



CANON DAVIS MEMORIAL CHURCH  
TRINITY SUNDAY — Sunday, May 22nd, 2016  
PROVERBS 8:1-4, 22-31, PSALM 8;

ROMANS 5:1-5; JOHN 16:12-15

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### A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: "To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth – when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race."

PROVERBS 8:1-4, 22-31

### Psalm 8

- 1 Lord our governor, \* how exalted is your name in all the world!
- 2 Out of the mouths of infants and children \* your majesty is praised above the heavens.
- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, \* to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, \* the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- 5 What is man that you should be mindful of him? \* the son of man that you should seek him out?
- 6 You have made him but little lower than the angels; \* you adorn him with glory and honour;
- 7 You give him mastery over the works of your hands; \* you put all things under his feet;
- 8 All sheep and oxen, \* even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, \* and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O Lord our governor, \* how exalted is your name in all the world!

*Blessed are you, creator of heaven and earth; amid the immensity of the universe, you are mindful of us and seek us out. Blessed are you for the gift of your Son, who humbled himself to share our life that we might be raised with him to glory and splendour. Blessed be your holy name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.*

## A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

ROMANS 5:1-5

## THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

Jesus said, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

JOHN 16:12-15

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*...I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.*

Last week we talked about language. As though we didn't say enough, I am starting this sermon with a little more on this topic. Ever notice how we seem to develop certain phrases or sentences that keep popping up frequently? For instance, there are our greetings —> *Howzit going?* To which we almost always reply, *Great! How'bout you?* We find ourselves saying these things even when we are feeling anything but *great*.

One phrase I have encountered frequently is found in military, government, and private sector establishments. It is sometimes used wisely — and sometimes it is used exploitively. And that phrase is 'need to know': as in, *Around here we act on an 'need to know' basis.* This meant that any information about one's job was limited to what was necessary for that job. This also meant that anyone trying to steal information from employees would not be able to see the whole picture of what an organization was doing. Each employee only was aware of part of the whole picture. In the military, where it was once said that, *Loose lips can sink ships.*, operating on a need to know basis made a lot of sense. It also makes sense for companies afraid of industrial espionage efforts. Why should an organization open itself up to revealing its product development secrets, for example?

But in some establishments, *Need to know* can be applied in a harmful way to keep some staff from being in the know about what the corporation or institution is really doing. I remember in one of the offices in which I worked a man who had been given a desk in a far corner of the work area where he remained isolated and uninformed. Every year his opportunities for upward movement became more limited because he purposely was not to be in the know. By the intent of management, he became trapped until retirement. I never understood why this man was caught in this situation. I am not sure he knew either.

Now with Jesus, the phrase, *need to know* takes on a whole different context and meaning. The words are the same — the intent is the opposite. Jesus was not in the business of trying to limit who was in on any special secrets — as one might find with ancient mystery religions. Jesus meant his words to be proclaimed and available to all folk!

We had and have an obvious need to know — everyone does! *Need to know what?* we may rightly ask? Need to know the essential truth of God.

Listen as our Lord says, *When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.* During Jesus' trial, Pilate wondered aloud, *What is truth?* After being buffeted endlessly by wide ranging media reports & opinions on most everything, we too sometimes might wonder, *What is truth? Where is truth?*

Here Jesus is telling us that God holds the truth. More than that, he shares that truth via the Holy Spirit. And more than that, that truth is to be shared with us as God's people.

All of this discourse took place as Jesus was fast approaching his crucifixion. He knew this would be a horrible ordeal for his disciples. By informing them in advance about his coming crucifixion and the truth about the world, its people and ways, Jesus was laying the groundwork for these followers and others to continue the work he had put in place. They had to know. We have to know! What do we have to know, we wonder?

In a world that celebrates: strength; winning; looking down on others; self-gratification; self-worship; the latest high; and so much more, the sweet voice of Jesus calls us in other directions. What might these be? Among the things to which the Holy Trinity calls us are: love of others - all others; celebration of that which is good; acknowledgement and worship of the one true God; to be interested in doing our best in the places we find ourselves; to see virtue in weakness; to see the real importance of what others regard as insignificant; to see all people as God's children; and more. Yet, we are at the same time to enjoy the blessings that may come our way. Life is to have its joys! But we are not to obsess on having them. They are not why we were placed on earth, as so many who buy into the ways of the world seem to think.

Does that mean that we are to become a colourless and a dour people? Are we as Christians to become known for raining on everyone else's parade? Are we to be those who criticize all that others do? Nope — I don't see things that way at all. Rather I see us living according to the wisdom given to us by God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. In coming to know what we *need to know* that is of the wisdom of God, we are invited by God to live according to God's wisdom without judging others. We are invited to let others see what we have in our alternative set of priorities in life. Let them see the sense of it all. Let them witness the effect on us and on those around us.

For the first time in about 10 years, I was licensed to vote at Synod this past week. One of the wonderful things I heard at Synod was the expressions of a number of church and inter-church groups about their outreach work. Someone once asked the question: *Would anyone notice if all of our churches closed?* Well, from where I sit, the answer would be a resounding, *Yes!* People are being fed; abused communities are being helped in the ways they want to be helped; minority groups are being affirmed; refugees are being welcomed and supported; non-church people and communities are being celebrated and a whole lot more!

These reflect our coming to know the way of the wisdom/the truth of God! We are called to be a part of this. We are called to be able to say, *That is a part of who we are as Christians!* On this Trinity Sunday and forever more, let people notice that we are a people who are really in the know.