



Third Sunday of  
*Pentecost*

## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stratford, Ontario

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People of Zion

Ministers

Rev. Jeffrey Laustsen

Pastor

Sister Jean Widmeyer

Visitation Minister

Paul Shilton

Minister of Music

Laura Burton

Organist

Sandra Mogensen

Pianist

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### PENTECOST 3

June 13, 2021

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### CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: *Ezekiel 17:22-24*

A reading from Ezekiel.

*Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the LORD will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.*

<sup>22</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig  
from the lofty top of a cedar;  
I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one  
from the topmost of its young twigs;  
I myself will plant it  
on a high and lofty mountain.

<sup>23</sup>On the mountain height of Israel  
I will plant it,  
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,  
and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;  
in the shade of its branches will nest  
winged creatures of every kind.

<sup>24</sup>All the trees of the field shall know  
that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,  
I make high the low tree;

I dry up the green tree  
and make the dry tree flourish.  
I the LORD have spoken;  
I will accomplish it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15**

<sup>1</sup>It is a good thing to give thanks | to the LORD,  
to sing praise to your name, | O Most High;  
<sup>2</sup>**to herald your love | in the morning**  
**and your faithful- | ness at night;**  
<sup>3</sup>on the psaltery, and | on the lyre,  
and to the melody | of the harp.  
<sup>4</sup>**For you have made me glad by your | acts, O LORD;**  
**and I shout for joy because of the works | of your hands.**  
<sup>12</sup>The righteous shall flourish | like a palm tree,  
and shall spread abroad like a ce- | dar of Lebanon.  
<sup>13</sup>**Those who are planted in the house | of the LORD**  
**shall flourish in the courts | of our God;**  
<sup>14</sup>they shall still bear fruit | in old age;  
they shall be | green and succulent;  
<sup>15</sup>**that they may show how up- | right the LORD is,**  
**my rock, in whom there is | no injustice.**

### **SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17**

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

*Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.*

<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—<sup>7</sup>for we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. <sup>10</sup>For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[<sup>11</sup>]Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well

known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. <sup>12</sup>We are not commanding ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. <sup>13</sup>For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ] <sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: *Mark 4:26-34***

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.*

<sup>26</sup>[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,<sup>27</sup>and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.

<sup>28</sup>The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup>But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; <sup>32</sup>yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; <sup>34</sup>he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON:**

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!Alrwdlq5YZa1igWZzWsjzQLK2KkR>

(Click on the link above to view Pastor Jeff's sermon (or you can find it on the website under the separate heading "Sermons")

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially Bea, Elsie, Emma, Mary, Ardath, Doreen, Margaret, Lynnette, Glenn, Maria, Beryl, Cathy, Robb, Jack, John, Ralph, Katana, Ralph, Rose Marie, Nya, Muriel, Ron, Brian, and Kolby. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musicians, especially Paul, Sandra, and Laura. We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you are the author and sustainer of our lives. You know the anguish of the sorrowful; you are attentive to the prayers of the brokenhearted. We pray today for those who have died because of violence and hate, especially the members of the Afzaal family who died in London this past week. Be near to all those who have been touched by violence: those who have been hurt, lost loved ones or lost their sense of security. Soften the hearts and steady the minds of those who would do violence to others. May hate be replaced with love, violence with peace and darkness with you light. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for our ancestors in the faith who are now at home with you (*especially Hans*). We look forward to that day when we are reunited in your new creation. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.  
**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

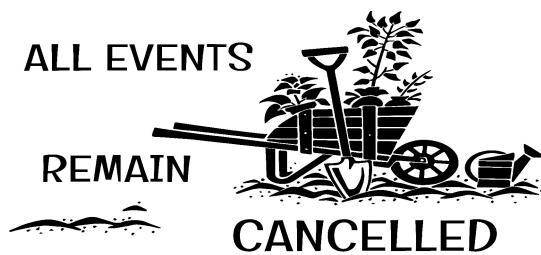
**Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
    **hallowed be thy name,**  
    **thy kingdom come,**  
    **thy will be done,**  
        **on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread;**  
**and forgive us our trespasses,**  
    **as we forgive those**  
        **who trespass against us;**  
**and lead us not into temptation,**  
    **but deliver us from evil.**  
**For thine is the kingdom,**  
    **and the power, and the glory,**  
    **forever and ever. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favour and + give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## **WORSHIP CANCELLATION UPDATE**

**ON MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021 WE RECEIVED AN EMAIL ATTACHING A LINK OF THE NEWS RELEASE FROM OUR PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OUTLINING STEP 1 OF THE ROADMAP TO REOPEN. STEP 1 ALLOWS FOR RELIGIOUS SERVICES, RITES, OR CEREMONIES, INCLUDING WEDDING SERVICES AND FUNERAL SERVICES BE PERMITTED AT UP TO 15 PERCENT CAPACITY OF THE PARTICULAR ROOM.**

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**WE HAVE NOT, AS OF YET, HEARD ANYTHING FROM EASTERN SYNOD AS TO WHEN WE CAN EXPECT THE RE-OPENING OF OUR “IN-PERSON GATHERINGS, INCLUDING WORSHIP”. THE RE-OPENING WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING SHCEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021.**

**AS INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO US WE WILL PASS IT ON TO YOU.**

**FOR UPDATES PLEASE REFER TO OUR WEBSITE AT**  
**www.zionstratford.com**



## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

We are currently in the planning stage of organizing Schedules for Readers, Greeters and Ushers for when we are able to re-open our doors for Worship; and, when we are able to do so at full capacity.

**If you are able to help by volunteering to be a Reader, Greeter and/or Usher, please call and speak with Jane in the**

**office at 519-271-8527 Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

We deeply appreciate ALL of our current volunteers and are excited to add you to this list of “special” people.

### **A Prayer For Those Who Volunteer in Churches**

Everlasting God, strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer in our churches; that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow Jesus Christ, offering to you their gifts and talents; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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### **INNERchamber's FINAL CONCERT OF THEIR 11<sup>TH</sup> SEASON - "SOUVENIRS" on Sunday evening, June 20, 2021.**

It's the perfect time to join **INNERchamber** on *Sunday June 20, 2021* (Fathers' Day) as they present ***Souvenirs***, their 6th and final livestreamed concert for Season 11. Known for some of cinema's most memorable film scores, Bernard Hermann's *Souvenirs de Voyage* paints the picture of his travels in England and Italy.

Beethoven's brilliant "Ramumovsky" *Quartet No. 2* celebrates their commissioner's homeland by incorporating Russian folk songs.

***Souvenirs*** features **Peter Shackleton** on clarinet and the **INNERchamber String Quartet**.

Tickets for a dinner (takeaway or delivered) from our Restaurant Partner – **Revival House** - and livestreamed concert are \$35 adults | \$10 students and can be purchased at <https://innerchamber.ca>. Pre-concert livestreamed chat begins at 6:30pm; music starts at 7:00pm.

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## PRAYER FOR TODAY



As we prepare to reopen our doors for "in person" Worship and as our community reopens, I came across this prayer that I thought I would share with you.

### *Prayer for Guidance and Protection*

O Lord,  
our redemption.  
Be our protection.

Direct our minds by your gracious presence.

Watch over our paths  
and guide us with your love  
through the hidden snares of life.

Fix our hearts on you as we go forward,  
and following in faith,  
arrive at your goal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.