

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, June 28th, 2020
Sunday Before Canada Day

Introductory Song

"Jesus, Strong and Kind" by CityAlight (lyrics)

(Click on the link below to listen to the Ministry of Music.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5Y8s-Sz_ac&feature=youtu.be

1. Jesus said that if I thirst
 I should come to him
 No one else can satisfy
 I should come to him

3. Jesus said that if I fear
 I should come to him
 No one else can be my shield
 I should come to him

2. Jesus said if I am weak
 I should come to him
 No one else can be my strength
 I should come to him

4. Jesus said if I am lost
 He will come to me
 And he showed me on that cross
 He will come to me

Chorus x 2

Chorus

For the Lord is good and faithful, He will keep us day and night
 We can always run to Jesus, Jesus strong and kind

Call to Worship

I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;
 with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

**I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
 that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.**

The heavens praise your wonders, LORD,
 your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

For who in the skies above can compare with the LORD?

Who is like the LORD among the heavenly beings?

In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared;
 he is more awesome than all who surround him.

Who is like you, LORD God Almighty?

You, LORD, are mighty, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

(Psalm 89:1-2, 5-8)

Prayer of Invocation

(based on Ephesians 1)

Our Father,
 you are in heaven, high and lifted up,
 higher than our highest thoughts.
 Holy is your name;
 beside you there is no other!

You are God, and you alone!
 Receive us into your kingdom—the coming kingdom—
 the kingdom of your anointed Son, Jesus, whose name we bear.
 Receive us, for we come to you in his name—
 we pray in him and with him.
 For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn: Ancient Words – Written by Lynn Deshazo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vmTkXNpwzs>

Holy words long preserved
 For our walk in this world
 They resound with God's own heart
 O let the ancient words impart

Words of life words of hope
 Give us strength help us cope
 In this world where'er we roam
 Ancient words will guide us home

Chorus

Ancient words ever true
 Changing me and changing you
 We have come with open hearts
 O let the ancient words impart

Holy words of our faith
 Handed down to this age
 Came to us through sacrifice
 O heed the faithful words of Christ

Holy words long preserved
 For our walk in this world
 They resound with God's own heart
 O let the ancient words impart

Chorus x 4

Ancient words ever true
 Changing me changing you
 We have come with open hearts
 O let the ancient words impart

We have come with open hearts
 O let the ancient words impart

Prayers for Canada in These Difficult Times

- Pray for our Country – our Prime Minister Justin Trudeau & Leadership
- Pray for the province of Ontario & Premier Ford
- Pray for Perth and Community
- Pray for the Medical Community and First Responders
- Pray for the Church of Jesus Christ in Canada and its witness to our Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.

For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory,

Forever and ever. Amen

Responsive Reading

Psalm 1

Blessed is the one

who does not walk in step with the wicked

or stand in the way that sinners take

or sit in the company of mockers,

but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,

and who meditates on his law day and night.

That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.

Not so the wicked!

They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

**For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.**

Ministry of Music: “Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him” by Young Oceans
(Click on the link below to listen to the Ministry of Music.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6PaSu1gig>

Praise the Lord Ye heavens adore him

Praise him angels in the height

Sun and moon, rejoice before him
 Praise him, all ye stars of light
 Praise the Lord for he hath spoken
 Worlds his mighty voice obeyed
 Laws which never shall be broken
 For their guidance he hath made

All creation join the song of praise
 Let every tongue declare His mighty ways
 And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy all of our days

Praise the Lord for he is glorious
 Never shall his promise fail
 God hath made his saints victorious
 Sin and death shall not prevail

All creation join the song of praise
 Let every tongue declare His mighty ways
 And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy all of our days

Glory! Glory! All glory to you Lord (X 4)

Praise the God of our salvation!
 Hosts on high his power proclaim
 Heaven and earth and all creation
 Laud and magnify his name.

All creation join the song of praise
 Let every tongue declare His mighty ways
 And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy all of our days
 And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy all of our days
 And we will sing of Your goodness and mercy all of our days

Scripture Reading:

18 The path of the righteous is like the morning sun,
 shining ever brighter till the full light of day.

19 But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness;
 they do not know what makes them stumble.

20 My son, pay attention to what I say;
 turn your ear to my words.

21 Do not let them out of your sight,
 keep them within your heart;

22 for they are life to those who find them
 and health to one's whole body.

23 Above all else, guard your heart,

Proverbs 4:18-27

for everything you do flows from it.

24 Keep your mouth free of perversity;
keep corrupt talk far from your lips.

25 Let your eyes look straight ahead;
fix your gaze directly before you.

26 Give careful thought to the paths for your feet
and be steadfast in all your ways.

27 Do not turn to the right or the left;
keep your foot from evil.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn: “**Breathe On Me Breath of God**”, Mountain Anthems
(Click on the link below to play the video. Lyrics are on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M5keJHZdWYM>

1. Breathe on me breath of God
Fill me with life anew
That I may love what Thou dost love
And do what Thou wouldst do
2. Breathe on me breath of God
Until my heart is pure
Until with Thee I will one will
To do and to endure
3. Breathe on me breath of God
Till I am wholly Thine
Till all this earthly part of me
Glows with Thy fire divine
4. Breathe on me breath of God
So shall I never die
But live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity

Prayer for Illumination

Lord God, help us to know your ways;
teach us your paths.

Lead us in your truth, and teach us,
for you are the God of our salvation;
for you we wait all day long.

Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.** (based on Psalm 25:4-5)

“Listen Closely To My Words”

Proverbs 4:18-27

I am a very simple man. I am not saying that I am a simpleton, but I am a simple man. I am not very complex. I don't understand complex things. Complex things



confuse me. My tastes are also very simple. Some people like to change things up. They believe that variety is the spice of life. However, I am quite content with the things I know and that I am familiar with. For instance, for most of my life, I ate the same thing for breakfast every day – a glass of orange juice and a bowl of cold cereal. I only drank one brand of frozen orange juice – Old South – and quit when I could no longer get it. I would eat any kind of cold cereal as long as it was Shreddies. Then for five or six years I ate nothing but Morning Crisp.

My running shoes lasted me for years. I had one favourite pair that I no longer remember the name of but they were dark blue. I acquired them in 1980 and wore them regularly until the late '80's. Then I used them as water shoes. Susan

finally persuaded me to throw them out after we got married in 1997. My wardrobe is very simple. I find comfortable clothes and I wear them until they wear out. Even after they are worn out I continue to wear them as work clothes until they literally fall apart.

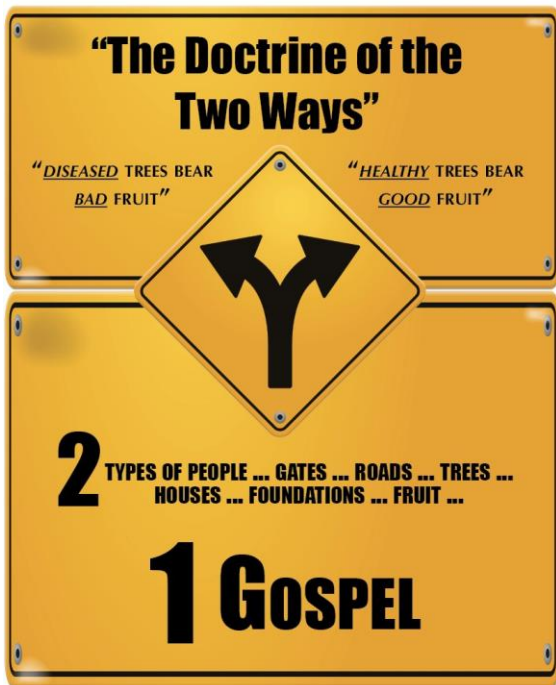
To show you how really simple I am, let me tell you about how I view the Bible. The Bible is the most important book in my library. When I read it, I believe what it says. That is not to say that I understand everything the Bible says. There are times when my mind and intellect have trouble with a passage. Then I know that the problem is with me and not with the Bible. If I have a disagreement with the Bible, I know that it is right and I am wrong. I know that eventually God will bring me to a true understanding of what it is saying, even if it is not in my lifetime. The Bible is the Word of God. It is God's Word to me and I want it to be what moulds my life. I want to bring all my thinking, all my ideas and everything I do into conformity with what it teaches. The Bible reveals to us the mind of God and because God made me, I want to know his mind and follow his directions for how I am to live.

Before we turn to our text, let me make two important points. The first is found in the words of an Old Testament Scripture that Jesus quoted to Satan when he was being tempted. **4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "** (Matthew 4 quoting Deuteronomy 8:3) Every word that God speaks is important. That means every word in the Bible and we are to live, not just by those that strike our fancy, but by them all. There are some passages which are so fundamental and important that they seem to carry a special extra measure of God's truth. I had an elder in Niagara Falls who when he heard something profound would say: "That's a bell ringer!" I would put today's text in the "bell ringer" category.



The second thing I want to say is how we can get the most out of this passage. Of course, we can hear it read or we can read it for ourselves. Trouble is, we retain only a small portion of what we read or hear. If we study the passage, we will retain more. However, if we memorize or meditate on it, we will retain much more. To meditate literally means "to murmur" or "to mutter". When I first read this passage, I sensed that it was important. When I read it a second time I knew it was important. When I began to study it, I began to appreciate just how much this passage could mean to me in my Christian life. So I set the goal of memorizing it. I wanted it stored in the memory banks of my mind. When something is stored in our memory banks, the

Holy Spirit can bring it to our minds when it is needed. Just a word of warning. It is easier to memorize things when you are younger than when you are older. Don't say: "I have no time to memorize God's truth now. I'll leave it until I retire." You will find that you have a decreased capacity to memorize when you get to retirement age.



Our passage begins with what is known as the Doctrine or Teaching of the Two Ways. It lays out clearly that there are two ways in life, **the path of the righteous and the way of the wicked.** This teaching is found in many places in Scripture. For instance, it is found in Psalm 1. The **blessed**

person is the one whose delight is in the **2** ... whose delight is in the law of the LORD,

and who meditates on his law day and night. The Psalmist goes on to describe this individual: **3** That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers. On the other hand are the wicked, sinners and mockers. **4** ... They are like chaff that the wind blows away. **5** Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

Jesus also taught about the two ways. In Matthew 7 we read: **13** “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. **14** But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.



These two ways are clearly laid out in the early chapters of the Bible. Do you remember the story of Cain and Abel? Cain was wicked. He had a rebellious nature toward God and harboured hate in his heart towards his brother. Abel was righteous. He brought to God a sacrifice that was pleasing in his sight. In the end Cain took the broad path and rejected God’s Word to him and murdered Abel.

We may think that because we are attending worship or go to church that we will automatically put us in the ranks of the righteous.. Unfortunately, I have known many

wicked people who were regular church goers. They are not wicked in the sense that they have murdered someone or robbed a bank or cheated on their taxes or given false testimony against their neighbour. No, they are not at all like that. They are classed with the wicked because their hearts are hard towards God. They have a rebellious nature when it comes to the things of God. They live in the dark. The light of Jesus Christ has never shone into their lives. Listen to how they are described in our text: **19** But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness;

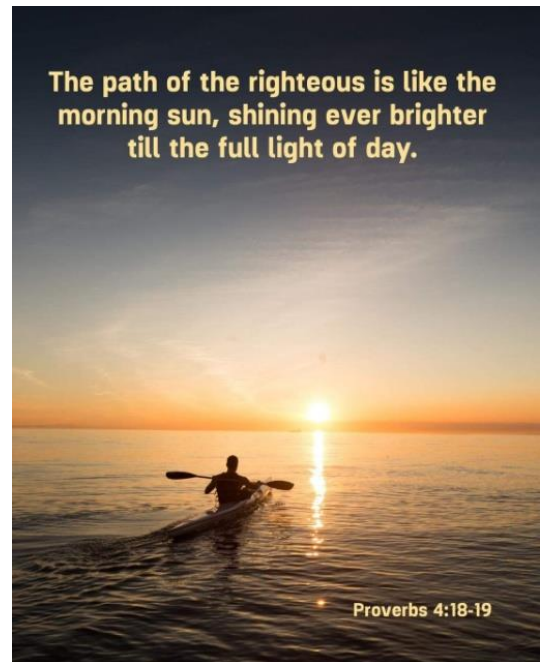
BUT THE WAY OF THE
WICKED IS LIKE DEEP
DARKNESS; THEY DO
NOT KNOW WHAT
MAKES THEM STUMBLE
PROVERBS 4:19

they do not know what makes them stumble.

How different is the person in verse 18: **The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.**

What a beautiful picture. Here we have a people with a growing awareness and a growing light. They do not stumble because they can see where they are going. As they make their way through life it gets brighter and their understanding grows all the time.

Historically, these words were written by King Solomon for his son. We have no idea of how old his son was when Solomon was writing this. This passage has a historical setting because everything in the Bible has a historical setting. All the same, these words do not just have meaning for when they were written. It is God's Word for us today as well. Verse 20 begins with the words "**my son**" or "**my child**". God is speaking to his own believing children in all periods of history. If you want a very quick but powerful message on the importance of God's Word, then this is it. You see, God himself is in his Word and it is through his word that he comes into our lives.



We are given four directives about God's Word.

1. **We are to pay attention to what God says;**
2. **We are to listen closely to his words;**
3. **We are not to let them out of our sight; and**
4. **We are to keep them within our hearts.**

First, God instructs us to **pay attention to his words.**

When we read God's Word, we are to give it our close and undivided attention. We hear a lot about distracted driving. What about distracted Bible reading? How many times have I sat there with the Bible in my hands but I couldn't tell you what I have read in the last five minutes. We need to focus our minds on the Word of God and give it our undivided attention. If our minds are divided, we will get little benefit from the Word of God. We need to come to the Word of God with singleness of purpose.

Second, God instructs us to **listen closely to my words.**

Do you listen, and I mean really listen when God's Word is read on Sunday morning? Or do your thoughts wander? Do you think about other more pressing things? Susan and I were talking to some old friends recently who now live in Alberta. I guess their online services must be really boring because the woman said that she played Sudoku during the service! Well, at least she was being honest. Do we play a game of Sudoku in our minds when Scripture is being read?

God's Word or words are something that we are to listen closely too. But there is a deeper understanding that clarifies how we are to listen. The King James Version puts it this way: **Incline your ear to my sayings.** An inclined ear indicates humility. It is the opposite of being proud and stiff-necked. To be humble is to be teachable. It is to be willing to let God teach us.



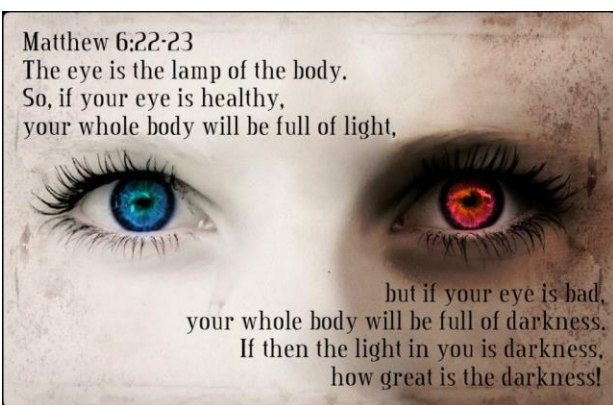
In the story of the Israelites crossing the Sinai desert we have the exact opposite of people who are humble and teachable. In Psalm 78 we read: **40 How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness and grieved him in the wasteland! 41 Again and again they put God to the test; they vexed the Holy One of Israel.** I can easily dismiss the Israelites but am I really any different? How many times in my stubbornness and unbelief have I set limits to what I believed that God would be able to do for me? When I come to Scripture, I come with all my prejudices and preconceptions. Like most people, I put limits on what God can do because it runs counter to my experience and contrary to my belief system. If I want to receive the full benefits of God's Word, I must learn to come to it with a humble and teachable spirit.

Third, **do not let them out of your sight.**

Again, this is a reference to God's words. God's Word is like having small children around water: - never let them out of your sight! In order to receive the benefits of God's words, we



must keep our eyes fixed unwaveringly on the Lord's promises. If we go down to verse 25 we find that these words are expanded on. **25 Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you.** I believe that what is being referred to here is single – mindedness. Too many Christians have double vision. We get double vision by trying to look at two different things at the same time. We try to look at what is going on around us with one eye and with the other eye we try to look at God. James says that this type of person is double-minded. **7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.**



Jesus put it this way: **22 “The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!** (Matthew 6) Remember, it is only the way of the wicked that is like deep darkness and they do not even

know what makes them stumble!

Years ago a farmer friend had me plow for him. He told me to strike one straight furrow down the centre of the field and then to work my way out on both sides from there. It was a huge field and I said to him: “How am I ever going to make it from one end of the field to the other in a straight line?” He replied: “Can you see that huge tree that is just about smack dab in the middle of the field at the far fence row? Aim the tractor at that tree and don’t take your eyes off of it. Do that and you will cut a fairly straight furrow.” He was right. I wouldn’t have won any prizes at a plowing match, but my first furrow was fairly straight.



Finally, **keep them within your heart.**

**Above all else,
guard your heart,
for everything
you do flows from it**
Proverbs 4:23



This instruction has to do with our hearts which is the core of our being and personality. Your heart is going to have a decisive influence on your Christian experience. **23 Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.** In other words, what is in our hearts controls the course of our lives and what we experience. A person with only half-a- heart for God will have a very different life experience than the person who has a whole-heart for God.

If we receive God's words with careful attention – if we admit them regularly through our eyes and ears so that they occupy and control our hearts, then we will find them to be what God promises in verse 22: **for they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body.** That is what God

promises and I am simple enough to believe that.

God promises **life to those who find them.** Most people are searching for meaning in life. They desperately want to know what it is all about but as they stumble about in the darkness they have no clue about where to find it. Even Christians spend most of their lives searching secular sources for what will make them happy. All this time, it is right here in God's Word. **These words** – the words of the Bible – are **life to those who find them.** I don't know about you but I want to experience all of what God has promised! I don't want to miss anything! To do that we need to search God's Word. We need to humble ourselves before him and say "Teach me all that you have for me." What we really want is for the life of God to flow through us. Only his words are **life to those.**

God also promises that his words are **health to one's whole body.** Years ago I read a book called "None of These Diseases". The title was based on two verses from Deuteronomy 7: **12 If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the LORD your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your ancestors.... 15 The LORD will keep you free from every disease. He will not inflict on you the horrible diseases you knew in Egypt.** My personal experience in this area is limited but I will not allow the truth of God's Word to be limited by my experience. Again, I am simple enough to believe what God's

Word says. If we live our lives according to God's Word, then I believe it will have an impact on our bodies. It will be **health to (our) whole bodies.**

I trust that later today or sometime this week you will take the time to re-read these verses of Scripture. Meditate on them and if you feel so led, memorize them. It is more than just taking these verses seriously. We need to allow them to mould our lives and form the people that we are. As I have suggested to you before: **8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.** (Psalm 34)

Hymn: **And Can it be That I should Gain**
(Click on the link below to play the hymn. Lyrics will be displayed on the screen.)

<https://youtu.be/sQeIGbKqiw8>

1. And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior's blood
Died He for me who caused His pain
For me who Him to death pursued
Amazing love how can it be
That Thou my God shouldst die for me
Amazing love how can it be
That Thou my God shouldst die for me
2. He left His Father's throne above
So free so infinite His grace
Emptied Himself of all but love
And bled for Adam's helpless race
'Tis mercy all immense and free
For O my God it found out me
'Tis mercy all immense and free
For O my God it found out me
3. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray
I woke the dungeon flamed with light
My chains fell off my heart was free
I rose went forth and followed Thee
My chains fell off my heart was free
I rose went forth and followed Thee
4. No condemnation now I dread
Jesus and all in Him is mine
Alive in Him my living Head
And clothed in righteousness divine

Bold I approach th'eternal throne
 And claim the crown through Christ my own
 Bold I approach th'eternal throne
 And claim the crown through Christ my own

Offering

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope, if you have one. (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3) We also have another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer. This note from our treasurer.

E-transfers are now accepted. Please note the new email address for this purpose only. standrewspertthoffering@gmail.com Please include your Offering Envelope # in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your donation to go to a specific fund (eg Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.

Invitation to Offering

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly;
 the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
 Responding to God's bountiful gifts to us in Christ,
 we have opportunity to share out of our abundance.

—based on 2 Corinthians 9:6, 8,

With gladness, let us present the offerings
 of our life and labor to the Lord.

Responsive Offertory Prayer

Yours, Lord, is the greatness,
 the power and the glory,
 the victory and the majesty.

**All that is in the heavens
 and in the earth is yours,
 and you rule over all.**

Therefore, Lord, receive these offerings,
 our tangible expressions of love and gratitude.

**Transform them into a source of life for many,
 so that your kingdom may grow
 in the hearts of all.**

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Prayers for the People by the People – please continue to pray for members of our congregation and others that you personally know of.

- For the leaders in our government (federal, provincial and municipal) to make responsible plans for reopening the economy and other activities that will not put our province at risk of further outbreaks of COVID-19.
- Those in hospital or needing medical attention other than for COVID-19 related needs.
- **Those on the front line in the fight against COVID-19, especially the nurses and PSW's in our congregations.** (Destiny Bowes, Glenda Gould, Connie Young, Tracey Laffine)
- **Those who are out of work and struggling financially to pay their bills.**
- **Jean and Jamie Wright** – Carl Wright passed away the morning of Tuesday, June 24th. Remember Jean and Jamie in the loss of a husband and father. A small family funeral is to be held on Saturday at Blairs Funeral Home.
- **Joanna Savage:** Joanna came home from the hospital on Tuesday, June 2nd. She spent 4 very quiet days where her family was not sure what was happening. Since then she has made a remarkable recovery. She is very thin but has regained all her faculties and is back to how she was before all this started. The family thanks you for all your prayers for Joanna and is convinced that what has happened is the result of all the prayers that have been offered on her behalf.
- **Stuart McKim & Louise Burke**
- **Ann Savage**
- **Helen & Andy Vandesande** - Some good news for us to share. We sold our house, an absolute answer to prayer. We are moving July 23 to Bath Ont. We bought a Freehold townhouse in Loyalist Golf and Country Club. Excited about our next adventure, will miss Perth and St. Andrews but feel this is the right move for us.
- **Dave Crawley & Paul Thompson**
- **University and College Students** (Holly, Caitlin, Colleen, Jonathan, Liam, Caleb and Issac)
- **Angus Funston**
- **Shut-ins and Nursing Homes** (Elva Fair, Audrey Ferrier, Germaine Vanderklok, June O'Hara, Gwen Travis, Lyn Harrington, Bing Jeun, Jo Mott, Ruth McTavish, Jackie & Brian Stapledon – Karen McKim's parents, Nellie Larabie)
- **St. Andrew's** – Thanks to our Board of Managers for all the work they do handling finances, repairing our church and maintaining the grounds even though we can't worship there. Much of the new carpet is down in the sanctuary. The men are awaiting cooler weather to finish the work in the courtyard.
- **Rick & Colleen Richardson and their daughter Deborah Richardson.**
- **Richard Hendry** – Richard has been notified of his appointment date for his MRI – Saturday, June 27th at 2pm.

Closing Hymn:**“How Great Are You Lord” - Robin Mark**

(Click on the link below to play the hymn. Lyrics will be displayed on the screen.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLepg4hJrWg>

How great are You Lord
 How great is Your mercy
 How great are the things
 That You have done for me
 How great are You Lord
 Your loving kindness
 Is filling my heart as I sing
 How great are You Lord

How great is Your love
 It reaches to the heavens
 How great is the heart
 That sought and rescued me

Benediction

Go now as those who have been brought from death to life,
 and welcome the Christ in all whom you meet.

Present yourselves to God
 to be put to work in the service of righteousness.

And may God provide for you in mercy;
 May Christ Jesus greet you as you welcome the stranger;
 And may the Holy Spirit lead you in the ways
 of sanctification and eternal life.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.



On Palm Sunday and on Easter Sunday the Churches of
 Perth Rang Their Bells

(Click on the link below to play)

[St. Andrew's Perth- Bell Ringing](#) (short version)

[St. John's Perth-Bell Ringing](#) (short version)

[St. James Perth - Bell Ringing](#) (short version)

St. Andrew's and St. John's are continuing the Sunday 12-12:10 pm ringing of the bells as a reminder of the Easter Season as well as a call to pray for all aspects of the current crisis and everyone affected. We will continue to ring the bell of St. Andrew's until the Sunday church services resume.