

THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

September 3, 2017

*God is love;
O come let us worship!*

9:00 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

Introit: Psalm 70:	page 415
The Gloria:	page 86
The Collect:	page 236
The Old Testament Reading:	1 Kings 3.5-15
Psalm 69:24-30:	page 415
The Epistle:	page 236
Gradual Psalm: 34:1-5:	page 369
The Holy Gospel:	page 237
The Creed:	page 71
The Homily	
The Prayers of the People:	L: Lord, in thy mercy; C: Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	page 82
Post-Communion Prayer:	page 85

10:30 a.m. – The Holy Eucharist

♪♪ Processional Hymn:	392 (Darwall)
The Gloria:	page 86
The Collect:	page 236
The Old Testament Reading:	1 Kings 3.5-15
Psalm 34:1-5:	page 369

The Epistle:	page 236
♪♪ Gradual Hymn:	590 (St. Magnus)
The Holy Gospel:	page 237
♪♪ Gospel Acclamation:	Alleluia
The Creed:	page 71
The Homily	
♪♪ Offertory Hymn:	357 (King's Weston)
The Prayers of the People:	L: Lord, in your mercy; C: Hear our prayer
The Consecration:	page 82
♪♪ Hymn during Communion:	248 (Ach Gott und Herr)
Post-Communion Prayer:	page 85
♪♪ Recessional Hymn:	407 (Mannheim)

*Please join us in the Parish Hall
following the 10:30 Celebration for
Coffee & Conversation.*

✱

From the Rector _____

How often in our lives do we struggle with the challenges of hearing and speaking with clarity and understanding? How often do we think that we're saying the right thing, only to have it taken the wrong way; only to have our carefully worded thoughts misunderstood? Or, conversely, how often do we stand in silence, having no idea at all of what to say or of how to say it? And, again, how many times do we hear later that something we've said was heard in an entirely different way than we meant? How many times do we have our words twisted or altered in such a way that they bear little or no resemblance to the original? How often does someone hear what we're saying without really hearing; without really trying to understand what we're saying and why we're saying it? And how many times do we struggle with what we have to say; not knowing how to say what our heart tells us we need to say?

In so many ways this morning's very brief gospel passage stands as a small metaphor for so much of our lives: for the challenges of speaking and hearing with clarity and understanding; and for the many different kinds of sadnesses that come when we cannot hear each other clearly.

We read of a man who is brought to Jesus that He might lay His hands upon Him. We're told that is deaf and that he is able to speak with only the greatest

difficulty: that he has an ‘impediment in his speech’ as our translation puts it this morning. And we are told of how Jesus takes this man away from the crowds, indicating with very clear physical gestures that He has the power to open his ears and unloosen his tongue. Which is exactly what happens: the man hears and speaks with clarity, perhaps for the first time in his life. And we are told that, in spite of Jesus’ command, the people tell everyone that they can of this remarkable healing.

And that’s that. But what does it say to us right now? Why does it matter to us that Jesus healed such a man in such a way nearly two thousand years ago?

Well, in one way this story presents us with a double challenge. At its most basic level, we are those who come to Jesus that He might touch us; that he might lay His hands upon us and open our ears and loosen our tongues. We stand as those whose ears are so often deaf to the world’s cries for hope and healing and reconciliation. And we stand as those who find it nearly impossible to speak with clarity and conviction about the hope and joy which we have in Jesus Christ.

But on another level, we stand in the place of Christ Himself; we are called to be Christ to our world. We stand in the place of the One who was able to bring healing to the lives of others, the One who offered hope to the desperate and despairing by His willingness to reach out and to touch those who were weighed down by life.

In other words, we stand in a tension between what we are and what we are called to be; standing somewhere between the ordinariness which we so easily settle for and the power and glory which God can give us. The challenge for us is somehow to reach out beyond our comfort zones; to do the very things which fear and doubt have prevented us from doing; to risk the affection which we had feared committing; to forgive the very person whom we have been unprepared to forgive; to trust those whom we have been unable to trust.

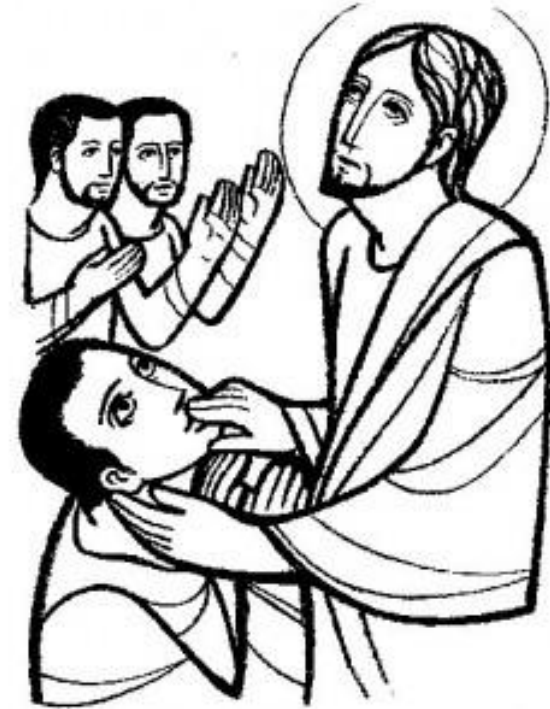
As we might imagine when helping someone who cannot hear, Jesus chooses to use signs, rather than words, to indicate what He is about to do; He uses a kind of sign language to speak of the healing that is about to happen.

But what is our sign language to a world which, at times, seems deaf to the power of sacrificial love; and speechless in the face of the brokenness that mars every part of this beautiful world?

As we heard this morning, in spite of Christ’s command to keep quiet, those who saw this sign; those who witnessed this moment of healing and grace, told all who would will hear the good news. As we so insistent to share that same good news; the remarkably, scarcely believable news that Jesus has to power to touch and heal our lives?

Allow Jesus Christ to touch your ears and tongue; to help you to hear and speak plainly His Word of compassion and mercy and trust. And allow His strength to strengthen you; that in Him you might reach out to touch others - that those who are deaf and blind to all that God offers to them might be healed and made whole.

The Anglican Church of Canada
The Diocese of Fredericton
THE PARISH OF ST. MARY, YORK



Our task, as image-bearing, God-loving, Christ-shaped, Spirit-filled Christians, following Christ and shaping our world, is to announce redemption to the world that has discovered its fallenness, to announce healing to the world that has discovered its brokenness, to proclaim love and trust to the world that knows only exploitation, fear and suspicion.

N.T. Wright, *The Challenge of Easter*

Priest and Rector

The Revd. Canon Kevin M. Stockall, B.A. (Hons), M.Div.

Rectory: 770 McEvoy Street, Fredericton NB E3A 3B7

454.0245 (rectory) | 472.4661 (office) | 461.7685 (cell) | kevin.stockall@bellaliant.net

Visit us at: <http://www.stmarysfredericton.ca/>

Parish Notices and Updates

STARTING NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th, we invite all young people and their families to join us each Sunday morning, from approximately 9:45 and continuing until about 10:20, for an exciting, fun, and informative programme of Christian Education. Janice offers an interesting mix of crafts and instruction to help our young people to grow in their faith and to engage the Scriptures. Plan to join us as often as you can; and please invite your friends to come along as well. Everyone is welcome! *And anyone who would like to share in this wonderful and rewarding ministry is encouraged to speak to the Rector.*

THE RECTOR PLANS TO BE AWAY until Tuesday evening. If you require the ministry of a priest during this time call him on his cell phone (506-461-7685). Other parish matters should be directed to the Parish Wardens: James McElman (472-2649 or jamesdmelman@gmail.com) Thomas Geburt (357-5894 or geburtster@gmail.com).

VERY SINCERE THANKS ARE EXTENDED TO FR. JON LOWNDs who is our celebrant at this week's Saturday evening Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, and Fr. Tom Smith, who is celebrating on Sunday morning while the Rector is away.

IF YOU HAVE ANY 250 ML OR 500 ML MASON JARS that you are no longer using, and would like to donate to the church for use by people who will be making pickles for our annual bazaar, please bring them to the church in the next few weeks. Our local community recycling programme does not accept them, so we hope that we can recycle them here at St. Mary's and provide a bit of revenue for the bazaar at the same time. Please note that we're looking only for mason jars, with rings or not, and without covers. For more information, please speak to the Rector or Anne Brown.

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR NEXT MONTHLY SHARED MEAL, which normally falls on the first Sunday of each month, is being moved to avoid falling on the Labour Day weekend. So please plan to join us next *Sunday, September 10th* for our next Shared Meal.

ST. MARY'S BRANCH OF ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN will be meeting on *Monday, September 11th*, beginning with lunch at the north side Pizza Delight at 12:00 noon followed by a business meeting at the Parish Hall. The women of St. Mary's are warmly invited to join them. For more information please speak to Joan Keswick at 472-2193 or the Rector.

A RECENT DONATION IN MEMORY OF SHEILA WILLS has provided a supply of seat cushions which are available in a basket at the entrance to the Church for anyone who is interested in using one during the service. Feel free to pick one up on the way to your seat and return it to the basket following the service.

A GIFT OF PRAYER: copies of a list of the patronal names of all the Anglican churches here in the Diocese of Fredericton are available at the back of the Church. Using this as a guide, with the help of a Church Calendar, you are invited to pray throughout the year for the people and parishes of the Diocese. If you'd like to help with this brief but important ministry, please pick up a copy today. Please speak to the Rector if you have any questions.

Most Christians live in confusion in regard to their scales of values and priorities. Many honest Christian people experience the shock of a revelation when they are brought to realize that their membership of the Church constitutes a loyalty prior to their loyalty to the nation to which they belong. Patriotism is one of the powerful underground pseudo-religions of to-day, not merely nationalism. The fundamental notion that the Christians are a "peculiar people" that never is identical, or even can be, with a people in the biological, national sense of the word, is largely asleep. It can only become awake by a new grasp of the biblical truth that the Church is the "people of God," an elect race composed of people out of all nations, transcending all nations and races.

Hendrik Kraemer, *A Theology of the Laity*, 1958

NEWS! NEWS! CANON PAUL JEFFRIES has posted his latest newsletter from Bishop McAllister College and other updates. Go to: <http://bishopmcallistercollege.com/rectors-newsletter/newsletteraugust-2017.html>



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 6: TRINITY FERIA

6:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

SEPTEMBER 9: THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

4:30 p.m. – Evening Prayer

5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist

SEPTEMBER 10: THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer

9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

9:45 a.m. – Sunday School for all ages!

10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist