


Psalm 63

First Reading
Psalm 63

The Gospel
Mark 8:1-9

*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

MON / AUG 4 HOLIDAY / Church Office Closed

TUES / AUG 5 Messiah Prayer Meeting
7:00pm @ Messiah Office (315 Lisgar St.)

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

WED / AUG 6 Men's Bible Study
5:30pm @ Rideau Centre

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

Old Ottawa South Home Group
7:15pm @ Ann Wilson's

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 3, 2014

SEVENTH 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 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 & Ice Cream

Dear Friends,

I'm thinking of launching a campaign to make French Vanilla Ice Cream everyone's favorite flavour of ice cream. It is my favorite flavour, so I think it should be everyone's favorite flavour. In fact, my campaign will go beyond making French Vanilla everybody's favorite flavour. I want to make it the only flavour of ice cream in the whole world. I want to make people feel guilty if they do not like French Vanilla. I want us "French Vanilla people" to feel justified in looking down on people who don't enjoy French Vanilla.

Of course, I am joking. I am not going to do any of the above. French Vanilla is my favorite flavour, but I will launch no campaign and I will gladly enjoy many different flavours of ice cream. The point is that many, many people in our culture view all religion and spirituality as something personal, like a favorite flavour of ice cream. So, when people in our culture read the Bible or a creed or hear Christians talk about Jesus and God, they hear us saying something like my first paragraph. They think we want to launch a campaign to make our "flavour" the only "flavour" people enjoy. They do not understand why we don't just say, "I enjoy Jesus, but I enjoy lots of other flavours (spirituality) as well."

Jesus understood himself to be dealing with matters of truth and knowledge, not taste and preference. His teaching ministry was more like teaching science and math than it was like "the best ice cream flavour." He believed He was talking about real things, not mere preferences. He was revealing true truth. He was not speaking of minor personal matters, but of world changing truth.

The modern belief that, "religion is a mere personal preference that does not speak of true truth," is assumed. Since it is widely assumed, people rarely ask themselves how they know it to be true. When Christians live in a culture where something is widely held and rarely doubted, it is easy for us to be swayed or influenced by our culture.

A Christian is a disciple of Jesus. We trust that He is wiser than we are, so we want to listen to Him and trust Him and learn from Him as we follow Him. The creeds are summaries of key truths from Jesus and about Jesus. We read them to learn truth, and to live in the truth. If all religion is merely humans trying to reach God, we are right to doubt the success of religion. Jesus claims something radically different; God breaks into our world to speak and to reveal and to act and to save.

George +