

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

traditional land of the Three Fires Confederacy: the Odawa, Potawatami and Ojibwe.

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Worship This Week Sept. 11, 2022

WELCOME:

TRIBUTE TO THE QUEEN

Our head of state in Canada – who is either the king or the queen – is also known as the “defender of the faith.” It’s a title and role which date back to the early 16th century. It’s not just the Church of England. The friendship between the Queen and Billy Graham in particular stands out. The Queen reached out to the great evangelist for wisdom and guidance.

A few words here from a biographer:

“Elizabeth’s request for prayer from her subjects and from others has been a way to ground and demonstrate her faith and the fact that it is personal. She’s not just going through the motions, she does want their engagement and their support, and prayer is an incredible way to do that. I think she’s keenly aware of her great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria, who had a very active, dynamic Christian faith and was very transparent about Bible reading, evangelism, and prayer. During the male monarchs, in between Victoria and Elizabeth, perhaps they were not as demonstrative or open about having a personal faith. That’s not to say that they didn’t have faith, they simply chose not to demonstrate it.

“But with Elizabeth—from the time that her Uncle David abdicated, which set in motion for her father to become King George VI and therefore for her to become the heir presumptive—she realized this was so much bigger and so much more overwhelming than she could imagine, and it was going to take spiritual and supernatural support.”

PRAYER:

Eternal God, before you all generations rise up and fall away, and in your grace, you provide leaders to serve and comfort us with wisdom and dedication. We give thanks for the life, Christian witness and service of Queen Elizabeth, whose

earthly life is now ended and who has entered into the joy and peace you have prepared through Jesus Christ. We thank you for her dedication to this nation and to the Commonwealth, and for all the rich gifts of wisdom and kindness she brought to her long decades. We bless you for the lives she touched, and for that radiant presence that reached out to others, bringing comfort in hard times, celebrating achievement and high endeavor, honouring courage and sacrificial service. We thank you for her cheerfulness and commitment, for the steadfast faith that sustained her all her days, and for the determination of her life in the cause of duty. We pray for her family and those who will take up her duties and responsibilities, especially our new King, Charles III. Send your Holy Spirit to comfort and give peace to all who mourn her death and the death of any loved one. Amen.

HYMN: God Save the King

A MINUTE OF SILENCE:

PRAISE SONGS: 500 Open my eyes that I may see, Each step of the way

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE – Colossians 2:3

In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

MESSAGE:

This is Part Two of Colossians 2:3. There's so much packed into this one sentence that we need to unpack it over two weeks. Treasures is taken from the Greek word *thésauros* (thay-sow-ros') which is we also get the word thesaurus. Imagine a treasure chest filled with gold coins and valuables.

Note the word "hidden." It's necessary to hide treasure to protect it. Christ's wisdom is hidden from the world and provided only to those who believe. Not that we're a secret society. We freely share everything we know with others. But we are only able to share what we have received. God provides infinite wisdom and knowledge to all – but in order to completely share in that wisdom and knowledge, we need to believe. Belief allows the Holy Spirit to open our eyes and our minds so that we can be in synch with God's will.

God's will is the key. There's our will and then there's God's will. All of our lives, we will be in constant tension between those two things. Those whose eyes and ears are open to the Holy Will of the Creator will be able to tap into the tree of life. All of that is largely hidden from those who do not believe.

The treasures of wisdom and knowledge can only be enjoyed by people who are part of the Body of Christ. When we become part of the family, we're written into the will, so to speak. If not, there's no inheritance.

There's another important way to understand this. Treasures are often hidden for the sake of keeping them safe. In this case, the knowledge and wisdom are kept in Christ, but made available to those who believe in Him. Paul sometimes spoke of the "hidden wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 2:7; see also Colossians 1:26; 3:3).

"All" the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Jesus. Paul expressed similar words in Romans 11:33: "Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!"

Wisdom means knowledge of the divine plan, previously hidden, of providing salvation. This can only come from God. And it shows up in Christ. There is no true wisdom outside of Christ.

Knowledge is what we know as humans. God opens our eyes to things that we would not accept as non believers. We know that we need Christ to be saved and to connect to God.

Wisdom and knowledge are different things. You can have a lot of knowledge in your head but not be very wise. You can be very wise yet not have much education. Being in Christ puts the two together. It's a powerful combination. Belonging to Christ is different than every other organization or group. It's about being part of a person.

From this, we can ask: what is it to have the mind of Christ?

Solomon is an example. The Bible says that Solomon was the wisest man, other than Jesus, who ever lived (1 Kings 3:12). Solomon often spoke of the association

of wisdom and knowledge (2 Chronicles 1:10– 12; Ecclesiastes 1:16; 2:21, 26). Paul's reference may also allude to Isaiah 33:6: "he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the LORD is Zion's treasure."

"Now, O LORD my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around. ⁸ And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! ⁹ Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?" ¹⁰ The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. ¹¹ So God replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies— ¹² I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! ¹³ And I will also give you what you did not ask for—riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life! ¹⁴ And if you follow me and obey my decrees and my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life."

Solomon was praying to God the Father, but it's the Lord Jesus who was with him and the holy Spirit who empowered.

There is no true wisdom outside of Christ.

All of this is available to us – even today. The opportunity awaits. The invitation is there. Are we willing to submit our entire beings, every corner of our lives in complete trust and faith to Christ?

HYMN 461 Be thou my vision