

Holy Trinity Riverbend

WHAT'S THE BUZZ? HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING!

August 16, 2020

This Week's Bible Quote --2 Corinthians 12: 9- 10::

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong."

A Message from
Rebecca:
What a beautiful day! I'm sure you are all making the most of it, even if it's just sitting in your backyard, or on your deck, like I'm doing! I've got another fast-paced book on the go, and it's really nice to look up every so often to see our resident squirrel scurrying along the fence top. And for those of you who are travelling this weekend, I send prayers that your travels are safe,

and your visits are rewarding. Your vestry has had to make some tough decisions this past week due to the condition of our building. Reluctantly, we have had to give the Church of Sending 30 days' notice to leave. They have been excellent tenants and this is no reflection on them. Once they are gone, we will discontinue using the basement.

I want to give a big shout out to **Grant**. He was able to trade our damaged lawn mower for a second-hand lawn mower for a good price and we are once again able to keep the grass cut. However, **we are still looking for a second lawn mower** which will make it easier to cover our large tract of land. Please contact me if you are able to help us mow or are able to donate a lawnmower. It will be greatly appreciated. Have a wonderful week, everyone. Rev. Elisabeth will be presiding next Sunday.

Exploring Faith:
From time to time we include articles from other dioceses which, based on their content, may be of interest to HTR parishioners. Today we have included at the end of this newsletter an article from the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham.

Inspirational
Thoughts:
"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than the ones you did do." ... Mark Twain

And

"Big goals get big results. No goals get no results or somebody else's results." ... Mark Victor Hansen

Sermon: As a reminder, a copy of the Sunday Sermon, and the Prayers of the People, are emailed to our parishioners every Sunday. Today's sermon is from Rev. Rebecca and Prayers of

the People are courtesy of
Patti Holmstrom.



Back-To-School is just around the corner! We will be doing our annual back to school 'Blessing of Backpacks' on Sunday, August 30. Please have your children bring their backpacks to the service on this day. In addition, **please consider purchasing a backpack containing supplies such as notebooks, three-ring binders, pencil cases, paper, glue sticks, safety scissors, index cards, rulers, highlighters, markers, pens, pencils and crayons.** We will bless these donations at the August 30 service as well and arrange to donate them to an appropriate school.



Upcoming for next
Sunday, August
23, 2020:

Preaching: **Rev. Elisabeth.**
Prayers of the People:
Grant Kvemshagen.

Readings –
Ex 1:8-2:10;
Rom 12:1-8;
Mt 16:13-20;

Virtual Sunday
School: There was
no virtual Sunday
School today.

However, we have included, (courtesy of the Diocese of Chelmsford) an additional series of activities for younger and older children. Please see the end of the newsletter to view the material you will need as well as the lesson.

With the church reopened for worship, a **decision is pending on how to offer Sunday school for the fall and winter season.** Once a decision is made, we will let parents know.



Vestry –
Steve Johnson
Rector's Warden
Suzanne Pearson –
People's Warden
Grant Kvemshagen –
Treasurer
Sarah Alexander – Music
Director
Maureen Bantle

Vince Tejada

Reminder: If you are unable to return to church at this time, you have many options available to participate in virtual worship. Two of these are: **Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Strathcona live streams a service on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.** <https://www.facebook.com/holytrinityanglican/> (Note: This particular service is also simulcast on You Tube).

St. John the Evangelist also broadcasts their service. It can be viewed by going to their web page, and on the opening page, scroll down to 'Click here for home worship resources' and hit enter. <https://www.sjchurch.ca/>

Clergy:
Rev. Rebecca Harris
Priest-in-Charge
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Ph: 780-431-1817

Rev. Dr. Elisabeth
Thompson – Honorary
Assistant

Church details: Holy
Trinity Riverbend
1428- 156 St. NW
Edmonton, AB
T6R – 2S1
Worship: 10:00 a.m. each
Sunday.
Website:
www.Holytrinityriverbend.com

Exploring Faith: Christians believe that faith is a gift and our experience shows that we all come to it in unique ways. Sometimes it feels like we have been searching for God, for others it is as if God has searched us out and found us. There is no one way to explore and find faith. A good place to start though is with Jesus Christ. Our Christian faith wouldn't exist without him. We believe if you look at Jesus, a man who lived in Palestine under the Roman Empire, you also see what God looks like – in fact you truly see God. You can't place even a tissue paper between Jesus and God.

We have histories of the life of Jesus handed down to us in the Gospels, the first four books on the New Testament in the Bible. There we read how Jesus was born, lived and showed us what God is like by his words and actions which always seemed to turn upside-down the status-quo and put the last people, first. Jesus' life and actions led to him being executed by the powers that be of his day, and though he died, we believe God brought him back to life by raising him from death, because God wanted humanity to be part of God's life forever.

The truth of the resurrection of Jesus changes everything for Christians; from those first Christians who followed Jesus – who told, and lived out, the amazing message of the love of God and life after death to those around them in the Roman world, right up to Christians today. There is now not one life to live but another one to come. There is a God who so desires us, loves us and likes us that he longs to be with us for all eternity. When we discover the gift of faith in God, who has entered our world of struggle and violence and experienced the worst it can do we realize that we don't belong to ourselves in the same way anymore. We belong to another – and we belong to each other and the world around us in different way. Not only faith but all of life becomes pure gift, to be responded to by giving our lives up to the service of God and others. We find ourselves wanting to please God and turn away from all that is not of God – however hard a daily task that is!

These truths are captured in the ritual of baptism which is how the entry into Christian faith is celebrated. Jesus himself was baptized in a river and God's Spirit descended on him to fire him up for the work ahead. God, the Father spoke these words over him "You are my own beloved child and I am pleased with you." This is the experience of every Christian through our baptism – we are 'the beloved of God' and we are given the Holy Spirit to live ever freer lives 'inside God' and for the good of the world.

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition

Sunday 16th August

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Joseph's dreams coming true!

You can find it in your Bible in:

Genesis 45 v 1-15

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.

To explore the whole story of Joseph why not use this summary video:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQ7wLTBnF84>

The other passages we will be thinking about at church this week are:

Psalm 133

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 and Psalm 67

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Joseph's dreams coming true! Thank you that even though we may go through difficult times we can trust in your promises and plans for our lives. Help us to be like Joseph and see the tough times as opportunities to grow.

We pray for families in the world who are struggling or facing difficult times that they would know your care and provision. Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

What differences can you see between Joseph and his brothers in this part of his story compared with last week (Genesis 37)?

In this passage we read that the brothers were afraid of Joseph – what a change from the jealous brothers who threw him in a pit and sold him as a slave. Joseph's dream of them all bowing down before him had come true.

But Joseph had changed as well, he is not showing off but humble. He knows that it is only because God has been with him and guided him that he has got to where he is. He does not blame his brothers for sending him to Egypt but instead sees it as part of God's plan for his life.

Some questions for children to ask adults

Can you think of a difficult time in your life which you now look back on as a good and positive learning experience?

Family Activity 1

You will need: a timer/clock

God gave Joseph a dream, but he had to wait and trust in God's timing before the dream came true. Do you remember the minute game we played a few weeks ago?

Why not play again and see if you have got any better at guessing when a minute is up?

One person has a clock or phone timer, this person tells everybody when to begin.

Everybody else must stand up, they must sit down when they think a minute has passed – they are not allowed to cheat by looking at a watch or clock. Once everybody has sat down the person watching the timer should say who was closest.





A verse to remember

Romans 11 v 29

God never changes his mind about the people he calls and the things he gives them.

Joseph went through many difficult challenges between the time when he first dreamed about his brothers bowing down to him and the time that his dream came true. He was enslaved and imprisoned, he was taken to a foreign land and finally given huge responsibility and power. I wonder if Joseph remained confident that his dream would come true or did he sometimes think that God had forgotten or abandoned him. This verse in Romans reminds us that God's promises and plans for us do not change.

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

Family Activity 2

You will need: A cup!

Joseph hid a silver cup in the sack of his youngest brother, Benjamin (Genesis 44). It was a trap to see if his brothers had really changed. Take it in turns to hide a cup or other object around the house. The person who has hidden it could give clues or say "warmer" or "colder" to help everybody else find it!



Active Prayer

You will need: Paper and pens

Joseph was given a dream by God of what his future would look like. When he heard Pharaoh's dream, he understood that it was a picture of what was going to happen in Egypt in the years to come – seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine.

Our prayer for the world is that God's kingdom would come... we can imagine what that would look like as we pray.

Draw your own pictures of what you think the world would look like if everybody in it accepted God as their King and allowed God's power to rule in their lives.



Family Activity 3

God can speak to us through our dreams just as he spoke to Joseph. Why not make some time over breakfast this week to share with one another what you have dreamed about?

You could pray before bed and ask God to speak to you in your dreams and help you remember what you dreamed about.



Helping Older Children

So many of our dreams and plans for this year have been stopped or put on hold by the Pandemic. Why not help Older Children to make a list of the dreams and plans they have not seen happen during this time.

Spend some time sharing and praying together, thanking God that his promises do not change and asking God to help you trust him through these difficult times just like Joseph did.

A colouring page you could print and colour together

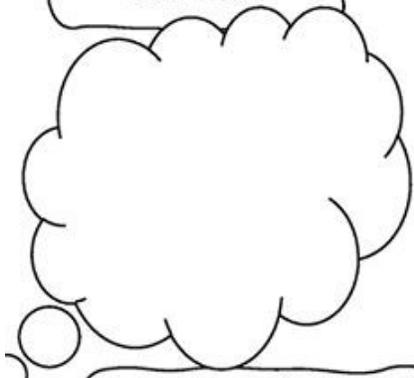
Thank you to Krista Hamrick for allowing us to share her beautiful Joseph colouring sheet this week. You can buy more of her colouring sheets on her Etsy shop <https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/KristaHamrick> including a gorgeous colouring sheet covering the whole life of Joseph.



PUZZLE SHEET

Joseph's brothers had to travel all the way from Canaan to Egypt where Joseph was. Can you find a path from Canaan all the way to the  in Egypt?

Can you remember what Joseph dreamed at the beginning of the story? Draw it here:



LOWER EGYPT

River Nile

UPPER EGYPT

Mediterranean Sea

CANAAN

Red Sea

0 50 100 km

Joseph wanted to be sure that his brothers had changed. Can you find the 12 differences between these two pictures?

