

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

"He has gone out of his mind." No, I'm not talking about the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs who was the ONLY person present who did not join in a standing ovation last Tuesday when the Truth and Reconciliation Commission called for a national inquiry into murdered and missing Indigenous women. I am quoting from Mark's Gospel, where we read that not only outside observers but his own family thought that Jesus had gone mad. Why did they think he was out of his mind?

We have to go back a little before this week's reading in order to understand the growing concern that Jesus' close friends and family had for him. You see, earlier in the same chapter, Jesus was in the synagogue on the Sabbath and he healed the man with the withered hand. The Pharisees, who were already suspicious of Jesus, were looking for a way to catch him out, and they thought they had it when they accused him of labouring on the Sabbath. But Jesus healed the man with his words—he actually did no labour. Moreover, he asked them a rhetorical question about whether doing good and saving life always take precedence over Sabbath obligations or not. No one could really argue with him, so the Pharisees remained silent, but this only shamed them before the congregation and set the stage for the ongoing conflict they had with Jesus.

In between that episode and the one we read this week, Mark spends a few verses telling us that Jesus went about the countryside healing many and that he called the twelve disciples. The scene today shows that the crowd, which had grown as Jesus demonstrated his power on his journey, followed Jesus and the disciples to the house in Capernaum where they were staying. The crowd, which had previously posed a threat to Jesus of crushing him, poses an even greater threat: Jesus and the disciples are barricaded inside the house and cannot even eat. The Pharisees call out a formal, legal charge against Jesus that he has not only lost his mind as his family worried, but that he is possessed and exercises Satan's powers. This charge carried with it a death sentence: Jesus has no choice but to answer it. Jesus answers, "How can Satan cast out Satan?" In other words, he admonishes the Pharisees to use a little common sense: if he were really using powers given to him by the devil, how could he then cast out the devil? Yet again, he defeats the Pharisees in their machinations to catch him out and condemn him. And, as we know, the demons themselves called Jesus "Son of God" whenever he encountered them. Surely, then, he is not using demonic powers to dispossess people and bring them healing.

The message of this passage is this: those who are apparently the keepers of religious wisdom and ethics are blind to the reality that everything that Jesus does is guided by the Spirit. When he gathers with and eats with people who are marginalised, he's not out of his mind, he's actually living into God's kingdom. Those who are hidebound by social and religious conventions are unable to see the healing and liberation that Jesus brings. In all of his encounters with the Pharisees, we might ask ourselves what is the common theme by which we might identify that the work of the Spirit, the work of the Kingdom of God is being done. This is the theme: healing.

So, as we struggle in our own time to discern what is of the Spirit, this seems to be the measure: does it bring healing and wholeness? It's not about the morally pure or the religiously pious. It's about Jesus, the same Jesus who braved the crowds, even though they were a threat to his safety, the same Jesus who hung out with the "diverse mess of humanity."
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THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF TYENDINAGA

*To be a Spirit-filled and life-giving place where strangers
become friends and friends become disciples.*

SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Sunday 7 June 2015
Second Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

9:30 a.m.

All Saints' Church, 1295 Ridge Rd

PARISH PRIEST

The Venerable Brad Smith
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Mission Statement

Our mission, for the glory of God in Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit, is to:

- Celebrate all that God has done for us through worship and witness with others.
- Respond to our call to be disciples of Christ by sharing our faith, rooted in the Word of God, with others and encouraging others to become followers of Christ through word and action.
- Practice good stewardship of our human, financial and environmental resources, working to ensure that all of God's Creation is viable for future generations.
- Grow ourselves and others by reaching out to our communities, following Jesus' example of generous caring, giving, and welcoming.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

22 Days—An initiative by the Anglican Church of Canada to mark the 22 days between the final national event of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (31 May) and National Aboriginal Day (21 Jun). We are called by the Primate to listen to the stories of survivors, to pray, to work for justice for indigenous people, and to toll our bells in solidarity. For more info, visit www.22days.ca. We will ring our bell 1,181 times Wed 3, 10, 17 Jun, 2:00-3:38 p.m. Anyone interested in joining for a time of reflection and to assist with the ringing, please just show up.

Release of the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada—The report is available in its entirety on the TRC website: www.trc.ca. Click the “About Us” tab and then “Findings” when the menu opens. Especially recommended is the part of the report called “Calls to Action”, with 94 recommendations for government, churches, media, educational institutions, and all Canadians.

Unveiling of New Interpretive Panel—The Lower Burial Ground Restoration Society will unveil a new panel featuring Molly Brant and several unnamed Mohawks buried in the Lower Burial Ground (now St Paul’s Churchyard, at the corner of Queen and Montreal Sts in Kingston). All are welcome to attend, Sun 21 Jun at 1:00 p.m.

Food Bank Donations—We gather non-perishable food items on the first Sunday of each month and donate them to the Food Bank. The Food Bank is experiencing a significant increase in the number of families it serves so this is a material way we can help our neighbours. The next Food Bank Sunday is 5 Jul.

Strawberry Social—Sun 5 Jul, 1-4 p.m. at the Mohawk Community Centre. Freewill offering. Entertainment and a children’s craft corner will be provided.

Amsterdam Trip—Our visit to St Ann’s will take place 18-20 Sep. More to follow.

Rectory Rental—The rectory is available for rental on a weekly basis as a cottage for tourists, fishermen, etc (and may be rented for shorter periods in the off season). Check out the website at cottagesincanada.com/bayofquinterectorycottage and please tell your friends who might need a place to stay!

Camp Hyanto—Registrations are now open. Visit <http://ontario.anglican.ca/wp/camp-hyanto/> to register online or to financially support Camp Hyanto in order to assist with the provision of Christian camp ministry to youth.

(continued from back page) This Gospel is a warning to us not to think we have it all figured out, but to attend carefully to the signs of the work of the Spirit, which is bringing life, and health, and healing. The question is this: will we find ourselves inside with Jesus and the disciples or outside with those who failed to “get it”? Will we, like Jesus, be prepared to be seen as “out of our mind” because we dare to follow the leading of the Spirit instead of conforming to the expectations of the crowd around us?

PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Anglican Communion

The Most Rev’d and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
The Diocese of Ogbomoso (Ibadan, Nigeria)
The Rt. Revd Matthew Osunade
The Diocese of Ogoni (Niger Delta, Nigeria)
The Rt. Revd Solomon Gberegbara

Diocese of Ontario

The Rt Rev’d Michael Oulton
Parish of Adolphustown / Sandhurst
The Rev. Dr. John Walmsley
Donald Goodwin, to be ordained deacon
The Rev’d Gerald Moore and the Rev’d William Morrow, to be ordained priests
The Ven Nancy MacLeod, to be collated Archdeacon of the St Lawrence

Companions

St Ann’s Episcopal Church, Amsterdam, the Very Rev’d Neal Longe
HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, the Rev’d Canon Denis Mulliner

Parish of Tyendinaga

Greeting Card Co-ordinators
Pray for the families of: Suzanne & Brenna Maracle; Theda Maracle;
William, Cherie, Taia, Xandria & Serena Maracle; Wilma Maracle;
Malory & Jeff Holmes, Jadyne & Easton

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 14 JUNE

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13
2 Corinthians 5:6-17

Psalm 20
Mark 4:26-34

Stewardship Reflection

The Ven Brad Smith

The Psalmist wrote, “When I called, you answered; you increased my strength within me.” Good stewards not only give generously to further God’s mission but take the time to pray and talk with God in order that they might be strengthened for ministry.

Financial Report

Weekly Need: \$2,459
Last week’s Offering: \$1,882
Shortage \$ 577

Based on the 2015 budget and the number of identifiable givers, the following is what is required of each giver in order to meet our needs:

Weekly: \$40 Monthly: \$173