**REGIONAL MINISTRY OF SAUGEEN SHORES,**

**TARA AND CHATSWORTH**

**April 28, 2024**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Welcome and Announcements

“We acknowledge with respect that Bruce County and Grey County are situated on the traditional and treaty territory of the Anishnaabek: the People of the Three Fires known as Ojibwe, Odawa, and Pottawatomie Nations; and homeland of the Chippewas of Saugeen, the Chippewas of Neyaashiinigmiing and the Metis. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties. May we all, as Treaty People, live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with all its diverse peoples.”

Processional Hymn # 442 Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here

**1 Great God, your love has called us here,**

**as we, by love, for love were made.**

**Your living likeness still we bear,**

**though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.**

**We come, with all our heart and mind**

**your call to hear, your love to find.**

**2 We come with self-inflicted pains**

**of broken trust and chosen wrong,**

**half free, half bound by inner chains,**

**by social forces swept along,**

**by powers and systems close confined,**

**yet seeking hope for humankind.**

**3 Great God, in Christ you call our name**

**and then receive us as your own,**

**not through some merit, right, or claim,**

**but by your gracious love alone.**

**We strain to glimpse your mercy seat**

**and find you kneeling at our feet.**

**4 Then take the towel, and break the bread,**

**and humble us, and call us friends.**

**Suffer and serve till all are fed,**

**and show how grandly love intends**

**to work till all creation sings,**

**to fill all worlds, to crown all things.**

**5 Great God, in Christ you set us free**

**your life to live, your joy to share.**

**Give us your Spirit's liberty**

**to turn from guilt and dull despair,**

**and offer all that faith can do**

**while love is making all things new.**

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Celebrant* May his grace and peace be with you.

*People* **May he fill our hearts with joy.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God,

*All* **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.**

Glory to God

Glory to God, glory to God. Glory in the highest

**Glory to God, glory to God. Glory in the highest**

To God be glory forever! **To God be glory forever!**

Alleluia! Amen! **Alleluia! Amen!** (repeats 4 times)

The Collect of the Day

God of deep soil and luxurious growth, you call us from our shallow selves to find our depth in you: may we abide in him alone who can teach us who we are, Jesus Christ, the true vine. **Amen.** *Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.*

The Proclamation of the Word

*First Reading: Acts 8:26-40*

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*Reader* The word of the Lord.

***People*  Thanks be to God**

Psalm 22:24-30*(spoken)*

**All the ends of the earth shall turn to the Lord.**

My praise isof him in the great assembly; I willperform my vows in the presence ofthose who worship him. The poorshall eat and be satisfied, and thosewho seek the Lord shall praise him:“May your heart live for ever!” Allthe ends of the earth shall rememberand turn to the Lord, and all thefamilies of the nations shall bow beforehim. For kingship belongs tothe Lord; he rules over the nations. To him alone all who sleep in theearth bow down in worship; all whogo down to the dust fall before him. My soul shall live for him; my descendantsshall serve him; they shall be known as the Lord’s for ever. They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that he has done.

**All the ends of the earth shall turn to the Lord.**

*Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*Reader* The word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God**

*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation*

Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world. They resound with God’s own heart, O let the ancient words impart. Words of life, words of hope, give us strength, help us cope. In this world where-e’re we roam, Ancient words will guide us home.

**Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you. We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart.**

*Gospeller*The Lord be with you.

***People* And also with you.**

*Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

***People:* Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ**

Jesus said, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. *John 15.1-8*

*Gospeller:* The Gospel of Christ

***People:* Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ**

Holy words of our faith handed down to this age, come to us through sacrifice,

O, heed the faithful words of Christ.

**Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you. We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart.**

Homily

The Apostles’ Creed

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

**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.**

The Prayers of the People

*Response:* God of love:  **be our guide.**

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; God welcomes sinners and invites us to this table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God’s forgiveness.

Most merciful God,

**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.**

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. **Amen**

The Peace

The peace and the love of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

*(please offer a gesture of peace while remaining in your seats)*

Hymn # 487 Where Charity and Love Prevail

**1 Where charity and love prevail,**

**there God is ever found;**

**brought here together by Christ’s love,**

**by love are we thus bound.**

**2 With grateful joy and holy fear,**

**his charity we learn;**

**let us with heart and mind and strength,**

**now love him in return.**

**3 Forgive we now each other’s fault’s,**

**as we our faults confess;**

**and let us love each other well,**

**in Christian holiness.**

**4 Let strife among us be unknown,**

**let all contention cease;**

**be his the glory that we seek,**

**be ours his holy peace.**

**5 Let us recall that in our midst**,

**dwells God’s begotten Son;**

**as members of his body joined,**

**we are in him made one.**

**6 Love can exclude no race or creed,**

**if honoured be God’s name;**

**our common life embraces all,**

**whose Father is the same.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Gracious God, you show us your way and give us your divine life. May everything we do be directed by the knowledge of your truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

*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* It is indeed right that we should praise you, gracious God, for you created all things. You formed us in your own image: wonderfully you created us. When we turned away from you in sin, you did not cease to care for us, but opened a path of salvation for all people. You made a covenant with Israel, and through your servants Abraham and Sarah gave the promise of a blessing to all nations. Through Moses you led your people from bondage into freedom; through the prophets you renewed your promise of salvation. Therefore, with them, and with all your saints who have served you in every age, we give thanks and raise 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 he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Celebrant* Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives you praise. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners; he opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to the poor and to those in need. In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

On the night he freely gave himself to death, 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.” Gracious God, his perfect sacrifice destroys the power of sin and death; by raising him to life you give us life for evermore. Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

*All* **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant* Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection, and looking for his coming again in glory, we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who eat and drink at this table may be one body and one holy people, a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord.Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

*People* **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer (*sung)*

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

**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 our sin, as we forgive, those who have, sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation, deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen, Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

*Celebrant:* Lord, we died with you on the cross.

*All* **Now we are raised to new life.**

*Celebrant:* We were buried in your tomb.

*All* **Now we share in your resurrection.**

*Celebrant:* Live in us, that we may live in you.

Prayer spoken by those worshipping from home**. (**said when service is broadcast.)

Gracious God, in union with all who gather at your table, I join in offering the sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you. I believe that you are truly present in the Bread that has been blessed, broken and given. Since I cannot now physically partake of this holy sacrament, I pray that you will abide with me, that I may embrace you entirely, and submit myself to your love and mercy. Let me never be separated from you, that in my waking and in my sleeping I may know the comfort of your presence. I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Communion

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

*People***Thanks be to God.**

Communion Hymns # 56, 52

Prayer after Communion

God of love, in this eucharist we have heard your truth and shared in your life. May we always walk in your way, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray**, Glory to God, 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, forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

Hymn # 434 The Love of Jesus Calls Us

**1.The love of Jesus calls us**

**our joyous praise to sing;**

**our deeply felt thanksgivings**

**we now together bring,**

**for all God's many blessings,**

**unasked yet still received,**

**and for the generations**

**who faithfully believed**

**2. The love of Jesus calls us,**

**that we may always be**

**companions on a journey,**

**where all the world may see**

**that serving Christ is freedom**

**which time does not destroy;**

**where Christ's command is duty,**

**and every duty joy**

**3. The love of Jesus calls us**

**to go where he would go,**

**to challenge all that limits,**

**to change, to learn, to grow,**

**to know that Christ has freed us,**

**that prisons are no more;**

**for those who seek his kingdom,**

**Christ opens every door.**

**4.The love of Jesus calls us**

**in swiftly changing days,**

**to be God's co-creators**

**in new and wondrous ways;**

**that God with men and women**

**may so transform the earth,**

**that love and peace and justice**

**may give God's kingdom birth.**

Dismissal

Look up and seek God.

Look back and thank God.

Look around and serve God

Look forward and trust God.

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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Hymn “Glory to God”, Music Peruvian Trad. Hymn “Ancient Word” Words and music by Lynn DeShazo, CCLI Song #2986399 Intergrity’s Hosanna! Music

Hymn “Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here” Text: Brian Wren 1995 Hope Publishing co. Music: Dimitri Bortniansky; adapt. Choralbuch, Leipzig, 1825. Hymn “Where Charity and Love Prevail” Text: Latin (9th cent); tr. Omer Westendorf, alt. 1962 World Library Publications, Inc. A Division of J.S Paluch Company, Inc. Music: Attrib. Lucius Chapin Hymn “I Am the Bread, the Bread of Life” Text and Music: Brian R. Hoare, 1998 Hope Publishing Co. Hymn “O God, Unseen Yet Ever Near” Text: Edward Osler; rev. Hymns for Today’s Church 1982 Hope Publishing Co. Music: John Day, Psalmes, 1562. Hymn “The Love of Jesus Calls Us” Text: Herbert O’Driscoll Music: Samuel Sabastian Wesley.