

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Metcalfe
The Rt. Rev. Shane Parker, Bishop
HARVEST THANKSGIVING
OCTOBER 13, 2024
Reverend Tom Hubschmid

Invitation to Worship

The Gathering of the Community

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

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: We acknowledge our presence on the ancestral lands of the
Algonquin Anishinaabe nation.

All: **In a spirit of reconciliation, may we always seek to respect the history,
spirituality, and culture of Indigenous Peoples and uphold our continuing
responsibility as treaty people.**

Celebrant: Almighty God,

People: **to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,**

and from you no secrets are hidden.

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant: Glory to God in the highest

People: **and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly king,
almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

**you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;**

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Celebrant: Creator of the fruitful earth,
you made us stewards of all things.
Give us grateful hearts for all your goodness,
and steadfast wills to use your bounty well,
that the whole human family,
today and in generations to come,
may with us give thanks for the riches of your creation.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

All: **Amen**

The Proclamation of The Word

Reader: A reading from the Book of Joel

Do not fear, O soil;
be glad and rejoice,
for the Lord has done great things!
Do not fear, you animals of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit;
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

O children of Zion, be glad,
and rejoice in the Lord your God,
for he has given the early rain for your vindication;
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.
The threshing floors shall be full of grain;
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years
that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army that I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied
and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.
You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.
The Word of the Lord
People: **Thanks be to God**

Reader: Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *

All: **then were we like those who dream.**

Reader: Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *

All: **and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Reader: Then they said among the nations, *

All: **“The Lord has done great things for them.”**

Reader: The Lord has done great things for us, *

All: **and we are glad indeed.**

Reader: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *

All: **like the watercourses of the Negev.**

Reader: Those who sowed with tears *

All: **will reap with songs of joy.**

Reader: Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *

All: **will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Reader: Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Reader: A reading from the First Letter from Paul to Timothy

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and acceptable before God our Saviour, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth. —1 Timothy 2:1-7

The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (6:25-33)

People: **Glory be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Celebrant: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith?

Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the gentiles who seek all these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily - The Reverend Tom Hubschmid

Giver of all good things, give us grateful hearts and teach us how to live without worry. Amen.

When Jesus lived, all was not well. His people had a lot to worry about. The Jews weren't free. They lived in fear of Pilate, whose soldiers patrolled the streets. High taxes kept them struggling. And of course, people suffered the usual hardships of life. Only their babies died more easily. No one lived very long. Health battles weren't a fair fight. War was constant. Natural disasters were still natural then, unlike ours and what we're seeing in Florida this week, but they were still disastrous. One thing they didn't have was constant live news coverage on crises happening anywhere the media could find.

And yet, as much then as now, Jesus says, “Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will wear.” This is one of those sermons where I'd like to be sitting in the pew, being taught, because, if you don't mind me saying, I'm very good at worrying. In fact, I think I should probably be paid for it. I

remember this one time, sitting in my parent's house watching news of the terrorist attack on London bridge, and my Dad walking by and saying, "Tom, you can't fix it." This is why it strikes me that Jesus says, "I tell you, do not worry about your life..." You know, hey, Jesus? There's a lot more to worry about in the world than my life. There's my family and friends, my society, the planet. But Jesus, as always, puts things in perspective. There's only one person we can really work on, and that's ourselves. For others, we can do what we can for them, and that's it. For ourselves, well, we're a little more in control. But still, Jesus says, don't worry about your life.

How do we not worry? He thinks the birds and lilies teach us. The first thing to notice, is not just the specific lessons the birds and flowers teach, but the act of paying attention to them. How much of worry is a matter of only thinking about everything that's wrong or could go wrong? Worry is this cloud of flies that buzzes around our head and makes us forget all the good things around us and already given to us. We get thinking we need something we don't, or thinking we're losing something we're not, or thinking that we're not good enough, or thinking that we can't live without something that we can live without. But the first lesson Jesus teaches from the lilies and the birds is just to stop paying attention only to crisis, but to pay attention to what is so much more constant, so much more always with us, what's happening most of the time in most places. I remember leading an Evening Prayer service this time last year to pray for Israel and Palestine. It was 5:30. The sun was starting to set. The leaves were glowing. The people were arriving quietly to pray. And I was struck with how peace and beauty might be the most common thing in the world. Crises is usually an interruption. Or it's caused by our refusal to be satisfied with the simple peace and beauty of what we already have.

So, while were paying attention to the birds and lilies, what do they teach? One of my favourite writers of all time, a Danish guy, named Søren Kierkegaard, is so good on this. First thing we learn from the lilies and birds is to practice silence. The beginning of all thankfulness for life is shutting up. Stop thinking, stop problem solving, stop analysing, stop nit-picking. Just let it go for a few minutes. Be still. Be aware. Chances are, in your life, the only life you can do anything about, that at the present moment, you're probably actually okay, and probably more than okay.

But of course, often enough, we're not. We're sick. Someone we love is sick. Our future is frightening. We've been wronged or harmed. We're in mourning. We're worried.

Here's the second thing we learn from the birds and lilies. They accept what's beyond their control. And by comparison to ours, their lives are pretty bleak. Flowers may only live for a year, and bloom for a few months. Birds are beset with predators, and they only live a few years, depending on the bird. They don't have doctors and medicine. Wildflowers come and go. They're glorious. Usually completely unnoticed. Just out there in the ditch being awesome and short-lived.

Birds and flowers don't have a marvellous lot in life. But as far as we can tell, they just accept their lives, such as they are. Enjoy it while it lasts and while its good. They suffer what they suffer, then they're done.

So: steps to not worrying. 1) Silence. 2) Acceptance. Third: joy. The birds and the lilies don't wait around for things in the world to be decent enough, and right enough, before they will let themselves enjoy what their Creator has given them. The birds flip and barrel roll, why? They're just enjoying it. Flowers burst into colour, why? Well, just because. They don't refrain from enjoyment because they think they don't deserve it or because they know others are suffering. They just enjoy what's good, do what they need to do, and let be what's beyond their control. We always need to practice of joy. See our friends. Make a cup of tea. Go for a walk. Make your craft. Do something fun.

We need to practice. Practice silence. Practice acceptance. Practice joy. That's how the birds and the lilies teach us not to worry about our lives.

What I would add to Søren Kierkegaard's talk of these practices, is the practice of rest. Jesus describes the lilies and birds as neither reaping nor gathering into barns – as in they don't work too hard. This is something that our jobs can rob us of, depending on the work. When Moses leads the Israelites out of slavery the most important law for them is to very carefully and deliberately practice rest – the Sabbath. Because the fact is, when we're tired and overworked, silence, acceptance, and joy don't quite sink in the way they should. So, it's a spiritual practice to stay rested as much as we are free to do.

Today is thanksgiving Sunday. And it's impossible to be thankful when we're worried. But if we are going to be thankful, we need to practice. And I'll repeat myself here, like a schoolteacher. We need to practice rest, practice silence, practice acceptance, and practice joy.

Amen.

The Apostles' Creed

Celebrant: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

People: **I believe in God,**

**the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Reader: Let us give thanks to God our Father, always and for everything, saying,
“We thank you, Lord.”

For the beauty and wonder of creation, for the tradition of farming, and for our town of Metcalfe.

All: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ, and for Christ’s hidden presence in all we love and all in any kind of need.

All: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For our daily food, for our homes and families and friends, for affection, the gift of laughter, and all the simple things that make life good,

All: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For minds to think and hearts to love, for the grace to learn and the time to grow more deeply into the love of God and the mystery of life,

All: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For health, strength, and skill to work, and for leisure to rest and play,

All: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For those who are brave and courageous, patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

All: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: We pray for Shane, our Bishop, Anne, our Metropolitan, and the Acting Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, as well as our community ministries: Belong Ottawa: Centre 454, St Luke’s Table, The Well/La Source, Centre 105 (Cornwall), Cornerstone Housing for Women, Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre, Refugee Ministry; St. Barnabas, Ottawa, The Reverend Canon Stewart Murray and Deacon Steven Zytveld.

We pray for The Most Rev. Lynne McNaughton, Archbishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Kootenay Anglican Communion, and The Episcopal Church in the Philippines.

For all who pursue peace, justice, and truth, and for our parish of Holy Trinity, our Diocese of Ottawa, the Anglican Church of Canada.

All: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For those who have taught faith in Christ by word and deed, and for all the saints whose lives have reflected the light of Christ,

All: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: Holy Spirit we celebrate your life in us. Increase our awareness of this power for your service. Open our eyes and ears to the needs of those you put before us, and use us as your hands and feet. Give us courage to open conversations with those we meet, regardless of their appearance, belief, and status; give us your words to say. Grant us discernment to understand the yearnings of hearts and wisdom to know how to help those who seek to understand your Gospel. Help us to be light to your world.

Keep us open to the adventure of life where we meet you day by day. Remind us of the need to be open to how you are moving in our midst and in the lives of those both in the mainstream and on the margins. Guide us by your Spirit to those you have already prepared to receive the Good News of your Kingdom.

All: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;
he welcomes sinners
and invites them to his table.
Let us confess our sins,
confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Most merciful God,

**All: we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant: Source of all life,
the heaven and earth are yours,
yet you have given us dominion over all things.
Receive the symbols of our labour and love
which we offer you this day,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God,
creator of heaven and earth;
you are the source of light and life for all your creation,
you made us in your own image,
and call us to new life in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, Lord our God,
for the goodness and love

you have made known to us in creation;
in calling Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh,
Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil,
and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us
out of error into truth,
out of sin into righteousness,
out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over
to suffering and death,
a death he freely accepted,
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
and said, " Take, eat:

this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine;
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them,
and said, "Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**All: we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant: and we offer our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving
to you, Lord of all;
presenting to you, from your creation,
this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,

to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,
that they may be the sacrament
of the body of Christ
and his blood of the new covenant.
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,
that we, made acceptable in him,
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
In the fullness of time,
reconcile all things in Christ,
and make them new,
and bring us to that city of light
where you dwell with all your sons and daughters;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church,
and the author of our salvation;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,
now and for ever.

All: **Amen**

Celebrant: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People: **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.**

Celebrant: "I am the bread of life," says the Lord.

"Whoever comes to me will never be hungry;
whoever believes in me will never thirst."

All: **Taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are they who trust in him!**

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrant: God of our hope,
in this eucharist we find the source of all your blessings.

Nourished in these holy mysteries

may we, with our lives,

give you continual thanks and praise.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

Celebrant: Glory to God,

All: **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,

for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant: The LORD bless you and keep you;

The LORD make his face to shine upon you,

and be gracious to you;

the LORD lift up his countenance upon you,

and give you peace.

And the blessing of God,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

be upon you and remain with you always.

All: **Amen**

Announcements and Celebrations

Next Fellowship - October 20 - Everyone Welcome sign up sheet at the back

ROSSS Holiday Trivia Night

Thursday, November 21, 7:00 PM Tickets \$15

Alfred Taylor Rec Centre, North Gower

Poster on Back Table

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Have a Blessed Week

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