



Blessed
are the poor in spirit
for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.

M A T T H E W 5 : 3

Blessed are those
who mourn, for
they will be
comforted.



Matthew 5:4

Blessed
are the
meek,
for they



will
inherit
the earth.

Matthew 5:5

Blessed are
those who
hunger and
thirst for
righteousness,
for they will
be filled.



Matthew 5:6

Blessed
are the
merciful:
for they will
receive mercy.



Matthew 5:7

Blessed are the
pure in heart:
for they
shall see
God.



Matthew 5:8

Sunday, November 1, 2020
All Saints Day

CALL TO WORSHIP

I saw a new heaven and a new earth!
The old heaven and the old earth and the sea had disappeared.
Then I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, descended from God
Out of heaven, beautiful as a bride adorned for her husband.
A great voice thundered from heaven:
“See, God is making God’s home with mortals!
God will live with them. They will be God’s people.
God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.
There will be no more death, or sorrow, or crying, or pain.
All of this – Gone forever!”

Thanks be to God!

GATHERING SONG: “Kyrie Eleison”

by Michael Joncas

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Revelation 7:9-17

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Revelation.

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.

9After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

11And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

13Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" 14I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

16They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

17for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 34:1-10, 22

I will bless the Lord | at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be | in my mouth.

2I will glory | in the Lord;
let the lowly hear | and rejoice.
3Proclaim with me the greatness | of the Lord;
let us exalt God's | name together.
4I sought the Lord, who | answered me
and delivered me from | all my terrors.
5Look upon the Lord| and be radiant,
and let not your faces | be ashamed.
6I called in my affliction, and | the Lord heard me
and saved me from | all my troubles.
7The angel of the Lord encamps around those who | fear the Lord
and de- | livers them.
8Taste and see that the | Lord is good;
happy are they who take ref- | uge in God!
9Fear the Lord, you saints | of the Lord,
for those who fear the | Lord lack nothing.
10The lions are in want and | suffer hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing | that is good.
22O Lord, you redeem the life | of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished.

SECOND READING: 1 John 3:1-3

The reading may be announced:

A reading from 1 John.

A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.

1See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 3And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

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HYMN OF THE DAY

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

Lord of all the saints, we praise you for evangelists and martyrs whose sacrifices witness to your gospel across time and space. Inspire us by their courage to carry our faith to new people and places around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of every place, the universe proclaims your greatness from generation to generation. Bless the work of naturalists, conservationists, and park rangers who train our attention to the wonders of the world you have made. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of every nation, we pray that you will guide our neighbours in the United States of America in their national elections this week. Kindle hearts eager to understand their common needs and to seek the common good for all of their citizens as well as their relationship with all nations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of every blessing, your Son's blessing came to those living with poverty, grief, hunger, thirst, and persecution. Shape our vision of the saints to match his own. Awaken in us your call to serve all who suffer. Bless all who are ill with your healing presence, especially Jack, Peter, Anne, Mervyn, Ken, Mary, Katana, Connor, Robert, Neil, Maria, Ralph, Beryl, Rose Marie, Nya, Muriel, Karen, Ron, Brian, and Kolby. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of every venture, anoint us with the missionary spirit of the early church. Bless all new missions of our synod. Empower testimony from new communities of faith to shape a diverse witness to your saving power. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of every time, countless are the multitudes you have called by name and gathered to yourself. Comfort us as we grieve those who have died in the past year: Ruby Taylor, Linda Springer, Dona Ahrens, Heinz Mikler, Horst Bornath, Jean Wagner, William Osborne, Margaret Henning, Paula Thomson, Walter Cates, Bill Ehgoetz, Gerald Ney, Norman Cormier, Melvin Leasa, Ingrid Fraser, Jean Allen, and Ingeburg Fleischhauer; we also remember Kieran Stroobandt on the anniversary of his death. In faith, may we join with them in ceaseless praise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world

to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,
may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to 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 us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

**** PLEASE REMEMBER ****

TO BOOK IN ADVANCE FOR "LIMITED" SUNDAY WORSHIP

By calling the office (519-271-8527) Monday to Thursday 8:00 am to 1:30 pm and Friday 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.

For the recorded version of Pastor Jeff's Sermon of today

Visit our website at
www.zionstratford.com



A heartfelt "THANK YOU" to Susan Laustsen for volunteering to sing the Gathering Song "Kyrie Eleison" by Michael Joncas for our service today!

STRATFORD HOUSE OF BLESSING

On the next page is a handout we received from Stratford House of Blessing outlining their needs at the present time.

Please note that due to COVID-19 their need is greatest in the areas of both: financial support and food.

Any support you can give is GREATLY appreciated!!

Thank you for your generosity!!!



Stratford House of Blessing's Most Needed Items

However, please note that due to COVID-19 our need is greatest in the areas of both: financial support and food.

Stratford House of Blessing

423 Erie St. Stratford, ON N5A 2N3

Phone: 519-273-3433 Email: info@shob.org

Web: shob.org Media: @StratfordHOB

Charitable #: 119200020RR0001

As we have been unable to do grocery store food drives, we rely on people like you, to donate.

Your financial donations are especially helpful because they allow us to see where the gaps are and make bulk purchases as well as pay expenses related to running a food bank: maintenance of building, refrigeration, delivery vehicles, and food banking equipment; and costs of transportation (fuel), heat, hydro, staffing, sanitation products and communications to the most vulnerable in our community. You can donate securely online at shob.org/donation-form.

FRESH FOOD

- Root vegetables like carrots, onions and potatoes
- Squashes
- Fresh fruit
- Fresh vegetables
- Frozen vegetables and fruit
- Frozen Meals
- Fresh and frozen meat directly from the grocery store
- Lunch meats
- Cheese and yogurt
- Fruit juice

Remember:

- We will gladly accept extras from your garden
- We partner with local farmers, butchers and grocery stores
- Connect with us:
email: operations@shob.org
call: [519-273-3433](tel:519-273-3433) x 205

NON-PERISHABLES

- Healthy school snacks
- Peanut Butter
- Canned vegetables and fruit
- Canned fish - tuna and salmon
- Canned meat - ham, chicken, turkey
- Canned soups, stews and chili
- Pasta and Sauce
- Baked beans
- Hot and cold cereal
- Side dishes (KD, Sidekicks, stuffing, instant potatoes)
- Rice
- Gluten Free and Vegetarian foods
- Toilet paper
- Tampons and Pads

Most needed for populations who are homeless and/or who lack adequate cooking, refrigeration, and storage:

- Meals in a can like stew, chili, baked beans and pasta
- Canned meats with pull-back lids
- Peanut Butter
- Healthy snacks and snack bars
- Fruit cups and applesauce
- Healthy beverages
- Nuts and sunflower seeds
- New can openers
- New plastic utensils

PROGRAM SUPPLIES

All of these programs only accept NEW products.

Christmas Toy Program:

- Toys (0-16 age)
- Gift Cards suitable to teens
- Puzzles
- Board Games
- Craft Kits
- Pajamas (sized infant to adult)
- Stocking stuffers
- Books and colouring books
- Stuffed Animals

Baby Welcome to the World Baskets:

- Baby hygiene products
- Clothing 0-24 months (onesies, sleepers, outfits, socks)
- Baby toys, rattles, teethingers
- Baby blankets, receiving blankets, towels, wash cloths, and bibs

Off to School Smiling Program:

- Backpacks
- Calculators (regular and scientific)
- Math Kits
- School Supplies: crayons, markers, scissors, glue sticks, rulers and erasers

We thank you for your support in providing emergency help to people in their immediate time of need.

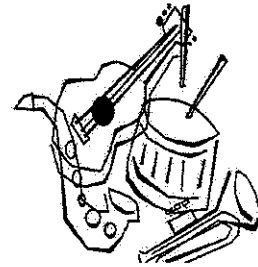
We couldn't do it without you!

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME !! **DO YOU PLAY AN INSTRUMENT? CAN YOU SING?**

**WARM UP
YOUR
VOICES!**



Due to COVID numbers increasing of late, it is clear that singing, one of the most basic activities we have used for centuries to celebrate our faith, may still not be allowed for many months to come. The very early stages of returning to gathering at Zion began in September with appropriate social distancing. Music will still be a part of this new beginning as we are fortunate to have our regular accompanists, Sandra Mogensen and Marco Burak and I certainly hope to contribute as often as needed.



In this new Amber phase, which commenced in September, we are allowed to include solo singers and instrumentalists in our services. I am putting out the call to anyone who may be willing to contribute their talents in these areas to bring some joy and healing to our regular 10:00 a.m. services. If you are nervous, please don't be as I will work with you until you are comfortable.

I will also occasionally be bringing in other local musicians who may not be members of our congregation. Please leave your contact information with Jane in the church office if you feel that you could participate in our services in this way. I look forward to hearing from you,

Minister of Music — Paul Shilton

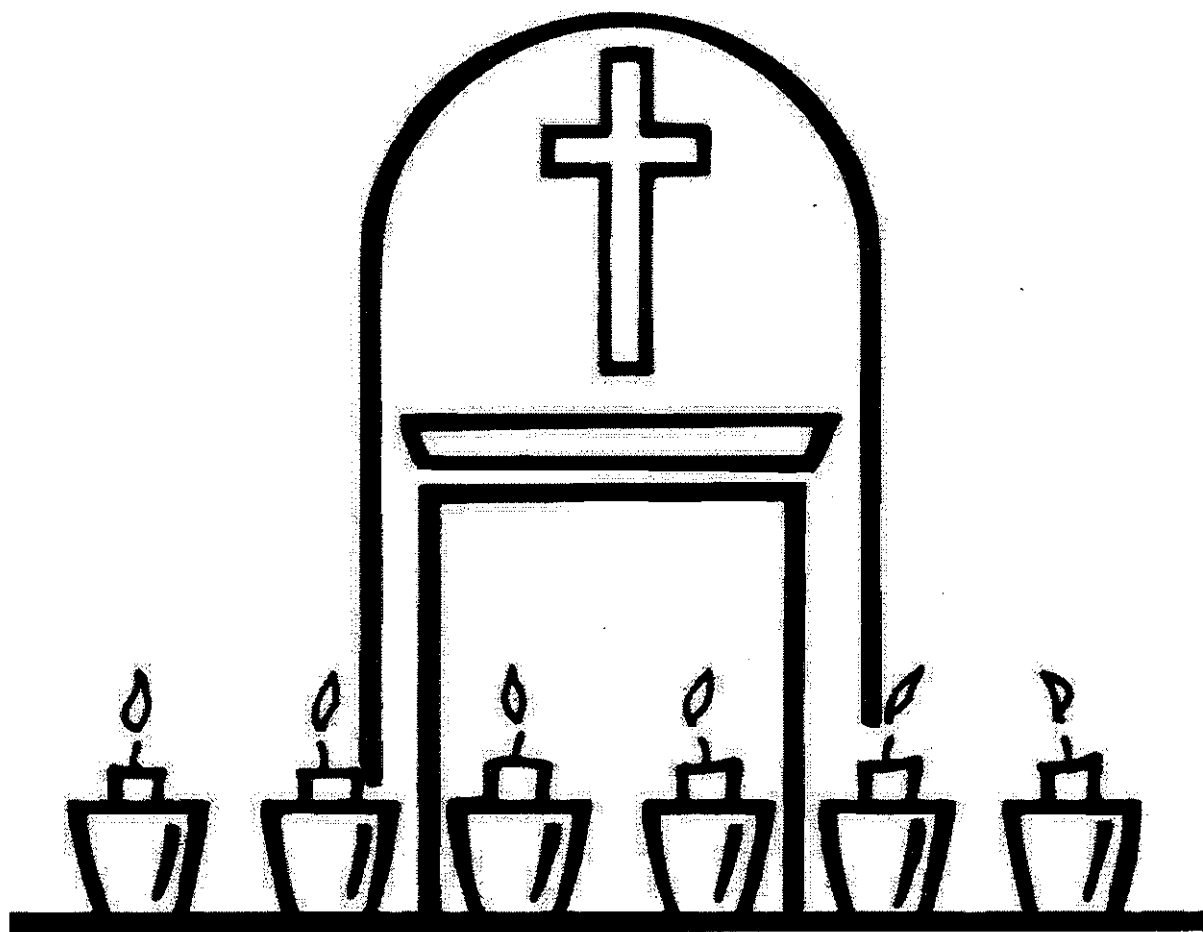
ETERNITY FOR TODAY

The list of subscribers to "Eternity For Today" has been misplaced. If you subscribe, or wish to subscribe, could you please call Jane in the office at 519-271-8527 in order for us to make up a new list. Office hours are Monday to Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Thank you!



ALL SAINTS' DAY



Thank You
For Celebrating
With Us Today
