

## The resurrection and the life

Reading: John 11: 1-44

### 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) Lord, help me to remember my labour for You is never in vain.
- 2) Lord, thank You that in You, resurrection and life will be the final judgment on me.
- 3) Lord, help me to know when to wait in faith and when to act in faith.

#### 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:

Lord, I thank You that You know my every weakness and still look at me with love and sympathy. I thank You that my life and destiny does not depend on the strength or purity of my faith, for it is flickering and weak, but that my faith is in You. Please help me to grow in my knowledge of You and my confidence in You: who You are, what You accomplished and what You will do today and forever, In Jesus' name. Amen.

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

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"* John 11: 25-26

#### 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

#### For this week and next week:

Go to: [www.messiahchurch.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/John-11.pdf](http://www.messiahchurch.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/John-11.pdf)

Next week's Scripture is John 11: 45-57



### WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH!

We are glad you are here! 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. Interested in learning more about Messiah and getting connected? See the contact info below.

#### Nursery & Sunday School

Nursery (0 - 24 months) and Sunday School (2 yrs - Grade 6) are available at the 10am service. Nursery children meet in the Green Room in the basement (ask a door host). Sunday school kids are invited to follow the cross after the last worship song.



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

Rev Canon George Sinclair - Rector

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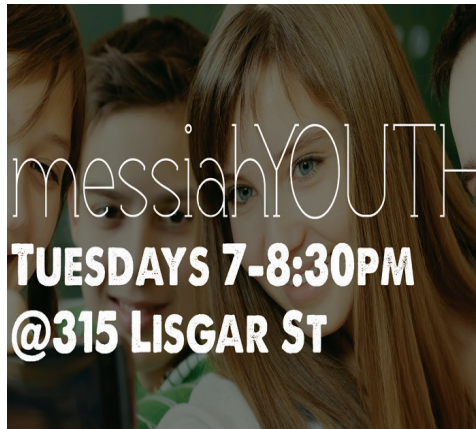
[info@messiahchurch.ca](mailto:info@messiahchurch.ca)



Today's service:  
[bible.com/  
events/417820](http://bible.com/events/417820)

office & mailing address: 315 Lisgar St. Ottawa ON K2P 0E1

## EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



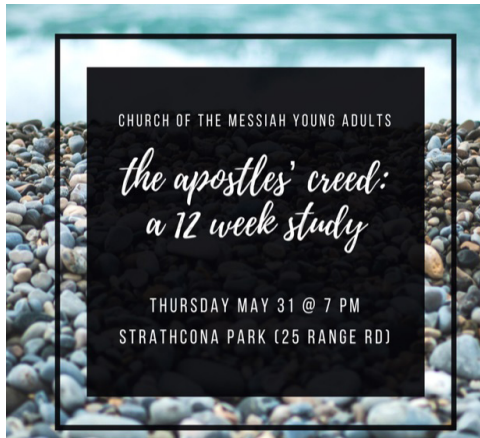
### Wednesday

7:30pm - @ 84 Fairmont

### Thursday

10am - Moms & Tots (see Anna Hadwen)

7pm - @ 267 Sunnyside Ave  
@ 110 Nelson St



### GAFCON Fund update:

Total received to date: \$6690  
Estimated total expenses: \$8000  
GAFCON takes place June 17-22 in  
Jerusalem

May 27, 2018

## The “immaturity” of Christian prayer

Dear Friends,

To many people today, Christian prayer is old-fashioned, out-of-date, ineffective and immature. In the words of the old joke, “and those are its good points!”

For Christians, prayer is an honest conversation with God. As part of that conversation we ask Him to do some things. We cannot put Him in our debt, manipulate Him or coerce Him to do what we ask. We ask and wait to see in what way He answers.

To many in our world, this seems immature. It sounds like a child, asking her mommy to do something. This is fine for young children, talking with their parents; but surely adults should have a more adult way of relating to the Divine. This is why the so-called Eastern or pagan religions seem so much more mature and worthy of our attention. We learn to be active, to achieve what we desire, rather than “waiting” for some god to choose to pay attention to us and act.

So, we learn to do yoga, or meditate, or channel. We learn to cast spells and call down goddesses. We learn to center ourselves, work in harmony with divine powers without and within. We work to achieve what we want and be in harmony with powers. We are mature, self-actualized, empowered, living on our terms.

So, several things to consider concerning these more “mature” paths. First, these all seem wise when we are strong and prosperous and healthy. But what about those who are not these things? What about us when we inevitably become weak? And don't the “self-actualized” ways end up hardening our hearts to the poor and the weak? After all, if life is about “taking control” and being “self-actualized”, then surely it is largely the weak's fault that they stay weak.

Second, isn't the “mature” way massively inconsistent? I mean that every person I have met on such a mature path also believes in the evolutionary theories taught in high school and in the media. But how can the world described by evolution also have divine powers and energies and goddesses? If everything is a result of blind, natural forces how can there be “seeing” and personal powers?

This points to a further massive inconsistency. How “powerful” can these powers and processes be if I can learn to control them? Doesn't this mean I am more powerful? But what hope is that? I might, for a season, think I stride across the world like a god, but a microscopic virus can kill me - and I will inevitably die. Is it possible that these more “mature” ways of harnessing the divine are really more like children dressing up, pretending to have light sabres?

Only the Christian faith has a deep, mature and satisfying account of human origins and human life. Only the Gospel provides real hope in the face of weakness and death. If Jesus really did rise from death, then the God He introduces and reconciles us to is true and real. It is wisdom, not maturity, to be gripped by the Gospel and humbly speak to Him. George+