



## CANON DAVIS MEMORIAL CHURCH

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

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July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 — Seventh Sunday after Pentecost —

Genesis 28:10-19A; Psalm 139:1-11, 22-23;

Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Dear Friends,

It is Summertime and our thoughts turn to gardening. We may be appreciative observers of the rewards of gardening; or are dedicated gardeners, ourselves. Either way we are well aware of the long hours required for beautiful results.

Gardens are not beautiful only because of what we do with plants. The elements we have at our disposal are of a rich variety of flowering plants which also integrate differing leaf shapes and textures. And we are given other opportunities in plant materials, like ferns and mosses. The endless variety of overall shapes and sizes allows for more flexibility in our overall designs. Additionally, we are not to overlook the endless variety of branch types and shapes. These can add interest in the wintertime.

It is wise not to forget the abundance of plants that provide for human and other animal nutrition! We have a crabapple tree outside our window which blooms prolifically in the Spring with beautiful pinkish-white flowers. By Autumn, these flowers have morphed into beautiful red crabapples. A wonderful array of birds come to this great little tree which serves as a buffet table for other wildlife as well.

It has been pointed out that the Bible starts out with God's movement in a garden; and ends in a city. We immediately relate to the garden setting. We find ourselves growing in our adaptation to living in a city. In the Bible, we find both the garden and the city are uniquely wonderful places — wonderful because they are God's creations, overseen by our loving God.

But these are not the only references to gardens and cities in scripture. Jesus talks openly in his parables using the imagery of seeds and the results of them being planted or harvested in differing ways. Cities, especially Jerusalem, are pivotal places in Jesus' life. So it is that these take on monumental importance as they come together to provide and sustain life for God's people. It is here, that we come to know God as Father, or 'Abba'.

We all know that the Lord's Prayer starts with the words 'Our Father'. But I sometimes wonder how many of us actually see God in this context. If we think

about the role of a good father in our life; what would that look like? Words like alive, close, loving, kind, creative, protective, forgiving, merciful, cautionary, teaching, and more, quickly come to my mind. The question is, how many of us think of God in a fatherly context? And yes, we are talking about the same God — the God of the garden; and the God of the city.

We are talking also about the same God as the God of Psalm 139 — the God who is with us in all situations — the God who cares for us, always.

Keeping this aspect of our Infinite God in mind while we live and while we pray, I believe we make a difference by our perception and by our approach, as we come to know our God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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A Morning Prayer service officiated by Lay Reader, Ginny Schleichauf is offered monthly for the people of CDMC. Ginny does a wonderful job of officiating. Her first BCP service was recorded on YouTube and can still be viewed online.

Here's the link: [https://youtu.be/I91\\_Mkh2O6M](https://youtu.be/I91_Mkh2O6M)

Our sincere thanks go to Ginny for officiating; The Rev'd Raymond Hodgson for technical support; The Rev'd Greg Jenkins and the people of St. Alban's for the Wednesday evening and Sunday services. These services are to be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. 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:

[tinyurl.com/StAlbans-CDMC](http://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](mailto:revgregjenkins@gmail.com) He will be more than happy to be in touch about joining in with their group. I hope you will find these services help to deepen your faith.

*We pray for the repose of the soul of Irma Bannister.*

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Greg", with a small cross symbol above the end of the signature.