

AMOS: LET JUSTICE ROLL DOWN

First Reading: Amos 6: 1-14 *Free Bibles available on stage near Besserer door.

Gospel Reading: Mark 7: 31-37



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

August 14, 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BETWEEN-SERVICE PRAYER continues each Sunday @ 9:30am in the OLT lobby. Join us as we pray for the world, the church and one another.

CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY resumes on Wednesday, September 7 @ 7pm @ uOttawa University Centre!

BISHOP CHARLIE MASTERS will visit Church of the Messiah on October 16. If you are interested in being Confirmed, OR would like to be officially received into Anglicanism, OR would like to renew/reaffirm your Baptism, by Bishop Charlie, please contact Shirley at 613 235 0596 or info@messiahchurch.ca

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Follow us on twitter: @messiah_church
Like us on Facebook: Church of the Messiah, Ottawa

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, 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

Rev. Canon George Sinclair
Rector

Daniel Gilman
Pastor of Evangelism and Discipleship

Jonathan Camiré
Ministry Intern

Rev. Neil Stephens
Pastor of Discipleship and Pastoral Care

Deborah Reid
Worship Leader

Wardens:
Dick Butler Jeremiah Hadwen
Earl Maynard Shannon Ripley
Karl Ruban Dana Scherf

Shirley Allan
Administrator

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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 Please use the security question: "What is the pastor's first name?" and the answer: "George"
- 3) You can use PayPal to donate to the church. Click on the "Give" tab (far right side) on our website (messiahchurch.ca)
- 4) 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

FINANCIAL UPDATE AT JULY 31, 2016

Target Offering: \$ 171,860

Actual Offering: \$ 158,586

OUR ROOTS: UNWORTHY MINISTERS

Dear friends,

This blog is part of a series where I look briefly at some of the classic, or historic, or original Anglican teachings. Each week I look at one of the Articles in the Thirty-Nine Articles. By the way, these Articles are a key component in Messiah's Statement of Faith. I will quote the Article accurately, but I may modernize the language sometimes.

"Article XXVI: Of the Unworthiness of the Ministers, which hinders not the effect of the Sacrament. Although in the visible church the evil be ever mingled with the good, and sometimes the evil have chief authority in the ministration of the Word and Sacraments, yet forasmuch as they do not the same in their own name, but in Christ's, and do minister by His commission and authority, we may use their ministry, both in hearing the Word of God and in receiving of the Sacraments. Neither is the effect of Christ's ordinance taken away by their wickedness nor the grace of God's gifts diminished from such as by faith and rightly do receive the sacraments ministered unto them; which be affected, because of Christ's institution and promise, although they be ministered by evil men. Nevertheless, it is essential to the discipline of the church that inquiry be made of evil ministers and that they be accused by those that have knowledge of their offences; and finally being found guilty by judgment be deposed."

First, this is a wise article! All grace and power in worship and in preaching and in the sacraments comes from God, not human beings. This article helps protect us from accidentally having a human-centred/based understanding of the Christian's common life. If most of the power and grace comes from human beings, then having an unbelieving or evil pastor is disastrous. If all of the power and grace comes from God, then a bad minister cannot stop it.

Second, note that sacraments and ordinance are used interchangeably.

Third, note that the article frankly acknowledges that the visible church is a mixed-bag, not pure. Too many churches fall into the trap of demanding that the local church only be made up of the saved and the holy. In a fallen world, this is an idol and an illusion. The local church and denominations will always be a mixed-bag; praise God the power and grace comes from God; not us!

Fourth, the fact that the local church is always a mixed-bag does not mean we should give evil or unbelieving ministers/leaders a pass. This article teaches patience for those in the congregation, but vigilance and courage when it comes to those in positions of authority who minister. The local church and the congregation are to fairly judge those who are accused. If it is found that the minister is not an orthodox Christian and/or they have done serious wrong, then they are to be removed from office. By the way, I believe this article wisely portrays the bottom-line/big-picture, but leaves the steps to be worked out.

George +