

Celebration **TIMES**

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Join the Celebration



We welcome all visitors and newcomers who have come to join us as we praise and worship, pray and give thanks, and learn about the word of God in our service today.

Feel free to meet with us in a time of fellowship and coffee after the service.

Affiliated with:



Psalms -- Songs from the Heart -- this Summer

Our summer sermon series is on the Psalms. The Psalms have been called the prayer book of Israel and the hymn book of the Church. The Anglican Book of Common Prayer is designed so that the Psalms are read through every month. Many of you grew up singing the psalms in Morning and Evening Prayer.

The Psalms have been so enduring and popular because they are the doctrines of the faith set to poetry. If books of the Bible such as Deuteronomy and Romans lay out the faith systematically the Psalms do so in poetry.

The Psalms express the feelings of the believer in every season of life. If you are in the depths of despair, in the heights of joy, or in the darkness of grief there are Psalms to express your feelings. When words fail you and you don't know how to pray the Psalms are there to give voice to your feelings as you pour out your heart to God.

Each Sunday through the summer we will be preaching on one of the Psalms. Our thanks to those who have sent in an email to let us know your favourite Psalm and when in your life it spoke to you. Read a few of these reflections below.

- ◆ July 8th -- Psalm 1 -- Pastor Brian
- ◆ July 15th -- Psalm 19 -- Pastor Buzz
- ◆ July 22nd -- Psalm 51 -- Jim & Nancy Mitchell
- ◆ July 29th -- Psalm 121 -- Pastor Paul

Sermon Outline – Psalm 51 “A Heart for God”

Jim & Nancy Mitchell

Sacraments and Rites

- Holy Communion
- Baptism
- Confirmation, Penance, Holy Orders, Matrimony, Extreme Unction

The Rite of Penance

- The Nature of God
- The Fallen Nature of Humankind

The Path Back to God

- Conviction
- Decision
- Victory
- Stumbling
- Confession/seeking renewal
- Sincere repentance

David, a man after God's own heart....example/warning



What is your favourite Psalm and Why?

Tell us your favourite Psalm and in what life circumstance it has spoken to you in a special way?

L J BROWN on Psalm 23

"Hold me, I am so afraid of the storm, Hold me, hold me, I will be safe in my Father's arms. Now that I am grown and old it doesn't mean I am brave and bold, I will follow if you will lead the way" were the words to the Sold Out Quartet's gospel song one Saturday morning recently.

I thought that they were the opening for my story. That is exactly how I felt about my earthly father and mother. Even as an adult, I looked to my dad for comfort and strength. But now we'd each look to the words of the 23rd psalm, which was beside his bed on the wall. It gave us comfort and strength to get through that moment-by-moment stormy circumstance or sadness.

We sought that shepherd's wisdom and knew that in the rod was protection for his sheep. We had confidence that the staff would keep us out of the crevasses and sharp thorny bushes. We were sometimes at a loss for strength to get through the tsunami of sadness, loneliness and inconsolable grief that sometimes reared its ugly head in our hearts.

Our emphasis was on the Lord is MY Shepherd and the promise that "I shall not want". This was always the beginning of a peace that would settle on us and we gradually relaxed, trusting in the promises of peace and restoration through the images of the fields and streams. Then the promise that he would lead us in the right path in all circumstances was the consolation as I knew the choices ahead were not going to be easy.

The fear of losing a loved one can be overwhelming, even to a believer. This was a step-by-step process in the daily cry for relief or help to have dignity and strength restored in a sound body and mind. We knew that God would be there in the valley of the shadow of death and it was not feared as an ending, but it was still something we wanted to keep away as long as possible.

Through my parents last years, and battles with Alzheimer's, I watched them draw closer to their Lord and greet the new life with anticipation and total acceptance. God would not leave us, of that we were certain. He's blessing us with his presence every moment here and in heaven. He is willing to prepare a table for us to celebrate and He promises only goodness as we dwell in the house of the Lord. This is our forever promise of hope for his sheep. -LJ Brown

JIM and NANCY MITCHELL on Psalm 51

I just had a "spiritual shower". I cannot remember not knowing Psalm 51; it has become so powerfully important in my life. I have never built a nomenclature of sins from least to most offensive to God; but honestly, certain ones seem worse than others to me. All I know is the certainty of God's mercy in His forgiveness. I used to wonder how anyone could see David as a "...man after God's own heart...". It seems to me that while God abhors all disobedience, my intent is much more important. When Samuel previewed each of Jesse's sons in turn, preferring those who appeared to look like kings might, it was God who reminded him that "...man looks at the outward appearance; God looks at the heart...".

God can and does do radical heart surgery. He continues to send me "recall notices" I as His "Monitor", the Holy Spirit sees behaviour in me that requires His spiritual tweaking.

"Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee, How Great Thou Art!"

In the mid seventies, Nancy and I lived in Shelburne where we attended the local Anglican Church, A friend of mine, Milt Menzies, had been challenged by his teenaged son, Robbie after attending "Teen Ranch" where he had committed his life to Christ. "Are you a Christian, Dad?". Milt's first response was, "...of course we are..." "but the fact that his son had to ask really troubled him. Milt and Wendy sought out Mel Stevens, the founder of Teen Ranch to find out just what was going on. Soon after they announced to our Bible study group that they had committed their lives to Christ. Milt began to bombard me with pamphlets, audio tapes, incessant, embarrassing questions...his care really played on my heart. One of his favourite music tapes was a collection of Salvation Army choruses.

After an early morning run, I returned home and put on the recording. "no more, no more, He remembers sin no more...they are banished forever and He will never hold them up against me any more.. I'll hear no more of the evil days of yore ... I'm a pardoned offender and God will remember my sin no more.

I wondered, "...can it be true? ...will God wash me clean from the accumulation of self-serving, self-indulgent junk that weighed me down?" As the tape continued to play, I knelt on the kitchen floor and prayed that God would forgive me and wash me so I could be useful to Him...that He would create a new heart within me ...that He would remake me in His image.

It wasn't that confession was a new concept...we had been involved in the church for all of our married life. Nancy was devout. Right from the start I was drawn to the practical understanding and evidence of faith I saw in her in our days at McMaster.

The time had come for an honest-to-God commitment. I chose to respond to His call in my life. Nancy was thankful that we now had this common commitment to faithfully follow the Lord, Jesus Christ and to keep a Christian home. Psalm 51 serves as a great reminder to me of who I was and who God is continuing to make me into even today. I know that I sin; but I know that the blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God continues to cleanse me from every sin. The Holy Spirit is not just my comforter; He is also my Remonstrator...not as an accuser, but as a loving Mentor whose purpose is to produce righteous acts in me....not just to point out my failures but also to celebrate our successes. What makes grace so amazing is that God bathes me in it when I have no right to expect it.

Celebration Church

Sunday Worship

10:30 a.m. at:

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