

GRACE SHAPED LIFE: A CHOSEN PEOPLE, NOT A CHOICE PEOPLE

First Reading: Romans 9: 1-29 \*Free Bibles available on stage near Besserer door.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 15: 21-28



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

February 21, 2016

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

## 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](mailto:info@messiahchurch.ca) or 613.235.0596. Check out our website at [messiahchurch.ca](http://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.

## STRETCHING PRIVATE PRAYER

Dear friends,

It surprises me that many churches do not pray in their services. I only get to visit other churches when I am on holidays, so I am working with a small sample size. But often, when I am in a church on my holidays, the only prayer at all is a very brief one prayed by the person giving the sermon.

At Messiah, we encourage "the preacher" to pray before and after the sermon. But more to the point of this blog, virtually every week we have a time of intercession as part of the worship service. Some might say, "Aw, the intercession - a bit rote and impersonal and boring sometimes, isn't it? Maybe you should cut it out altogether or replace it with something more personal and meaningful."

Now, I am one of the regular intercessors. But my feelings are not hurt by the comment. It is easy to go through the motions. I know it is also easy to be quite prayerfully engaged in intercessions - but that "those in the seats" do not experience "prayerful engagement". I also know that one of the alternatives, "emotional engagement", can be mere human willpower and manipulation. Emotional engagement is not necessarily a sign of spiritual connection with Jesus. So, on one hand, please pray for Messiah, that when we pray together, in common, that the intercessor will call out to God with an honest heart, speaking to Him alone to please Him alone so that we can pray along in an honest way. Please pray that we will pray, and pray well!

But one more thing needs to be said in this blog. Some of the intercession is "boring" on purpose. I do not mean that the prayer is written in boring English. What I mean is that praying in common and in public should stretch us. We need to be reminded of the breadth of what God wants us to pray for.

Left to ourselves, we start to pray for only what interests us. What is in the news and is emotionally gripping; family members and friends that we care about; particular interests in the Christian life. In other words, left to ourselves we have a personal and emotional prayer life - that is spiritually stunted and immature. Common prayer is a weekly attempt to stretch our prayer and expand the horizons of our prayer. Common prayer should remind us of some matters which the Bible tells us to pray for.

As well, by writing the prayers down; and by having a structure that lets you know when the topic is closing and by inviting a congregational response, the time of intercession is attempting to get us to pray along - not merely to listen to a "skilled pray-er" up front pray.

George +

## GROWING IN GRACE

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### 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) Only a free, loving and sovereign God can ground human freedom and responsibility.
- 2) God has adopted children, but has no grandchildren.
- 3) God stops me from boasting and tries to begin a conversation with me.

### 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, I want to believe that I am the potter and you are the clay. Many around me proclaim that this is true. It is not true and I repent of thinking this way. I confess that You alone are the Potter and I am the clay. You are the loving Potter, please mold me and form me so that I will bring You glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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

*What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means!*  
Romans 9:14

### 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

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### Getting to know me.

What is your middle name(s)? Were you named after someone with your middle name?

### Getting into the Bible.

Ask the Lord to speak to your heart as you read His Word written.

- 1) Read Romans 9: 1-29.
- 2) Read Romans 9: 14-16. Then read Exodus 33: 12-23.
- 3) Read Romans 9: 17-18. Then read Exodus 8: 15, 32; 9:34. Then read Exodus 7:3; 9:12; 14:4 and 17.

### Getting real.

In light of the sermon, these Bible readings and your conversation, has God convicted you in some way? Can you share some of this with others so they can pray for you?

## UPCOMING EVENTS + ANNOUNCEMENTS

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MON / FEB 22	Prayer Meeting 7pm @ 315 Lisgar St.
TUE / FEB 23	Lowertown Home Group 7pm @ 110 Nelson St.
WED / FEB 24	Church on Wednesday 7pm @ uOttawa UCU  Hintonburg Home Group 7:30pm @ 84 Fairmont Ave.
THU / FEB 25	King Edward Home Group 7:30pm @ 703A King Edward Ave.
SAT / FEB 27	Vestry and Potluck 4pm (Vestry) / 5:30 (Potluck) @ St Peter and St Paul's Anglican Church (152 Metcalfe St)

Please join us for a **time of prayer on Sunday mornings** between services. We meet @ 9:30am 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-timothys.ca](http://st-timothys.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.