

The book of Nehemiah

describes the Jews returning from exile to find Jerusalem destroyed and permeated by injustice. With the wall rebuilt, they gathered again as God's people. Hearing Ezra read God's words, they wept in despair, realizing the suffering their sins had caused.

Then Ezra spoke words of hope: "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10 NIV).

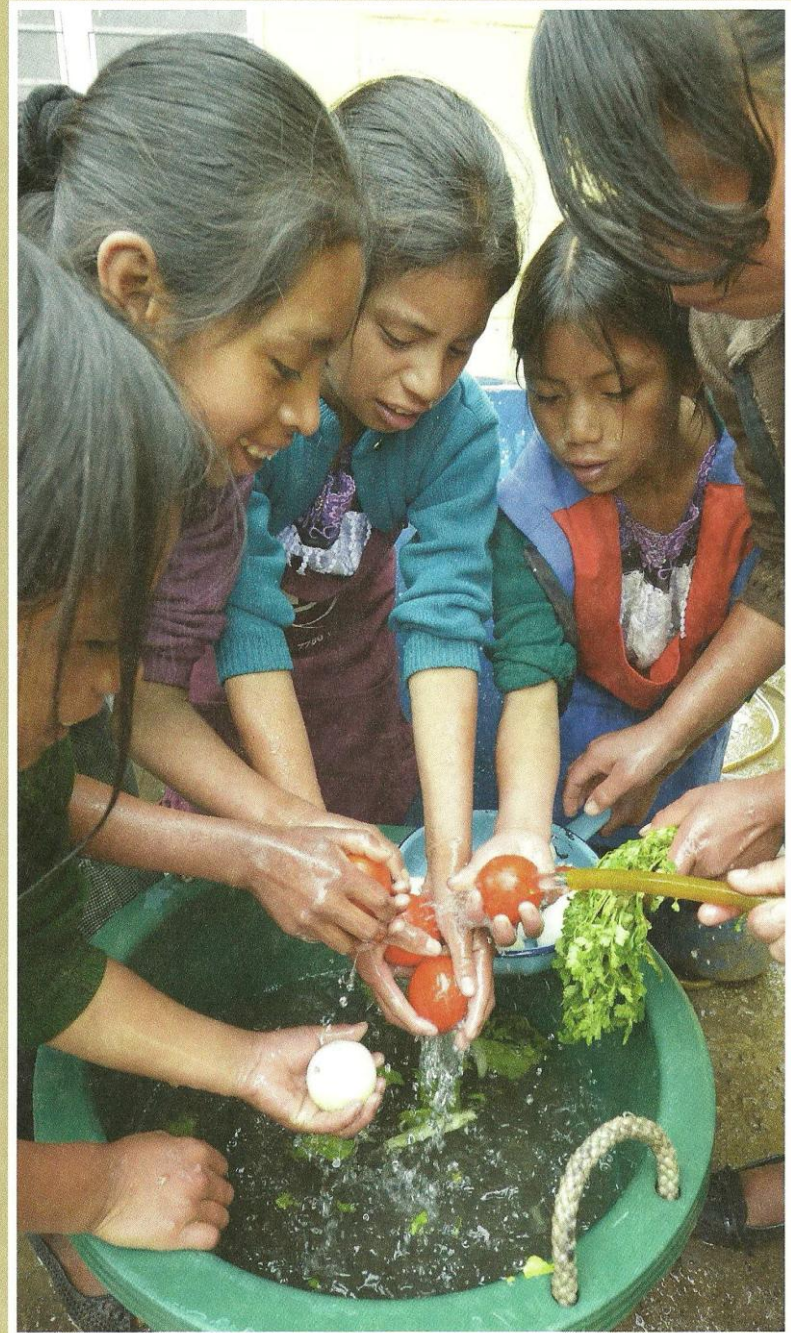
God speaks these same words to us today even while we despair, feel sad, cause pain, see injustice. In God there is hope; there is grace; there is a way back. God's Word strengthens and draws us into community. When we allow God's Word to take root in our lives we can enjoy abundant life and share our blessings. It is this sacred balance – between recognizing and sharing our blessings – that brings justice to the world and connects us to the joy of life in Christ.

Jen de Combe is the Executive Director of Tyndale St-Georges
Community Centre in Montreal, QC.

Photo: Guatemala, photo by Paul Jeffrey, PWS&D



240116



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, January 24, 2016

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Please stand at items marked * if you are able.
Passages in **Bold Print** are to be spoken in Unison
Organ Prelude – Hymn and Quiet Reflection

"Be Still and Know that
I am God" (Ps. 46: 10)
Please take the time before the
service as an opportunity to
quietly prepare your heart
and mind for worship.

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Susan Mattinson

Organist - Carol Wehrstedt Music Director- Kendall House

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

* Entry of the Bible

Introit

Call to Worship

* Hymn: *"To God be the glory"* #350

Opening Prayer:

Creating and Sustaining God, you created the earth and all that is in it. Your Son, Jesus, came to bring good news to the poor, release to prisoners, sight to the blind, and liberation to the oppressed. Jesus came to proclaim that the time had come when God would save the people. We hear this good news, but fail to live into its power. We prefer to stand back and let someone else care for your world and your people. We fail to bring hope and healing to the people and situations around us. We do not live as though our Saviour has come. We do not proclaim the good news. Forgive us, God, and strengthen us in the knowledge that in Christ we are set free. Our sight is restored and we can live confidently and generously knowing that our Saviour has come. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Choir Anthem

* Children's Hymn: *"We are one in the Spirit"* #471

(last verse to be sung after Children's Time)

Children's Time

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Preparation 452 (v.2)

Breathe the Holy Spirit into every heart;
bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart.

Bible Readings:

Deuteronomy 7: 7-11	P. 164	O.T.
Psalms 34: 1-10	P. 508	O.T.
1 Corinthians 12: 14-26	P. 174	N.T.

Gloria Patri:

594

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Sermon: "One Body"

Special Music: "Jesus lover of my soul" by Lloyd Jones

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Tithes and Offerings

* Offertory Response

275

Let every creature rise and bring the honours due our glorious King; angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the long amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Glorious God, the beauty in your creation is awesome. We are often speechless by the majesty of your mountains, oceans, forests, and rivers. Yet, you enthrall us with something even as small as a fragile snowflake or a grain of sand. Your genius and power is manifest in the natural world. We share these gifts as stewards of your magnificent creation. We affirm our responsibility to use natural resources in God-honouring ways. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (debtsdebtors)

WE GO OUT TO SERVE

* Hymn: *"Now thank we all our God"* #457

Blessing

Response:

Praise the Lord from whom all blessings flow.
He has washed and made me white as snow.
I'm redeemed from all my sin and shame.
Now and forever, praise his holy name.
Praise his holy name. Praise his holy name.
To God be the glory now and forever.
Praise his holy name!



Upcoming Events at First

Mon., Jan. 25th - Cards afternoon - 1 pm
 Thurs., Jan. 28th - Bible Study - 10 am
 - Choir Practice - 7 pm
 Sat., Jan. 30th - Human Sexuality II - 10 am
 Sun., Jan 31st - Service at Pinewood - 2 pm
 Court Nursing Home
 Tues., Feb, 2nd - More than Mission - 1 pm



Thank you this week to:

Greeters: Betty Irwin and Betty Irving
Lay Reader: Richard Noy
Fellowship Time: Val Calder and Isobel Telford
Elevator Operator: Russ Brown
Offering Counting: Betty Ann Burn, Ruth George, Beth Workman
Offering Collection: R. Brown, J. Nystrom, J. Taylor. B. Seabrook
Phoning/Visiting: Joan Anderson

Next week's volunteers: Jan. 31st

Greeters: Betty Irwin and Betty Irving
Lay Reader: Lynae Grace
Fellowship Time: Alice and Laird Morrison
Elevator Operator: Doug Brown
Offering Counting: Joyce Nystrom and Brenda Seabrook
Offering Collection: R. Brown, J. Nystrom, J. Taylor. B. Seabrook
Phoning/Visiting: Joan Anderson



Upcoming More than Muffin sale

**NEXT SUNDAY
 after service.**



More Than Mission will have a bake sale on Jan. 31st in support of PWS&D's program in Malawi which provides a women's self-help group with training. Funds will be matched by the Government of Canada. Our goal for 2016 is to raise \$870!

The Board of Managers is pleased to announce that we finished 2015 with a surplus! As a result, the decision was made at the January meeting of the Board, to replace the money taken from Mission reserve in 2015, as well as to disburse the remaining amounts for the 2015 mission projects, using money from the operating account.

The Board would like to thank members of the congregation for their continued support and a special thanks to members who arranged for, worked at, or attended the special events organized this year! Thanks also to those who are participating in the electronic givings program and to Sandy Allan for her efforts in promoting and organizing the system.

Notes from Session - Jan/16

- Carol Wehrstedt will play the organ until Jan 24. She and Leo will go to Florida for Feb-Apr.
- Meta Evans' resignation from Session was regretfully accepted. She has moved to Ottawa to be with her 3 daughters and their families. Thanks and Best Wishes have been sent.
- Session voted to use the wording of the Lord's Prayer from the Hymn book #535
- Rev Mattinson and Rev Yanishewski (St. Andrew's) will participate in a professional development study for relatively new ministers, one afternoon monthly for 6 months via a live e-classroom at Knox College
- Presbytery reps from Geraldton, Calvin, Lakeview, First and St Andrew's will meet at our church on Fri Feb 5
- Scouts will attend our service on Feb 21, Baden Powell Sunday
- Presbytery Visitation is also scheduled at 1st Pres on that weekend of Feb 20/21
- The Annual General Meeting will be held on Feb 28. Scouts will provide lunch
- Celtic Music Night on Sat April 16 will be held at our church in conjunction with the Thunder Bay Pipe Band. Admission will be \$10. During intermission, tea, coffee and dainties will be available for purchase in the hall downstairs. More details will follow. Mark your calendars and bring your friends. It will be a fun night!



Reminder:

Please bring in food bank donations for next Sunday