

JARS OF CLAY: BEING HUMAN IN CHRIST  
HOW THE GOSPEL MAKES ME STRONG AND WEAK

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:14 -13:4

Gospel: Matthew 20: 1-16

\*Free Bibles available on stage near Besserer door.



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

## February 12, 2017

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

Listen to sermons on iTunes: Messiah Church Ottawa Sermons

## WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH!

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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 the Welcome Centre in the lobby or [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 Green Room (basement) before or during the service. For Sunday School, kids are invited to follow the cross after the last worship song.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

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**Rev. Canon George Sinclair**  
Rector

**Jonathan Camiré**  
Ministry Intern - Evangelism and  
Discipleship

**Yasmine Alli-Smith**  
Ministry Intern

**Deborah Reid**   **Shirley Allan**  
Worship Leader   Administrator

**Daniel Gilman**  
Pastor of Evangelism and Discipleship  
(Children, Youth and Young Adults)

**Rev. Neil Stephens**  
Pastor of Discipleship and Pastoral Care

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

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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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) You can use PayPal to donate to the church. Click on the "Contact" tab (far right side) on our website ([messiahchurch.ca](http://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](mailto:info@messiahchurch.ca)

## WITNESSING WHILE TRUMP IS PRESIDENT

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Dear Friends,

If you are like me, it is often hard to share your faith. Years ago, I was helped by the insight that not all Christians are called to be evangelists, but all Christians are called to be witnesses. In other words, all Christians are called to bear witness to Jesus, the crucified Saviour and risen Lord. Often our witnessing journey begins by simply letting people know that you went to church on Sunday or that you are a Christian. If you see the person regularly, often questions and comments will follow that allow you to, once again, bear witness to Jesus.

Since Donald Trump announced that he was running to be the Republican candidate in the US presidential election, and especially since he became the candidate and then the President, witnessing has become harder.

Virtually all of the media and political and "knowledge" class seems to be against Trump. Although it is not said all of the time, it has been often reported that a large percentage of evangelical Christians voted for Trump. Those who know that I am a Christian, and suspect that I might be an evangelical (whatever that means to them!), have an "edge" to them now when they talk with me. I am probably too timid and sensitive in this regard, but when people talk to me with an "edge" and when I know other people are probably listening in, the temptation I face is to become silent.

But some might say, "George, just denounce Trump and all who voted for him and move on." This leads me to discuss a bigger and more subtle temptation than being silent. The temptation here is starting down the path of linking the Gospel to politics; of linking political decisions to Jesus. In the short run, this decision (denounce Trump or have people suspect that you approve) may seem to be helpful, but I think that in the long run it will blunt or remove our witness to Christ.

First, many political decisions are about matters which Christians can, in good conscience, disagree on. By linking an ever-growing list of political decisions to following Jesus, you are giving the wrong impression of who Jesus is and what the Gospel is.

Second, we are called to bear witness to Jesus to both those who would have voted for Trump and those who voted against him. How do we do this while becoming known for partisan politics?

Third, we are falling into the cultural trap of believing and acting as if the biggest issue is being against Trump, and all other issues are, at best, a "second-order" issue. But this really undermines the Gospel! Jesus did not live a sinless life and die on the cross to deliver us from Trump! He came to die, and by his death, be "the power of God for salvation to all who believe."

For my part, with the non-Christians who talk to me about Jesus, I now say that I will not be drawn into political discussions and debates. Friends, please pray for me! Please ask the Lord to give us opportunities to bear witness to Jesus! Please pray for courage and wisdom.

George+

**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) I might evade human justice, but I can never escape appearing before God and being judged by Him.
- 2) I will choose the weakness of loving and obeying Your Word written.
- 3) I will choose the weakness of trusting Your Word on sex and sexuality.

**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 confess that I like how following You makes me strong, but I am fearful of how following You makes me weak. Thank You for Your mercy and grace revealed and made powerful in the Gospel! Please pour out Your Holy Spirit upon me so that I am gripped by the Gospel and embrace the weakness of knowing, trusting, believing and obeying all of Your Word as I live all out for Your glory and praise. Amen!!

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

*He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God. 2 Corinthians 13:3b-4*

**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

**Read**

- 2 Corinthians 12:14 -13:4

**Learn**

- How does this passage connect to what has come before?
- Read 2 Corinthians 1:23-2:11 and 8:16-24 asking how they help us understand this text.
- What do you think Paul is saying to the Corinthians? What does this teach us today?
- How is Paul's "love" for the Corinthians (12:14-18) related to his "fear" (12:19-21) and his "warning" (13:1-4)? How do Paul's actions and attitude toward the Corinthians reflect the Gospel?

**Inwardly Digest**

- If Paul were writing this letter to our church, what areas of unrepentant sin (12:19-20) would he need to address? What would it look like for us to receive his loving warning?
- In what ways, if any, does Paul give us a helpful model for how to relate with our Christian brothers and sisters who are living in unrepentant sin? How do you unite abundant "love", appropriate "fear" and timely "warning" in your relationships?

**Pray**

- Choose one scripture and take a couple of minutes on your own to think about what it is teaching you.
- Turn something you have learned from it into thanksgiving, confession, praise and supplication (asking).
- *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.*

**Tuesday, February 14**

- 7pm: Lowertown Home Group @ 110 Nelson

**Wednesday, February 15**

- 7pm: Church on Wednesday @ uOttawa
- 7:30pm: Hintonburg Home Group @ 84 Fairmont

**Thursday, February 16**

- 7pm: Old Ottawa South Home Group @ 267 Sunnyside

**Saturday, February 25**

- 4pm Vestry followed by Potluck Supper

**No Learner's Exchange today, but don't miss next week's session.** Lynne Leclerc will speak about *The Art of the Narrative* @ 9:15am.

**Messiah's Response to the Refugee Crisis:** Church of the Messiah has partnered with Grace Presbyterian Church (Orléans) to raise \$20,000 to help bring a Burundian widow and her 6 children to safety in Canada. Details were provided in a letter emailed earlier this week. Copies of that letter are available at the Besserer door and at the Welcome Centre.

**Here's how to contribute:**

- Make a cheque, **payable to Grace Presbyterian Church** - clearly noting that it is for the Refugee Fund. You can mail it to Grace Church (1220 Old Tenth Line Rd Ottawa ON K1E 3W7) OR place it in the offering plate at Messiah and it will be forwarded to Grace for you (Please clearly mark the envelope that it is for the Refugee Fund.)
- Give to Grace Presbyterian Church via CanadaHelps ([www.canadahelps.org/dn/7750](http://www.canadahelps.org/dn/7750)) clearly indicating that it is for the Refugee Fund.

**Questions?** [shirley@messiahchurch.ca](mailto:shirley@messiahchurch.ca)

There's still space on **The Marriage Preparation Course!** Do you know a couple planning to marry in 2017 or who are thinking about marriage? The 5-week course begins February 26. For info / to register: [shirley@messiahchurch.ca](mailto:shirley@messiahchurch.ca)