

October 17th, 2021 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost – Email/At Home Missal

The ZOOM link for today's service, which opens at 9.30 am on October 17th, 2021, can be found here:

Sunday Worship October 17th, 2021 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.

Click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83664524050?pwd=aldGUFgrRzJodHVXVXFHQjNOSzhLZz09>

Meeting ID: 836 6452 4050 Passcode: 565102

You don't have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply): (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the "One tap mobile" option:

+15873281099,,83664524050#,,,,*565102# Canada

+16473744685,,83664524050#,,,,*565102# Canada

Dial by your location:

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

+1 204 272 7920 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

Meeting ID: 836 6452 4050 Passcode: 565102

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbtXjX1QaI>

PASTORAL VISITS: Our Interim Pastor Chun Zhang is available for safe visits with social distancing requirements in place, and also for telephone visits. Please reach out to him by calling the church office at 519-653-4721 to arrange a visit.

FINANCE REPORT

As of August 31, 2021

Income \$67,688.19

Expenses \$95,039.73

Net Income -\$27,351.54

+ CEWS \$20,585.14

Loss -\$6,766.40

CEWS (Canadian Emergency Wage Supplement)

As a Member or Friend of St. Peter's have you considered registering for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)?

Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) keeps your offerings current, if you miss a Sunday, or are on vacation. Your gifts will be received each month. The process works well and is secure. **All information is confidential.**

If you would like to register for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR), **please contact your church treasurer.** A void cheque or bank account information is required to enroll in PAR.

Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank:

Now that we are open, we are resuming the collection of non-perishable food items for the Cambridge Self Help Food Bank. You can bring your items to church and drop them into the bins provided, or you can arrange your own drop-off time during the week. Please remember those who have not navigated this pandemic time as well as others have

Thanksgiving for Our Presence on This Land:

Click Here: <https://youtu.be/SqEZLBrAu4c>

Gathering Hymn: ELW # 743 'Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray' (Bradley Moggach – organ)

Click here: <https://youtu.be/OXxMoKA-WnQ>

Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, in your home and in mine.

Prayer of the Day:

Sovereign God, you turn your greatness into goodness for all the peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. *Amen*

The First Reading: Isaiah 53:4-12

Surely he has borne our infirmities
 and carried our diseases;
 yet we accounted him stricken,
 struck down by God, and afflicted.
 But he was wounded for our transgressions,
 crushed for our iniquities;
 upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
 and by his bruises we are healed.
 All we like sheep have gone astray;
 we have all turned to our own way,
 and the LORD has laid on him
 the iniquity of us all.
 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
 yet he did not open his mouth;
 like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
 and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
 so he did not open his mouth.
 By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
 Who could have imagined his future?
 For he was cut off from the land of the living,
 stricken for the transgression of my people.
 They made his grave with the wicked
 and his tomb with the rich,
 although he had done no violence,
 and there was no deceit in his mouth.
 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.
 When you make his life an offering for sin,
 he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
 through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.
 Out of his anguish he shall see light;
 he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
 The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
 and he shall bear their iniquities.
 Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
 and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

because he poured out himself to death,
 and was numbered with the transgressors;
 yet he bore the sin of many,
 and made intercession for the transgressors. (NRSV)
 Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.***

Psalm: 91:9-16

Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
 and the Most High your habitation,
**no evil¹ will befall you,
 nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**
 For God will give the angels charge over you,
 to guard you in all your ways.
**Upon their hands they will bear you up,
 lest you strike your foot against a stone.**
 You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
 you will trample down the lion and the serpent.
**I will deliver those who cling to me;
 I will uphold them, because they know my name.**
 They will call me, and I will answer them;
 I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.
**With long life will I satisfy them,
 and show them my salvation.***

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The Second Reading: Hebrews 5:1-10

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
 today I have begotten you”;
 as he says also in another place,
 “You are a priest forever,
 according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. (NRSV)

Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.***

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 10:35-45

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” But Jesus said to them,

“You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (NRSV)

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon (Imagine Interim Pastor Chun Zhang’s voice here)

Do you think you are a leader? Why or why not?

What is the image of a leader in your mind?

Like this one? (Justin Trudeau)



Or this one? (Vladimir Putin)



Or this one? (The Dalai Lama)



Or this one? (Pope Francis)



Those are our current world leaders, both political and religious. Does anybody among us want to be a leader like them? Please raise your hand if you do.

I don't see many hands. It seems that you are not very ambitious people. What do you want to be? Followers instead of leaders?

Most of Jesus' disciples were much more ambitious. They wanted to be leaders, maybe they had considered themselves as leaders already, and wanted to be leaders among leaders.

In today's Gospel reading, James and John showed their ambitions before other disciples. They requested Jesus to allow them to sit beside him when he becomes a King. What they asked was basically to share Jesus' power and glory and to be on the top step of the social ladder in Jesus' new kingdom. This request very much enraged the rest of the disciples because they wanted the exact same thing but maybe too cowardly to ask.

Jesus' response was also supervising, instead of saying yes or no directly, he asked them if they could drink the cup he drank and baptize the baptism he did. It was an odd question, and obviously, James and John missed his point completely.

But they missed Jesus' point for some reason. At Jesus' time, drinking from the same cup at dinner was used to show unity with the leader or host. The leader would drink from the cup then pass it to the next one in line for the honor. The passing of the drinking cup meant that the guests shared the honor and power of the host. It was a share in the leader's "glory". Jesus' baptism led to his present reputation as a charismatic leader and future king. Who wouldn't say yes to the drinking cup and baptism of a man with a growing reputation?

They didn't get the point because, from the very beginning, they picked and chose from Jesus' teaching according to their own interests. They heard the glory part; they really liked the part that Jesus is the son of God, the Messiah, the savior. But they refused to accept the way to God's glory that Jesus he himself proclaimed 3 times already in the same Gospel book of Mark. They didn't want to go the hard way, which was the way through the cross, the way through death. They wanted the easy way, the way of favor.

Jesus affirmed their commitment and their future. And actually, most of Jesus' lifetime disciples lost their lives for the sake of their faith. And some of them were even crucified and died on the cross. They literally drank the cup Jesus passed to them and were baptized by fire and blood. But Jesus still refused to grant them the favor, not because Jesus did not have the power, but because he would not want to – he didn't want to steal the glory from God the Father. Everything he did, Jesus gave the glory back to God the Father. It's such a great example Jesus set up for all his disciples including us.

When the other apostles heard of the brothers' request, they became angry; this verse acts as a bridge to Jesus' teaching on leadership that is different from the leadership this world is teaching. Jesus rejected the

leadership of power but pointed to the leadership of service. He used the image of the servant at a dinner to make his point. At the banquet of God's kingdom, the one who drank from the cup was also the one who passed the cup to others. By leading others all the way through God's banquet, Jesus saw himself on the cross as the primary model for "servant leadership"

Think of waiters or waitresses in our own culture. A good waiter or waitress must be very familiar with the menu and be able to guide the customers to order the right food and drink; when the order is placed, try to provide food and drink at the right time, an invisible guide, and provide assistance, yet at a comfortable distance. They are to leave us alone when we desire privacy but approach us immediately when we need help. They are to serve us and, in doing so, they lead us through the meal.

From the bottom of our hearts, we all want to be glorious as those leaders, or at least share some of their glories like taking photos with famous leaders, even sometimes we are too shy to admit it in public.

Yesterday, a member of our congregation asked me if there is a way to heaven without going through death. My answer was that technically yes because according to the Scripture, Enoch and Elijah ascended to heaven without death. But for all of us, the way Jesus went through seems to be the only way.

So let us save our energy from finding another way to heaven, and faithfully follow the way of the cross. There is no other way out and there is no way back.

Jesus wants us, all of us to be leaders, and share the leadership of his community by serving each other. Jesus doesn't want us to be leaders who just call themselves civil servants but spend taxpayers money like a king, but as this real leader (a nameless waitress)



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who lead by serving.

A German pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer once said: "Discipleship means more trouble, not less... True discipleship is characterized by a costly pouring out of one's life for another, whether it be an aging parent, a difficult spouse, a special child, another member of the Christian fellowship who has unusual needs, or any person whose situation elicits neighborly service at personal cost. Jesus came to serve and to give his life."

Do you want to drink the cup he drank and baptize the baptism he went through, all the way from Galilee to Jerusalem, to the cross and grave, then to the rising again?

Hymn of the Day: 'Let Us Enter Into the Silence' (*Bradley Moggach – piano & vocal, John Wesley Oldham - text*)

Click here: <https://youtu.be/BkchxvuCkQ>

Prayers of Intercession:

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Holy One, for the gift of the church handed down through the ages and for all who carry on the servant ministry of Jesus, we praise you. Send your Holy Spirit upon all who are discerning calls to ministry in its many forms and equip them with your gifts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating One, for the lush and abundant habitat you provide for all your creatures, we praise you. Provide healing for the earth so that waterfowl, reptiles, wild horses, dolphins, and all living things flourish as you intend. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Suffering One, for all who work toward peace and who lead nations with a servant's heart, we praise you. Bring justice for all who suffer violence, persecution, discrimination, hunger, poverty, and homelessness, and create places of refuge for all people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Merciful One, for all who do the work of healing in mind, body, and spirit, we praise you. Surround and comfort all who struggle with depression, anxiety, cancer, diabetes, dementia, or any illness especially Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don, Lynn, Sharon, Bryan and Sherrie, that all may be healed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sustaining One, for all who volunteer for the vitality of this congregation, we praise you. Strengthen and encourage greeters, ushers, office volunteers, bakers, counters, committee and group leaders, teachers, students, evangelists, singers, builders, nurturers, and all who serve with generous hearts. Hear us, O God. : **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Risen One, we thank you for those who have shaped your church and shared your gospel. Through the witness of your saints, especially Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, continue to inspire us with hope until we all are gathered at your eternal feast. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life.

Amen.

Share the peace of Christ:

The Peace of Christ be with you always, in your home and in mine, and throughout God's creation.

Offering Prayer:

God of abundance,
you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.
Accept the gifts you have first given us.
Unite them with the offering of our lives
to nourish the world you love so dearly;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

You are invited to prepare your table with bread and wine, or crackers and juice, whatever is available to you, so that you may participate in the meal.

Meal: Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/-RnRfJoYmjs>

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you unto life eternal.

Prayer after Communion

Lord of life,
in the gift of your body and blood
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Blessing:

People of God,
you are Christ's body,
bringing new life to a suffering world.
The holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: ELW # 840 'Now Thank We All Our God' (Bradley Moggach – organ)

Click here: <https://youtu.be/LHLPxPIL5HI>

Dismissal:

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.
Thanks be to God.

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