

GOD: CREATOR AND SUSTAINER OF ALL THINGS

Male and Female, Made in God’s Image

First Reading: Genesis 1: 26-31

Second reading: 2 Corinthians 1: 1-11

Psalm 46

*Free Bibles available on stage near Besserer door.

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

Listen to sermons on iTunes: Messiah Church Ottawa Sermons



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

March 19, 2017

messiahchurch.ca / 613.235.0596 / info@messiahchurch.ca
office & mailing address: 315 Lisgar St. Ottawa ON K2P 0E1

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!

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 or 613.235.0596. Check out the Welcome Centre in the lobby or 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

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

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 "Contact" 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

Some Resources To Think More Biblically About Transsexual Matters

Dear Friends,

Some reading this might not identify themselves as being male or female. Some reading this might be trying to sort out how they relate to their biological sex. Some reading this might be trying to sort out what is going on! Below are some resources that I have found helpful to think more biblically (Christianly) on these matters.

To my knowledge, the best, short readable book on the subject is by Vaughan Roberts. It is called *Transgender*. It is only 70-some pages long, but it is clear and concise. The author has a long ministry amongst students at Oxford University. He is the Rector (Lead Pastor) at St Ebbe's, an evangelical Anglican church beside Oxford. By the way, he also has a very good short book on assisted suicide called *Assisted Suicide*.

To my knowledge, the principal Christian academic/therapist who has written on this subject is Mark A. Yarhouse. You can, of course, Google him to find a list of his publications, interviews and talks. His book, *Understanding Gender Dysphoria* is a useful place to start your reading. Gender Dysphoria is sustained distress, discomfort and pain at the difference between your biological sex and what you believe your sexual identity to be.

A useful non-Christian resource on the academic literature is by Paul B. McHugh and Lawrence S. Mayer called *Sexuality and Gender: Findings from the biological, psychological and social sciences*. It is in *The New Atlantic* (#50, Fall 2016)

Another useful resource for information and reflection can be found on The Christian Medical and Dental Society of Canada's website. They will help you to think through the issues and they will often reference serious academic research. cmdscanada.org

One final resource is more polemic, but some may find it thought-provoking and helpful. It is by Walt Heyer. His website is sexchangeregret.com Walt, a man, underwent sex change therapy and lived as a woman for eight years. He then went through sex change therapy a second time, to return to being a man. You can read about his story and his thoughts about a range of trans issues on his website.

Friends, Christians in Canada are called to be a peculiar people as we bear witness to the Lord Jesus Christ, the living God's provision to save all who put their faith in Him. Be willing to be so gripped by the Gospel as to be peculiar. This phrase comes from the old King James version of 1 Peter 2: 9-10: *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

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 am made in God's image. He is not made in my image.
- 2) God's image in human beings is bent but not erased.
- 3) Politicians and courts can change human rights, but nothing can change the reality that every human being is made in God's image.

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:

Almighty God, transcendent and immanent, creator of heaven and earth, I praise You, the true and living God! Thank You for making me in Your image. Thank You that when humanity fell, Your image in us was bent but not erased. Please make me a disciple of Jesus gripped by the Gospel who learns from Your word and keeps in step with Your Spirit, so that more and more of all that is within me blesses Your Holy Name. In Jesus' Name. Amen!!

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

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27

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

Getting to know me

Do you know someone who identifies as trans?

Getting into the Bible

Remember to pray before you read and while your read. Pray that God will renew your mind.

- Read Genesis 1: 24-31 .
- To begin to understand the situation today, read Genesis 3.
- A summary of Genesis 3; read Romans 3: 23-24.
- Our hope as God heals us? Read and pray Psalm 103.

Getting real

- Has the Holy Spirit convicted you in some way as you read and prayed? Can you share something of this with someone so they can pray with you?

EVENTS + ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, March 21

- 7pm: Lowertown Home Group @ 110 Nelson

Wednesday, March 22

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

Thursday, March 23

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

Friday, March 24

- 7pm: Adventure613 - Youth group @ The Bible House (315 Lisgar St)

Learner's Exchange: 9:15 am / OLT lobby

- TODAY – Doug Sprunt speaks about *Emotional and Spiritual Health for Christians*
- March 26 – Gary Graber will speak about *The 39 Articles of Religion*

Messiah's Seder Celebration

Please join us on Thursday, April 13 for a Seder Celebration. We will meet at 6:30pm at Immaculata High School (140 Main St)

- Space is limited to 60; please register by contacting the church office (info@messiahchurch.ca)
- It's a potluck meal; please bring either a main course, salad or dessert - enough to feed 6-8 people; you can sign up for what you will bring when you register
- We want to bless university students so we won't ask them to bring food

Friends for Dinner: Why not invite some international students into your home to share a meal with them at Easter? Many do not know the meaning of Easter or why it's significant. It's a great opportunity for you to show God's love to them.

- Sign up online at <http://friendsfordinner.ca> (make sure to select "Ottawa"). Explain a bit about your family setup and preferred time to host. Deadline for registration: April 2nd.
- You will be matched with 2 to 3 students and given their contact information. Contact them within a week and arrange a date for the dinner.
- It will be your responsibility to arrange transportation for them. You can pick them up from their residence if they are unfamiliar with public transit.
- You will be sent some materials by email, which may help you understand your guest's culture a bit more.
- Enjoy your meal with them!