



CANON DAVIS MEMORIAL CHURCH

380 Russell St. North, Sarnia, Ontario, N7T 6S6

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Sunday, September 20th 2020 — 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45;

Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Dear Friends,

At the beginning of the Book of Genesis we read the first of the creation stories. As part of that account we hear about how God created the heavens and the earth. Interestingly, the earth would seem to refer to one earth, while it may appear that there was/is more than one heaven. There are scholars who believe the plural reference is to a single heaven, and those who believe that two or more heavens are being referenced. Now that got me thinking about how on this wonderful earth we have a great multitude of worlds. We all have various worlds in which we function.

The writers of the Book of Genesis did not refer to God creating a single 'world'. For the earth encompasses countless worlds — worlds we encounter every day. Many of these are the worlds in which we live our daily lives. They can be found to overlap and provide very different life environments for each of us.

The possibilities are many. And we are even able to make our own worlds. We have all heard people saying something like: *She or he is in his own world*. They may be so busy at what they are doing that they do not notice what else is going on around them. At times, we find people making worlds which profoundly affect the lives of other people. In fact, much of what we do in our individual lives can't help but affect the worlds of our neighbours. Just as what goes on in their worlds can deeply affect the worlds in which we live.

When Sally and I were first married we lived in an apartment complex that was not too well maintained. We were on the second floor. Below us was a family with one member who refused to kill anything that lived. At first this sounded like a noble ideal. But the way it played out left a lot to be desired. You see, their apartment unit became overrun with cockroaches. These insects were even on the ceiling and on the dinner table. They multiplied and their hordes became a health hazard as these unwanted insects began to spread to the other apartments in the building. These cockroaches were not simply a nuisance.

Each apartment in that building was a world of its own. Each had its issues, hopes and challenges. Each represented a delicate balance. Each was vulnerable to what was happening in the worlds of other people.

So it is that as we are living in our own world or worlds, we are reminded by the Apostle Paul in Philippians to be mindful of the two most significant worlds in which we live — that of the secular world — and that of the world of the wisdom of God. Here, Paul alludes to the tension existing between these two worlds. He does not resolve the problem, but calls on people to be aware of it and to be always responsive to the call of Christ in the lives they live and the decisions they make. For we always affect other people. He puts it this way: *...I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents.*

In this, Paul acknowledges that not everyone is receptive to the Gospel of Christ. Not all accept the wisdom of God. Not all agree that living lives that are loving is the way to fulfillment. We are not to be intimidated by such folk. We know they are numerous. But they need to be informed that there is a better way — the way of the Gospel of Christ.

I pray that you are given wisdom and strength as you live in the worlds you enter.

God's blessing be upon you and all those you love.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ray", with a small plus sign to its upper right. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

CDMC PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Parish Council met on Wednesday, September 16th, to discuss the possibility of re-opening Canon Davis Memorial Church. The Council decided to work toward having our first worship service on October 4th, pending approval from the Diocese of Huron. There will be a number of changes to our services, seating requirements and more while COVID-19 is a threat to human health. A description of these requirements is being sent to all parishioners by email or by surface mail. Please read it over before coming to attend one of our worship services.

Stay safe, Parish Council

Any questions please contact:

Sheree Lynn Hayter 519-245-7490 or John Hayter 519-332-1926

Morning Prayer services officiated by Lay Reader, Ginny Schleihaufer are offered monthly for the people of CDMC. Ginny does a wonderful job of officiating.

Here's the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLP9KtwleLWpaRjVuoxeybHjlpWMt5EPEc>

Our sincere thanks go to Ginny for officiating; The Rev'd Raymond Hodgson and Nicole Grieve for technical support; The Rev'd Greg Jenkins and the people of St. Alban's for the Wednesday evening and Sunday services. We would appreciate your feedback on the online worship services offered through Canon Davis Memorial Church.

You are invited to go each Sunday and/or Wednesday to the link:

tinyurl.com/StAlbans-CDMC

That is the link to St. Alban's Anglican Church in Burnaby B.C. Follow the instructions. You will find links to the Rev'd Greg Jenkins officiating at an Anglican church service with a children's focus, church music, readings, prayers and a sermon.

If you are also interested in joining their weekly Bible Study, contact Rev. Greg at revgregjenkins@gmail.com He will be more than happy to be in touch about joining in with their group by ZOOM. I hope you will find these services help to deepen your faith.

We are joining with many parishes in our deanery in providing telephone support to our members and friends. This support is designed to keep us up to date, while not requiring a computer. The CDMC Pastoral Letter will be read this week through our phone ministry

A free phone line for prayer, reflections, worship and a reminder you're not alone.

1-888-229-5422

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Allow for a slight pause after you press each requested number on your phone dial.