

God's Absence

First Reading
Psalm 10

The Gospel
Luke 19:41-47

*Free Bibles are available
by the Besserer door.



Questions and/or comments about the sermon or scripture text?
Email George at george@messiahchurch.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS + ANNOUNCEMENTS

TUES / AUG 26 Messiah Prayer Meeting
7:00pm @ Messiah Office (315 Lisgar St.)

Lowertown Home Group
7:00pm @ Ian Murray's

WED / AUG 27 Men's Bible Study
5:30pm @ Rideau Centre

THU / AUG 28 The House (Young Adults)
7:00pm @ The Giles'

WED / SEP 10 Church on Wednesday Kick-off
7:00pm @ uOttawa

SUN / SEP 21 Church Potluck
Immediately after 10AM Service

For more information about ministries and upcoming events, visit messiahchurch.ca, call **613.235.0596**, or email info@messiahchurch.ca.



Church of the
Messiah

Welcome!

Helping ordinary people
be confident, joyful disciples
of Jesus Christ.

August 24, 2014

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

we are a member of:



Anglican Network
in Canada

messiahchurch.ca

Phone
613.235.0596

Email
info@messiahchurch.ca

Mailing Address
315 Lisgar St.
Ottawa ON K2P 0E1



Please ask a greeter
for assistance.

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH!

We are a prayerful, Bible-teaching, evangelical church in the heart of the city with a heart for the city and the world. We are a member of the Anglican Network in Canada and part of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans. We seek to be a biblically faithful and orthodox church within the Anglican Way of following Jesus.

Are you new? Get connected!

Are you interested in learning more about Messiah and getting connected? Email info@messiahchurch.ca or call **613.235.0596**. Also check out our website at messiahchurch.ca.

Nursery & Sunday School

Nursery (0 - 24 months) and Sunday School (2 yrs - Grade 6) are available at the 10am Service. For Nursery, you are welcome to <http://messiahchurch.ca/wp-admin/link-manager.php> bring children to the north side of the lobby before or during the service. For Sunday School, children are invited to "follow the cross" during the third worship song.

The Offering Plate

If you are visiting, please feel free to let the plate go by. If you would like to donate, please make cheques out to "**Church of the Messiah**." If you prefer to donate online, go to www.canadahelps.org, then search "Church of the Messiah Ottawa."

Financial Update - Operating Fund

	JAN - JUL ACTUAL	JAN - JUL TARGET
Offering	\$153,025	\$184,479

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rector

Rev. Canon George Sinclair

Worship Leader & Young Adults Leader

Jeremiah Smith

Administrative & Communications Manager

Amy van Hemmen

Ministry Interns

Jeremy Giles & Daniel Gilman

Wardens: Dick Butler, Gary Graber, John Rayson
Shannon Ripley, Karl Ruban, Dana Scherf

Creeds & Same Sex Marriage

Dear Friends,

"The great western creeds (Apostles, Nicene, Athanasian) are silent on the question as to whether or not a church can conduct same-sex marriage (SSM) ceremonies. Therefore, as long as a church affirms the creeds, we can be in full communion / membership with it, even if it conducts SSM ceremonies." This "Legitimizing Reason" is held by many people as an important reason for remaining in denomination (or church bodies) that have decided to allow their clergy and congregation to conduct SSM ceremonies. Is this "Legitimizing Reason" a good, Christian reason? The simple answer is "no." I will explain from within an Anglican context.

First, the Legitimizing Reason is only used selectively, never consistently. If you were to ask someone who holds "the Reason" if they believe we can abolish Bishops and Diocese or allow laypeople to officiate at a communion service - the person would say, "no." But the creeds are silent on all of these matters. So the Legitimizing Reason is not a true reason, since it is only used in an arbitrary way.

Second, the Legitimizing Reason does not actually affirm the creeds, but instead, undermines the creeds. Each of the creeds was developed to combat serious error that was growing within the institutional church at the time (roughly the first five centuries after Jesus). It is quite absurd to now use the creeds to stop people from dealing with serious error growing within the institutional church today. So while the Reason appears to exalt the creeds, it actually undermines them.

Third, the Legitimizing Reason ignores the limited nature of the creeds. It has never been held that the creeds contain all of the "first order" doctrines which Christians should hold, much less significant second order issues (like church officers) which are important for a church's common life. So the Reason is mistaken in believing the creeds contain all that is necessary, and everything else is secondary.

Finally, the Legitimizing Reason is not Christian, but assumes a pagan view of God. The Reason says that we need to focus on God and not ethics. In paganism, the existence and life of "the gods" was irrelevant to discussions of right and wrong. "God" and "the good" were separate. But in the Bible, the good is never separate from God. God is good and His being and nature is the ground and source of "the good." So when the Reason is used to silence conversation of right and wrong, it is functioning with a pagan, not Biblical, view of God and morals. Dear friends, please pray that God will reform us by His word written and revive us with a fresh outpouring of His Holy Spirit.

George +