

Sunday Service - September 17, 2023

Announcements

- ***Note** - we will be continuing our 10:00am service schedule until Sunday, October 1, when we return to two weekly services at 9:30 and 11:00am.
- **New to Walton?** Are you visiting today? Welcome! Please feel free to ask the ushers if you have any questions during the service. We invite you to fill out a welcome card in the pew racks and leave it in an offering plate at one of the doors. Please join us for coffee, tea or cold drinks and conversation in Bronte Hall after the 10:00 am service. There you'll also find the Welcome Centre with information about Walton and someone to chat with. Walton nametags, hats, etc. are also available for purchase.
- Port Nelson United is hosting a Service of Prayer with the Songs of Taize on Sunday, October 15 at 7:30 p.m. – a reflective way to end the day and begin the week. **See Port Nelson's website** for more details.
- **It's not too late to join our choirs!** - **Walton has three choirs** offering fun, friendship, and the chance to make a joyful noise together. New members are always welcome throughout the year and no experience is necessary.
    - **Junior Choir - Grade 1-5 -** practices on Thursdays from 7-7:45pm, sings in church 1-2 Sundays per month at the 9:30am service
    - **Youth Choir - Grade 6-12 -** practices on Thursdays from 7-8pm, sings in church 2-3 Sundays per month at the 9:30am service
    - **Chancel Choir - age 18+ -** practices on Thursdays from 8-9:30pm, sings each week in church, alternating monthly between the 9:30am and 11:00am services.

  Please join us this Thursday at the appropriate time and place for your age range. For more information about Junior Choir contact Jillian Vander Doelen. For more information about Youth Choir and Chancel Choir contact Linda Fletcher.
- **Fishers of socks -** Next Sunday September 24th, the Walton Outreach Committee welcomes your participation in our **"Fishers of Socks" event**. We ask you to bring some new warm thermal winter socks for us to catch in our nets. We will give your donations to folks in need this coming winter season. We'll be in the Sanctuary with our nets to catch the socks and as well have baskets around. Let's have some fun, while we're doing some good. How's your aim? See if you can hit the nets. Fact: In a survey of unfortunate street people, the top-ranked item wanted was warm, dry socks.
- **Reception & Transfer of Membership** on Sunday, October 1st, 2023. If you would like to transfer to Walton from another congregation, please contact the church office. If you are a confirmed member of any Christian denomination, you are able to transfer to Walton. For more information, please contact Rev. Jim or the church office.
- **Thanksgiving Food Drive:** As we prepare to celebrate the many blessings in our lives, the Walton

Outreach Committee is asking for your support for the Thanksgiving Food Drive. Donations of non-perishable food items can be placed in our Food Collection boxes at each of the church's entrances. According to the Fare Share Food Bank the items of greatest need are oatmeal, crackers, jam, coffee (instant regular or decaf), tea (regular, green, herbal), snacks for kids such as fruit cups, puddings and juice boxes. The only items not needed at this time are peanut butter and spaghetti. Monetary donations are always welcome so that the Food Bank can source perishable items. Donations can be made through our weekly offering, at the church office or through the church website. Thank you for your caring and generosity - there are so many families on the hungry list!

- **Harvest Table -** In the week leading up to Thanksgiving, we'd also appreciate donations of fresh fruits & vegetables for our Harvest Table, decorating the Sanctuary on Thanksgiving Sunday, Oct 8th. These items will be taken to the food bank after the service.
- **Upcoming Bible Study –** "Gratitude… Giving Thanks in Life's Ups and Downs" starts Thursday October 12th, for 8 weeks in Bronte Hall 10:15 to 11:45 a.m. Books are available through the church office, cost is $10.00. Each week we will look at a different Bible passage relevant to the topic of gratitude. Everyone is welcome, no experience necessary. **Sign up online** or in the office.
- **Do you have great photos of Walton? -** We need your Walton events and activity photos for our new 2023-24 photo directory. We are looking for photos taken inside or outside of the church, of services, programs and activities on any day of the week. We are especially looking for pictures of Walton weddings and baptisms. They need to have been taken over the last 8 years (since the last directory). Photos must be in digital format and landscape orientation, please. They can be emailed to Craig Silva at craigger73@gmail.com. Thanks for helping with our new photo directory, a visual record of our vibrant congregation.
- **Don't forget to book your photo directory appointment!** Appointments are available:
  - Monday, October 16th, Tuesday, October 17th – 1:30 pm - 8:30 pm
  - Wednesday, October 25th, Thursday, October 26th, Friday, October 27th – 1:30 pm - 8:30 pm
  - Saturday, October 28th – 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

  You can book your appointment by contacting the church office or by booking with the volunteer in Bronte Hall during coffee hour following Sunday service. Without you, our photo directory will not be complete, so, please make sure to sign up today!
- **Please donate any winter coats to the Bronte Coat Drive!** Donations are now being accepted! This has become a cooperative effort between the Church of the Epiphany, St. Dominic's Church and Walton Memorial primarily; all of us having the betterment of the people of our area as our goal. So, sew on that button, empty those pockets, sponge out that stain, and please give us your coats that you will not plan to wear next year or ever again!
- **Calling all knitters!** The Bronte Coat Drive Committee has a need for knitted scarves for our Annual Coat Distribution Event. If you could knit a scarf 5' - 6' long in black, grey or navy, we would be most happy to include it as a giveaway on October 14, 2023. As you may know, there are many people in our community who are grateful to receive a coat from this event, and they are delighted to also receive a warm scarf (or hat or gloves)!
- **Walton's prayer chain is open.** Confidential prayers requests can be sent to office@waltonmemorial.com
- If you need Rev. Jim for a pastoral emergency, please email him directly at jamescgillwuc@gmail.com
- **Children and youth** are invited to view this week's virtual Sunday School lesson online.
- For the latest news and updates from Walton, please check our Facebook page, Instagram and website. Subscribe to our YouTube channel for videos of service, the choirs and more! Please contact office@waltonmemorial.com if you would like to be added to our email list.

Land Acknowledgement

As we gather today on these treaty lands, we are in solidarity with Indigenous brothers and sisters to honour and respect the four directions, lands, waters, plants, animals and ancestors that walked before us, and all of the wonderful elements of creation that exist. We acknowledge and thank the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation for being stewards of this traditional territory.

Welcome

Welcome to this time of worship. Whether you are joining us in person or via the internet or by a printed copy of the service, I pray that you will be blessed by God as we worship together.

Hymn: "God We Praise You For the Morning" 415VU

Call to Worship

One: We gather to worship God
All: trusting in God's love for each of us.
One: We gather to grow in our faith
All: and in our faithfulness as we try to follow the way of Christ.
One: We gather with others on the journey of faith, some nearby and others far away,
All: supporting and strengthening each other through God's love.
One: Let us worship God.

Chancel Choir and Youth Choir: "Come, Now is the Time to Worship"

Opening Prayer

All: God we praise you for the gift of today and for the opportunity to worship you. Open us during this time that we may know your love, your forgiveness, and your peace. Inspire us to show each other your care and understanding. Empower us, through your Spirit, so that when we leave this time of worship we will better understand how you would have us live day by day. We pray in the name of Jesus who shows us the way. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Youth Hymn: "Jesu, Jesu Fill Us With Your Love" verses 1-2 593VU

Youth Story: "Who does God love more?"

Youth Hymn: "Jesu, Jesu Fill Us With Your Love" verses 3-4 593VU

Scripture Reading: Mark 10:35-45 (NRSV) Susan Sheppard

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to (Jesus) and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory,"

But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”

They replied, “We are able.”

Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

Scripture Response: “Make Me A Servant” 669 Celebration

Morning Message: “Are You A Success?” Rev. Karen Inkster

Are you a success? What does it mean to be a success? How would you describe a successful person? Most of us have some idea of what it means to be a success and we know whether or not we fulfill that ideal. Success was on the minds of James and John when they asked Jesus if they could sit at Jesus’ right and left side in glory.

They wanted a place of prominence. They wanted to be great.

The James and John in us encourage us to want to be a success – a success in business, in school, as a parent, within a group or with a hobby.

Unfortunately, society often measures success in the same fashion that James and John measured greatness. They wanted the positions of honour beside Jesus, which meant they would be superior to the other disciples. Society often thinks the successful person is the one who has reached a place of authority or superiority – the president of the company, the student with the highest marks, the family with the most garages and BMWs to fill them, the parents whose children have the fewest problems, the church with the largest congregation and the longest list of available programmes.

There is nothing wrong with many of these things in themselves. However, it is a problem if these are the kind of standards we use to determine whether or not a person is successful. It is a problem because few of us achieve such standards. Most of us excel in mediocrity. There are more times that we work behind the scenes than in the spotlight, more times we lose a contest than win, and more times we fail to live up to our expectations for ourselves than we fulfill them. Rarely do any of us meet the standards of success set by our society. That can leave us feeling like failures, feeling as if we aren’t as important as the next person, or even feeling we aren’t loved by God because we don’t quite measure up.

Understanding success in terms of being in a place of prominence is also a problem because it can lead us to try to “have power over" others. We are encouraged to step on toes, to sacrifice others for our own sake, to use tactics like manipulation and coercion. This is an approach to life that can lead to physical and emotional abuse within families, to methods of operations within business that have less concern for people and more concern for spreadsheets, and to attitudes in the church that have little resemblance to the attitudes of Jesus. The pursuit of success as defined by society can be hurtful to our self-worth and to our relationships.

However, Jesus overturns society’s understanding of greatness making it clear that being a success lies elsewhere.

Jesus told the disciples that whoever would be great must be the servant of others. Being great depends on humbling oneself in order to serve others. Success is measured in terms of being- for-others.

This new understanding of success is encouraging news for us because it means all of us can be a success. It means we are a success even when we only work behind the scenes, even when we give much to a group or a company but someone gives more, even when the only ribbon we could win at the fair is for the most mediocre quilt, even when we fail to live up to the expectations others have of us or we have of ourselves. We are a success anytime we give to others in any way.

This is also good news for our congregation. Our success is not measured by the size of our Sunday School, or the number of people in the sanctuary Sunday morning, or the number of teens confirmed each year, but rather by our service to others here at Walton, in our community of Oakville, and in the world God loves. The successful congregation is one that takes time to visit the isolated congregation member who will never have anything to give back to the congregation. It is the church which gives emotional and physical support to the single parent, the recent immigrant, the family living in poverty. It is the church that welcomes into its midst those so often shunned by society. It is the congregation which treats others within the congregation with kindness and respect, even when we don't agree on things.

It is as we live out this kind of success that we truly "sit at Jesus' right and left hand in glory," because we become who we were created by God to be.

Jesus' life on earth, marked by servanthood, shows us what it means to be truly human. As we take our place as servants, we are raised to a higher glory than we might otherwise ever know because true fulfillment, true success, true humanity, come in being who we are created to be – one who is for others.

And not only we but others as well are raised to "sit at Jesus' right and left hand in glory." Instead of using others to reach our goal of success, living success according to God's standards empowers us to enrich other people's lives.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked James and John. Today, Jesus poses that same question to you and me. Do we respond by asking for fame and fortune? Do we ask that we get the recognition we desire for our talents or a task well done?

Or do we choose Christ's way of servanthood? Do we ask to be anointed with love, gentleness, patience, and compassion, and so we may live for others? "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asks. Your answer to that question will decide for you the answer to another question, "Are you a success?"

Pastoral Prayer

Comforting and challenging God, we are grateful that you are near and always willing to hear our prayers. We thank you for Creation. As summer turns toward autumn with its scarlet leaves and crunchy apples, we are reminded that you are God every day regardless of the season. We thank you for being with us in times of celebration, in times when life is difficult, in times of hope and in times of discouragement. Hang on to us, comforting God, when we are going through difficult days, and challenge us to share our blessings with others when the sailing is smooth and wind is at our back.

We pray for Creation, which is groaning under fires, floods, and hurricanes. Empower us to take better care of the world you created. Help us to be mindful of how the human family has abused the environment and encourage us to support those trying to breathe life back into our failing natural world.

We pray for those who grieve, those with chronic illness, those who feel abandoned by a loved one. We pray for those who have no work, who have no home, or who have difficulty feeding their family.

We pray for people in many places of the world living with the horrors of war, being discriminated against and persecuted because of their gender, or age, or sexual orientation, or race.

We pray silently for ourselves and others…

SILENCE

Challenging God, we also pray that you would work through us, individually and as a congregation, to right the wrongs, to foster healing, to make fairness and kindness reality for all. Make us a servant people who follow the Way of Jesus, the Servant Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen

Offering of Ourselves, Our Gifts, Our Tithes

♥ by secure online payment from your debit or credit card. Click here to go to our donation page to make a single or recurring donation. Multiple funds can be included in one donation by using the "Add Donation" button
♥ by cheque through the mail slot at the church office entrance or by Canada Post
♥ by monthly PAR payments. To sign up contact stuart@waltonmemorial.com

Offering Hymn: "In Gratitude And Humble Trust" 544VU

Prayer of Dedication

All: Loving God, we thank you for your enduring love. In response to your love for us we make our offerings to you – the gift of our hearts and the fruits of our labours. Bless these gifts and use them that others may see and experience the love of Christ. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: "We Are Pilgrims" 595VU

Commissioning & Benediction

Let's go into the world together to fulfill our calling as disciples of the Servant Christ. Let's be the vehicles of Christ's compassion, care, healing and hope in all we do and say.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with each one of us this day and forever more. Amen

Closing Hymn: "A Closing Prayer"

Announcements & Fire Drill

In case you missed it…

Here is Rev. Jim's mid-week update for date
https://youtu.be/gBPeD4cGJJ4