been complacent and detached while prejudice was risen up around us. We ask that you fill us with your love and give us opportunity to show such love to all. We pray for safety in our communities and in the world. We pray for wisdom and patience to think before we speak or act and so see that gentleness with each other will restore relationships. Such prayers are personal first, and then for society. We do pray for the places where individuals and groups have been unfairly treated – and we pray that goodwill, good direction, good leadership, good change will come. Heavenly Father, we pray concerning the troubles of our own lives and for our church family. We, with the rest of the world, have struggled through the pandemic which discouraged and depressed us – even as we mostly avoided getting ill. We thank you for protecting us, providing for us – and we have prayed and continue to pray for those who suffered more than we did. But now we pray again for our individual health and strength – physical, mental, emotional, relational. For those sick in body, we pray for healing. We pray for Janet & Ron in their health battles – may they receive your strength during treatments and procedures. We pray for those tired of being confined to home and cut-off from their family and friends – may they be able to see and visit with others soon. We pray for those who were called upon for extra work during the pandemic and they now need rest – may they have time off soon. We pray for families who were challenged in keeping children active and learning over the last couple of months and so need to have options in their routines – may they find more opportunities in the days to come. We pray for our times of worship – giving thanks for commitment to set aside a time and place in our own homes. We pray for our return to worship together in our sanctuary – may we take care doing so yet may we rejoice and be glad when we come together in a couple of weeks. We pray for the ministry and message that goes forth from our church – may these be blessed by You and make a difference in our neighbourhood. Heavenly Father, help us in every way, provide for us, lead and guide us to be obedient faithful disciples and may your kingdom grow in us and in the world – we pray in faith, believing even as Jesus taught us...

**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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

THE PARTING HYMN: *'Thy hand, O God, has guided'*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IaI3cRtXqRw&list=RDlaI3cRtXqRw&start_radio=1&t=33

Thy hand, O God, has guided
Thy flock from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
Full clear, on ev'ry page.
Our fathers owned Thy goodness,
and we their deeds record;
And both of this bear witness:
One Church, one faith, one Lord.

2

Thy servants brought glad tidings,
to greatest, as to least;
they bade men rise, and hasten
to share the great King's feast.
And this was all their teaching,
in every deed and word,
To all alike proclaiming:
One Church, one faith, one Lord

3

Thy mercy will not fail us,
nor leave Thy work undone;
with Thy right hand to help us,
the victory shall be won;
and then, by men and angels,
Thy Name shall be adored,
and this shall be their anthem:
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

GOD SENDS US . . .

We go as individuals

to serve as God calls us into a world in need of his co-workers.

We go as a community

to serve as God calls us as living witnesses to the kingdom values of right relations.

We go as the people of God

to be stewards of his generous giving, and to reflect his triune love in all we do and say.

BENEDICTION: Now may *the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.*

GOING OUT SONG: 'O How He loves you and me'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r89NFu8Sn1Y>

Oh, how He loves you and me,
Oh, how He loves you and me,
He gave his life, what more could He give?
Oh, how He loves you, Oh, how he loves me;
Oh, how he loves you and me.

Jesus to Calvary did go,
His love for sinners to show.
What He did there brought hope from despair.
Oh, how He loves you; Oh how he loves me;
Oh, how he loves you and me.

