



The Beacon – The Anglican Church of St. Luke

1513 Dixie Road, Mississauga, ON L5E 2P7

Phone 905-278-1811

Email – stlukes@eol.ca

Volume 55 – Number 10 – November 2011

Excerpts from the Sermon Preached for St. Luke's' Patronal Festival - Sunday, October 23, 2011

Luke, the Saint we commemorate today was an evangelist for Christ, disciple, teacher, artist and physician. An educated man. A gentile in that we believe he was Greek by birth. He was a man who followed Christ's ministry into a life long witness of poverty, prayer and "purity of heart". We attribute one of our four gospels to this man --- as well as the Book of Acts. And as scholars teach us that Acts is the oldest book of the New Testament – we can conclude that Luke has gifted to us the most authentic of writings about the life of the early Christian church.

Luke grounds us into the most intimate and comprehensive dynamics of the forming of our early church. The questions, the tensions; the debates, divisions and petty politics of the Christian community centuries ago are all there to be seen and understood between the lines of some of the most sophisticated and beautiful prose we have.

Interestingly - Luke is often symbolized within the Christian imagery of the Ox – the supreme beast of sacrifice within the ancient Jewish traditions of sacrificial offerings upon the altar in Jerusalem. Such symbolism is rooted within the opening verses of Luke's gospel which recount the sacrifice of an ox by the temple priest Zechariah who hears an angel prophesize the birth of his son John who would later be known as the Baptist.

As such – Luke's Ox has come to symbolize the sacrificial giving of one's life over to Christ. The Ox is the supreme sacrifice offered to the Old Testament God Yahweh – Luke therefore heralds in a new sacrifice --- a new law --- a new understanding of God "present and amongst us".

Luke is more commonly understood to be the patron Saint of doctors and surgeons. Luke speaks to us of the power and importance of prayer within the very scientific practice of healing.

Larry Dossey, a well known American author and physician was influential in my understanding of

health, healing and prayer when he documented in his book entitled **Healing Words** that "*something happens when individuals are prayed over, anointed with holy oil or are simply remembered in the private thoughts of strangers or the intercessions of church liturgies.*"

A seminal research paper entitled **Spirituality and Medical Practice**, authored in 2001 by two physicians at Brown's University School of Medicine in Rhode Island USA, concluded that the relationship between prayer, religious and spiritual care and modern practices of clinical health care must not be ignored or downplayed. The paper concluded that truly effective therapeutic interventions must include spiritual assessment and the provision of pastoral care and prayer as appropriate to the patient in order to maximize health and healing.

All of these observations – all by physicians seem, in our current technological age – remarkable. But don't we – as a community of faith – already know that what they advocate; prayer as integral to health ---- is true?

The mystery of healing is familiar to us all. And while no one – I would suggest – can explain the how and why of healing ministries, thousands can attest to its reality.

For if there is one overarching dynamic to our common Christian experience – it could very well be the experience of healing as contained within the crucible of our faith.

The mandate for faith based healing ministries is very clear. Nearly one fifth of the entire combined gospels of our faith are devoted to the healing ministries of Christ with over forty instances or acts of physical or mental healing recorded in our gospel texts.

Jesus was all about the bringing of a new and radical message of God's divine grace to his world.

And a significant part of that message involved the healing dynamic of belief in God.

Fundamental to Christ's great commission to His disciples was the command to not only teach His good news of God's love for all of humankind but to also bring healing to those afflicted with illness's of any kind.

And yet - for many of us – clear definitions of healing continue to elude us. Science as we know it – despite some research - is still not a helpful resource for understanding the dynamic of healing. Even our own church history – can be remarkably vague as to what healing ministries are or were and how we are supposed to go about “doing healing”.

It is therefore very fitting that on a day such as this when we mark and celebrate the life and ministry of Saint Luke, the physician who married the science of his day with the prayers of his faith – we ask ourselves --- what is healing? And more importantly – how do we go about the “doing of” healing?

Partial answers to these questions lie within not only the tradition of Luke's writings; for as Luke illuminates for us the truth of Christ's teachings in the stories he writes within his gospel and the book of Acts – so might the stories of our healing ministries point us towards at least, a contemporary partial answer.

We are called to be a faithful people – we are also called to be healing communities as well.

We celebrate Luke today – a man of skill and faith. Luke challenges us to know and understand that science and faith must always be co-creators in the

building of God's kingdom here on earth. One cannot survive without the other.

Luke also teaches us that ministries of healing are real and vibrant manifestations of God's holy action amongst us. If there is ever ready proof of the reality of the Holy Spirit – it is found in the midst of a prayerful community who are engaged in acts of healing.

And this parish I know bears witness to this truth through its ministries of holy anointing, pastoral visiting and prayer.

In an age of growing cynicism where organized religion is increasingly seen as old fashioned or redundant, I encourage all of us to remember well the truth told to us by the life and ministry of Luke.

That being – we live in a world where God's creative grace is experienced both through science and through faith. Each is made the more complete when each are called to complement one another. Let us therefore be bold in our proclamations ---

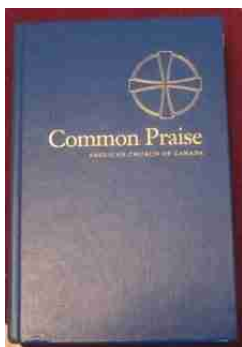
Within the operating rooms of our hospitals, the examination rooms of our community health clinics, the waiting rooms of our regional cancer centers, and the worship spaces of our churches –

God is with us. AMEN.

The Reverend Canon Douglas Graydon

Director of Chaplaincy for the Diocese of Toronto

+++++



At our St. Luke's Day celebrations the Rt. Rev. Philip Poole, area bishop of the York Credit Valley area of the Diocese of Toronto dedicated one hundred and seventy four copies of the new “Common Praise” hymn book. One hundred and thirty eight copies are “words only” and thirty six are “words with music.” Thank you to all members of the parish for your support of this project. Book plates will be installed and we will be using them in our worship services beginning Sunday, October 30th.

+++++

The ministry of healing will be offered at both services on Sunday, November 20th. 2011



It is with sadness that we report the death of Loretta Hammond, a long time member of the parish of St. Luke, on October 16, 2011. An overflow crowd of family and friends attended a service celebrating Loretta's life at St. Luke's on Saturday, October 22nd. Our condolences are extended to her husband Cyril and their five children, grandchildren and one great grandchild.



We also extend our sympathies to Margo Horton and members of the family, on the death of her mother, Doris. Doris Horton was interred in Prospect Cemetary on Friday, October 15th.

IT IS TIME TO PACK A SHOE BOX!

Shoe Boxes and Brochures will be available on Sunday, October 30th. for the annual "Operation Christmas Child" collection. The boxes this year will be going to children in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Argentina and Haiti.

Appropriate items for these boxes include school supplies, picture books, soap (in a plastic bag), tooth brushes, toys, socks, sunglasses, flip flops, small stuffed animals, hair clips, and t-shirts. Please no breakable items, ones that would leak or war toys.



All boxes should be returned on or before Nov. 20th. Let's do our best to bring Christ into the lives of these children.

St. Luke's Parish Dinner Report

What can we, your Outreach Committee say except "THANK YOU SO MUCH" for supporting the Patronal Festival Dinner held on Saturday, October 22nd. Ninety-seven were in attendance enjoying a most delicious roast beef dinner with all the trimmings—and then some. Thanks to ALL who helped put this function together with special appreciation to Father Ric for his excellent cooking of the roast beef, for which he is so well known. \$735. was raised for local outreach ministries. Lastly, remember No Frills, Dixie Mall who generously donated all salads, condiments and desserts.

OPEN DOOR DINNER-NOVEMBER 10, 2011

Thursday, November 10, 2011 members of the parish are committed to provide a hot dinner for approximately 40 guests at the "OPEN DOOR" at Square One. A sign-up sheet listing food requirements is posted in the Parish Hall. Your contribution should be brought to the church by 12:00 noon on Thursday, November 10th. Cash donations are also appreciated to be sure we have enough food for everyone. For further information contact Grace Harte.



+++++

SENIORS' LUNCHEON

Our next Seniors' Luncheon is Wednesday, November 16th at Gordon Graydon Secondary School Skylight Café, 11:45 am – 1:15 pm. Cost is \$8 per person, which includes salad, hot entrée, dessert, tea and coffee. If you are interested please contact Ellen Shilton at 276-7443 by Sunday, November 13th to reserve a spot, or sign the list at church located on the sidemen's table. Rides are available upon request. Perhaps invite a neighbour! This is a great venue to introduce community members to the fellowship of St. Luke's in an informal setting. Perhaps you know of someone in the neighbourhood who is alone and would appreciate some company.

Pastoral Care Visitors Please note: your meeting scheduled for Wed. Nov. 16th will be rescheduled due to the conflict of date with the Senior's Luncheon at Gordon Graydon Secondary School.

+++++

A REMINDER

Turn you clocks **BACK** one hour, Saturday, November 5th before heading to bed and enjoy an extra hours' sleep before heading out to church on Sunday morning.

+++++

Thank you – to Earl Butler for installing pamphlet and pencil racks on the back of our church pews.

ALSO

Thank you – to Joanne Wallace for the new headings on the bulletin boards. They look great.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays	8:30 am	HOLY EUCHARIST – COFFEE HOUR
	10:30 am	HOLY EUCHARIST – CHURCH SCHOOL, COFFEE HOUR
Wednesdays	9:15 am	HOLY EUCHARIST
	10:00 am	BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY
Thursdays	9:30 am	JOY IN THE MORNING
	7:30 pm	JOY REHEARSAL

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday, Nov. 1 & 15	1:30 pm	DORCAS GROUP MEETING
Thursday, November 10	1:30 pm	THREADS OF LOVE
Sunday, November 13	8:30 & 10:30 am	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 
Wednesday, November 16	11:45 am	SENIOR'S LUNCHEON – Gordon Graydon School
Sunday, November 20		COFFEE AND MUFFINS – SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCH Following 8:30 - Following 10:30 Return all "Operation Christmas Child" boxes. Ministry of Healing offered at both services
Sunday, November 27	8:30 & 10:30 am	ADVENT BEGINS 
	7:30 pm	ADVENT CAROL SERVICE-plan now to attend this special service as preparation for the coming of the Christ Child.
Monday, November 28	1:30 pm	PASTORAL CARE GROUP
Tuesday, November 29	7:30 pm	WORSHIP GROUP
Saturday, December 3	10:00 am	"FOCUS ON MINISTRY" –HUB MEETING OF ALL SIX PARISH GROUPS.
Sunday, December 18	7:30 pm	CAROLING IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD
Wednesday, December 21	7:30 pm	BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE – for those in a state of grief, loss or depression in anticipation of the Christmas season
Saturday, December 24	7:30 pm	FAMILY CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST
Sunday, December 25	10:30 am	CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST
Sunday, January 1/12	10:30 am	NEW YEAR'S DAY EUCHARIST