

GRACE SHAPED LIFE: THE BIG ASK

First Reading: Romans 9: 30-10:21 \*Free Bibles available on stage near Besserer door.

Gospel Reading: Luke 11: 14-28

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Questions and/or comments about the sermon or scripture text? Email [george@messiahchurch.ca](mailto:george@messiahchurch.ca)



church of the  
messiah



Making disciples gripped by the gospel, living for God's glory.

February 28, 2016

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## 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!

Is this your first visit to Church of the Messiah? Thank you for being with us. We are glad you're here. Interested in learning more about Messiah and getting connected? Contact us: info@messiahchurch.ca or 613.235.0596. 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, please bring children to the lobby before or during the service. For Sunday School, kids are invited to "follow the cross" during the last worship song.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

<b>Rev. Canon George Sinclair</b> Rector	<b>Daniel Gilman</b> Pastor of Evangelism and Discipleship
<b>Shirley Allan</b> Administrator	<b>Joey McNitt</b> Worship Leader
<b>Jonathan Camiré</b> Ministry Intern	<b>Wardens:</b> Dick Butler, Gary Graber, John Rayson, Shannon Ripley, Karl Ruban, Dana Scherf

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Giving

If you are visiting, please feel free to let the basket go by. If you would like to donate, there are many ways to give:

- 1) Place cash or cheques payable to "Church of the Messiah" in the offering basket on Sunday, or mail to the church office. Please contact the office if you are interested in using offering envelopes.
- 2) Email your contribution to [givings@messiahchurch.ca](mailto:givings@messiahchurch.ca) Please use the security question: "What is the pastor's first name?" and the answer: "George"
- 3) Pre-authorized debit – You can authorize the church to debit your bank account for a fixed amount on a recurring basis of your choice. To get started, please contact the office: [info@messiahchurch.ca](mailto:info@messiahchurch.ca)

**PARKING:** No-cost parking is available at either the parking garage to the north of the theatre or in the outdoor lot to the west of the theatre. Pick up a parking pass (for the garage) or \$5 in coins (for the outdoor lot) from the Besserer door host.

## ARE WRITTEN PRAYERS EVEN CHRISTIAN?

Dear friends,

I grew up in a Jewish neighbourhood. Within a short walk from my house were (at least) three synagogues and **no** churches. There was a YMHA, **not** a YMCA. In other words, a Young Man's Hebrew Association. My family drove several miles to a small Baptist church. My experience of Christianity was limited to that little church. When I was 12 (?) I started going to Boy Scouts. Later my "troop" (please pardon me if I do not remember the right terminology) went to a large scout gathering with many troops for a long weekend camping experience. We had a "chapel" service on Sunday morning. We all marched in to the clearing. The scout leader, who was off to the side, put out the cigarette that he was smoking and walked to the centre and began "the service." I put "the service" in quotes because, as a young 13-year-old Baptist I felt everything about the service was not Christian. The "service" consisted of the man reading a few Bible quotes and reading other stuff and reading prayers. I still remember thinking to myself, "Real Christians do not read prayers, they pray in their own words from their heart." To my shame, I looked down my 13-year-old nose at the scout leader.

It obviously is a proof of God's sense of humour that eleven years later I stumbled into an Anglican church and felt like "I had come home." It is also proof of God's sense of humour and justice that I have now been an ordained Anglican presbyter for over 30 years, praying written prayers, and I regularly have to defend the practice to people who have grown up in the faith in churches that do not have written prayers.

Can real Christians use written prayers? Yes. The Bible teaches this. First, the Bible records many written prayers - surely they were written to teach us how to pray - surely they were written so we could "pray along" with them. Second, the Book of Psalms are to be prayed and sung. The psalms are prayers (to be sung and/or read) that God Himself wrote for us. Pause on this. No one complains about a hymn or praise song that is not Christian because we are all singing the same written words. Very few people (if any) would say real Christians each sing whatever words and tunes spring to mind when everyone is singing.

Finally, Jesus Himself is responsible for a written prayer which He tells us to pray. Jesus said, "Pray then like this: Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name." (Matthew 6:9) "And Jesus said to them, "When you pray, SAY: "Father, hallowed be Your name Your kingdom come." (Luke 11:2)

George +

## GROWING IN GRACE

### I need to develop godly attitudes.

- A) Pray for godly attitudes in general & certain attitudes in particular.
- B) Ask others to pray the same thing for you.
- C) Repeat the attitude to help it sink in. Do this in conjunction with A & B!

### Attitudes.

- 1) God has commissioned me to walk towards people and share the Gospel.
- 2) God is always more OTHER than I think and He is always closer to me than I realize.
- 3) The whole point of the Bible is for ordinary people to humbly grow in a saving faith in Jesus - the crucified Messiah and Lord.

### I need to grow in prayer.

A great way to do this is to learn to pray the Bible. Pray this prayer until you can pray without reading: Dear Lord, how will people come to a saving faith in Jesus? How will people even know that Jesus can reconcile them to You, the true and living God? Who is qualified to go? Whose job is it, Lord? Who are You calling to walk across the room or the street to tell? Lord, do You know what You are doing, saying to me, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news?" I feel unworthy and unable, but please help me to trust You and go and not be silent. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### I need to get God's Word in my mind and heart.

*...because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. Romans 10: 9-10*

### I need to do something or start to do something.

Complete the following sentence: "In light of God's word, the Holy Spirit is leading me to \_\_\_\_\_."

## GOING DEEPER

### Getting to know me.

Share how you became a Christian, or a significant spiritual turning point in your life.

### Getting into the Bible.

Ask the Lord to bring His word home to your heart.

- 1) Read Romans 9:30-10:21.
- 2) Read Romans 10: 9-13.
- 3) Then read Romans 8:24; 11:11; Ephesians 2: 5, 8; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5.
- 4) Then read 1 Corinthians 1:18; 15:2; 2 Corinthians 2:15.
- 5) Then read Romans 5: 9-10; 13:11; 1 Corinthians 3:15; 5:5; Philippians 1:28; 2 Timothy 4:18.

### Getting real.

What has the Lord pressed upon your heart as you have read and talked and prayed? Can you share some of this with others so they can pray for you?

## UPCOMING EVENTS + ANNOUNCEMENTS

MON / FEB 29	Prayer Meeting 7pm @ 315 Lisgar St.
TUE / MAR 1	Lowertown Home Group 7pm @ 110 Nelson St.
WED / MAR 2	Church on Wednesday 7pm @ uOttawa UCU  Hintonburg Home Group 7:30pm @ 84 Fairmont Ave.
THU / MAR 3	Old Ottawa South Home Group 7:15pm@267 Sunnyside Ave.  King Edward Home Group 7:30pm @ 703A King Edward Ave.
FRI / MAR 4	Revive Youth Group 7pm @ École Ste Anne (235 Beausoleil)

Please join us for a **time of prayer on Sunday mornings** between services. We meet at 9:30 in the side lobby area near the coffee station.

**Mark your calendars!** The worship service regularly held at 10am on Sunday, March 13 will be held at 9am.

**Trinity Western University's Chamber Choir** presents a concert called *Sacred Space*....from Byrd to Brahms, Willan to Whitacre on Wednesday, March 2 at 7:30pm at St Peter and St Paul's Anglican Church (152 Metcalfe). Admission is \$10 (suggested).

**St. Timothy's Classical Academy** is a unique Christian elementary school in Ottawa. They are looking for faithful Christian families who wish to provide an excellent academic and character education for their children. They teach great ideas to young minds, just as the apostle Paul urged Christians to meditate on the things that are true, honourable, pure and just. Come to an Open House on Wednesday, March 2 at 8:30 AM, at 1061 Pinecrest (on the corner of Pinecrest and the 417). For more information visit: [st-timothy.ca](http://st-timothy.ca).

**You are invited to a prayer night** to pray for hearts and minds to change regarding abortion and to pray for those who have had abortions. Please join upstairs at The Bible House (315 Lisgar St) on Friday, March 4 from 6 to 9pm.