

FOR GOD HAS
DESTINED US
NOT FOR WRATH
BUT FOR
OBTAINING SALVATION
THROUGH OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST ...

1 THESSALONIANS 5:9

Sunday, November 15, 2020
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

CALL TO WORSHIP

In every generation, the people of God have been blessed to find their home and resting place in God!

We gather to worship and praise the God of all people.

All creation since time began has been blessed to find that the place of their birth is in God's hands.

We gather to worship the God of all creation.

We gather to worship and praise our God, and to ask God to fill us with the joy of God's unfailing love.

May the favour and blessing of God be upon us this day. Amen.

GATHERING SONG: "BE THOU MY VISION"

BY BOB CHILCOTT

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.

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Judges 4:1-7

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Judges.

Deborah was a prophet and judge who, with her general, Barak, led a victorious holy war against a stronger Canaanite force from the north.

¹The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. ²So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. ³Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

⁴At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. ⁵She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. ⁶She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, "The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, 'Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. ⁷I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.' "

The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 123

¹To you I lift | up my eyes,
to you enthroned | in the heavens.

²**As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand | of her mistress,
so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God, until you show | us your mercy.**

³Have mercy upon us, O | LORD, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough | of contempt,

⁴**too much of the scorn of the in- | dolent rich,
and of the derision | of the proud.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

The reading may be announced:

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The reading may be concluded:
The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many

things; enter into the joy of your master.’²³ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed;²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’²⁶ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter?’²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.³⁰ As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

The gospel concludes:
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5YZa1hSYbjtBFnoqZitxV>

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 the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature. Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those

who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. We pray especially for Klaus, Jack, Peter, Anne, Mervyn, Ken, Mary, Katana, Neil, Maria, Ralph, Rose Marie, Nya, Karen, Ron, Brian, and Kolby. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors (especially Ken, Grace, Bill, Marilyn, Marjorie and Joyce). Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. 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.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory

and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.
Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours, almighty Father,
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.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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: "HOW LOVELY ARE THY DWELLINGS"

BY SAMUEL LIDDLE

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

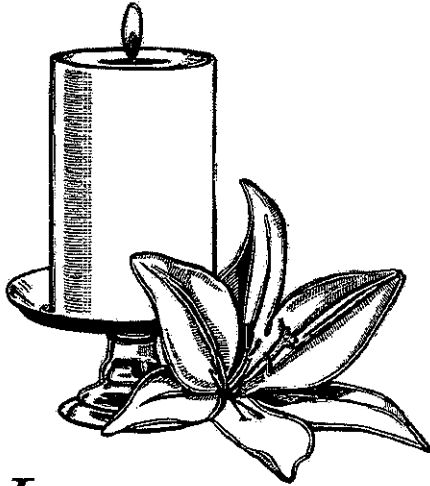
Visit our website at
www.zionstratford.com



We extend a "WARM WELCOME" and a "THANK YOU" to our guest soloist this morning, Barbara Dunn-Prosser.

Barbara will be singing "Be thou my vision" by Bob Chilcott as the Gathering Hymn and "How lovely are Thy dwellings" by Samuel Liddle as the Final Hymn. Sandra Mogensen will be accompanying Barbara on the piano for each hymn.

Barbara Dunn-Prosser has toured North America with shows such as *The Phantom of the Opera* and *H.M.S. Pinafore* and as a soloist with symphony orchestras. She has performed with the Stratford Festival acting company, the Canadian Opera Company, and was featured in Rhombus media's film of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* opposite Dmitri Hvorostovsky. Barbara has written and performed two one-woman shows. She currently teaches voice at Western University in London.



In memory of ...

Today's bulletin is sponsored by Jean Weir in loving memory of her Husband,

Bill Weir, +November 17, 1999

& Sisters,

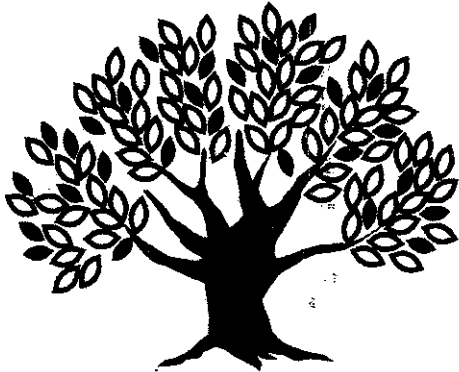
Marilyn Pickering, +October 16, 2004

Marjorie Robinson, +April 29, 2016

& Special Friend,

Joyce Dietz, +July 27, 2019

Deaths in Our



**CHURCH
FAMILY**

It is with great sadness that we announce the recent passing of our fellow members,

Ken Rohfritsch, +November 7, 2020

and

Grace Crisp, +November 10, 2020

We remember their family and friends in our prayers.

STRATFORD HOUSE OF BLESSING

Below 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 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.

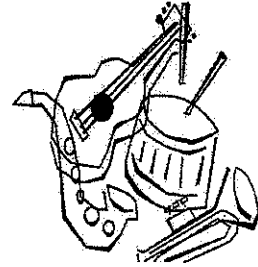
We couldn't do it without you!

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS 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. service. 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

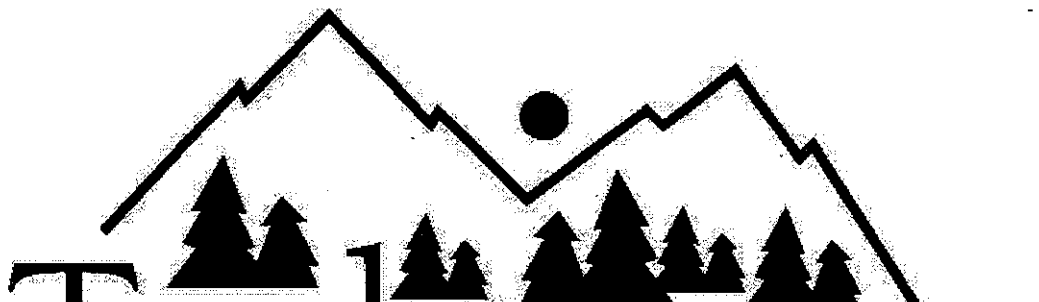
ETERNITY FOR TODAY

Any one who has requested a subscription to "Eternity For Today" is asked to please place your payment of \$13.50 in a separate envelope marked on the outside "Eternity For Today" and your name.

This envelope can then be either mailed, placed in the offering plate upon entering the Church or in our mailbox.

Thank you!





Teach me
your way,
O LORD,
& I will
walk in
your truth...

Psalm 86:11