

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

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

Box 93, Dresden, Ontario N0P 1M0

519-683-2442 standrewspcdresden@gmail.com Rev. Andy Cornell

Worship This Week Oct. 9, 2022

WELCOME:

PRAISE SONGS: Praise the Lord with the sounds of trumpet, 10,000 Reasons

YOUNG & YOUNG AT HEART -- Rita

SONG: the B-I-B-L-E

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PRAYER:

SCRIPTURE – Colossians 2:5

For though I am far away from you, my heart is with you. And I rejoice that you are living as you should and that your faith in Christ is strong.

MESSAGE:

We remain in this verse for a third week. To recap the major points we made the last two weeks.

1. To grow personally in Christ and to be able to take our faith into the world, we need a heavy-duty faith. Do we believe with all of our heart, and our mind?
2. Does our faith result in a lifestyle that's different than everyone else. Too many churches are trying to fit in with the culture. We have not set ourselves part and offered an alternative to the ways of this world. Too many churches look like a service club or just offer a feel-good message to help you get through the week.

Our Lord's final words to us were to go into the world, baptize and teach. It's the Great Commission. Marching orders from the King. Let's ask ourselves today, How do we go into the world with the message of Christ, proclaiming Him as the way, the truth and life? Do we remind the world that we are sinners and can only be made clean and right in the eyes of God through Christ? Yes, those are tall orders.

But let's also remember what Christ said immediately after: "I am with you always, to the end of the age." Not future tense. Present.

All the ingredients are here for revival. What's stopping it?

Last week, I shared the quote from the 19th century evangelist R.A. Torrey, who was at the centre of the last great awakening. He stated that "Great revivals always begin in the hearts of a few men and women whom God arouses by his Spirit to believe in Him as a Living God, as a God who answers prayer, and upon whose heart He lays a burden from which no rest can be found except in importunate (dedicated unceasing) crying to God."

Call on Him and He will be there. Faithful believers throughout the ages have done that. They have been strengthened, they have thrived. It's how revivals and awakening happen. Pray, pray and pray some more.

This all leads us to the final message from Colossians 2:5. "For though I am far away from you, my heart is with you. And I rejoice that you are living as you should and that your faith in Christ is strong." When people are living as they should and their faith is strong – and where we have a critical number of people praying, revival happens.

Torrey paid attention to the characteristics of places where revival was taking place in the last Great Awakening. What did they have in common. He had a list of six things.

1. **Prayer.** "Prayer is the vital breath of a true revival."
2. **The** person of The Holy Spirit. We are invited to allow the Spirit to work. Witness the early church detailed in Acts, where the Spirit chose the leaders and directed their paths.
3. **Trust** in The Holy Spirit to provide the power and the means. "For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true." 1 Thessalonians 1:5.
4. **Allow** The Holy Spirit to convict us of our sins. And we are all sinners. There's no holier than thou. If we are tempted to point fingers, God will

point them right back at us. What we are to do is model Godly living and allow the Holy Spirit to convict. If revival is about people being saved and transformed, then they must naturally be willing to turn away from false beliefs and sinful lifestyles. There is no way we can do this on our own with our own words. God Himself must be allowed to speak to people directly.

5. **Allow** The Holy Spirit to bring regeneration – new life.

Three things are involved: sanctification, consecration and being filled. Let's break this down.

Sanctification is about being made holy. Holiness is about having the Spirit of Christ in us. It means we die to ourselves. It requires tough choices, setting ourselves apart. There's a movement within the church "God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:2

Consecration. When a church is built, we have a ceremony in which it's formally dedicated to the Lord. Everything that happens here is focused on the Great Commission. Any use of the building has to be approved by the elders. That's all good, but what's more important is consecration of the financial resources and our time. Between the elders and myself, we need to discern the best use of what God has given us, and that includes my time. If what we are doing is in God's will, then the Holy Spirit will bless it.

Which brings us to the third part – being filled with the Spirit. This may be the most difficult. Are we open to be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to do God's work? You may notice when I say the benediction that I invite not only the fellowship of the Holy Spirit but also the power. Power is defined as the ability to make things happen. On our own, in the flesh, we may have certain power by virtue of our position in the community, how much money we have and what we do for a living. All can be effective for the Kingdom. But God can also use people who have little power in the eyes of this world. God uses not only the economically poor but the those who realise that whatever power we have in our human lives can't be taken with us. It's the spiritual wealth that we store in heaven that will be with us when we depart. It's why we say, in The Lord's Prayer, "for thine is the

Kingdom, the power and the glory.” God’s Kingdom is what really matters, because it endures for eternity. It’s a cosmic reality that we don’t live in these bodies forever and this world will pass away. To put all of our faith and passion into this life without regard to our place in the Kingdom is foolish.

Just before Jesus spoke his parting words, He said this: “I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” Luke 24:48-49.

Clothed in power. God is not a vending machine or a drive-thru. We don’t just place the order and receive it at a window. We have to ask with all of our heart and mind and strength. We have to be willing to empty ourselves of our selfishness and make room for Him.

Bottom line is – once again – submission. God, you gave me this life, this body, these people around me, these talents and gifts, citizenship in this nation and residence in this town. It’s all for you and your power and glory.

If enough of us not only said that but truly meant it – watch out. There’s no limit to what God can do.

“The Holy Spirit is always willing and anxious to do his work if the proper conditions are supplied.” Torrey, 7.

Again, I point to the fact that we have all the ingredients for revival. As Billy Graham pointed out, we have a great Christian foundation in Canada. We could become world leaders. Small towns from coast to coast such as Dresden could play a huge role in that. Big cities too. True believers are found everywhere.

We can start by declaring our need for God. To put everything at the foot of the cross, not only our problems but also our gifts – especially our gifts – in an attitude of gratitude for each waking moment.

Surrender. And “be clothed with power from on high.”

“When any church can be brought to the place where they will recognize their need of The Holy Spirit, and take their eyes off from all men, and surrender

absolutely to The Holy Spirit's control, and give themselves to much prayer for His outpouring, **and present** themselves as His agents, having stored the word of God in their hearts and heads, and then to the Holy Spirit to give it power as it falls from their lips, a mighty revival in the power of the Holy Ghost is inevitable." Torrey, 7.

Inevitable. I love that. That's not delusional or even wishful thinking. It's a sign of absolute trust in the power and the glory. This isn't religion. It's actually spiritual common sense. We all know that life begins and ends – it's a no brainer. But too many of us focus on being comfortable for the 80 or maybe 90 years most of us have in these bodies. That is so short sighted.

We are so focused on being clothed with the comforts of this life, when we could be asking to be "clothed with power from on high." Both are possible. You can be rich and filled the Holy Spirit or you can be poor and be equally alive spiritually. Remember how Jesus said, "Seek first the Kingdom of God?" That's what's most important. God will take care of us according to his will. He won't let us down. He will give us what we need if we are working for him.

What if this place was filled with people who made it a priority to seek that? What if a hundred other congregations from coast to coast did the same thing?

What if we made room in our hearts and minds and busy lives and invited the Holy Spirit's power to occupy every room in our homes and buildings. What if we made space for him on our streets, in our social media, in our communities. What if the church became – once again – the community centre? But this time, we actually put the Holy Spirit of Christ at the centre?

"I will pour out my Spirit on all people," The Lord spoke to the prophet Joel. "Your sons and daughters will prophecy. Your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth . . ." Joel 2:28-30.

Amen

HYMN: Come ye thankful people come

ELDER NOMINATIONS

For the first time in many years, Session is inviting nominations for the office of elder.

Elders are the spiritual leaders of the congregation. Everything that happens in the congregation comes under their supervision. Through membership on Session, they work closely with the minister in:

- supervision and oversight of the congregation
- membership and pastoral care
- worship, including participation in the sacraments
- Christian education
- stewardship and mission
- relating to (and taking turns to serve on) Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly.

With the minister, who acts as the moderator (chair) of Session, elders lead the congregation in its fellowship (its ministry to one another) and in its mission (its ministry to the world). Elders seek the will of God for the congregation so they can lead it in the direction they believe Jesus would have it go. They seek to model themselves after Jesus as they listen to people and serve the church.

Qualifications of elder – See 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9:

- a committed Christian whose faith is central to their life
- regularly participate in the life of the congregation
- show a personal concern for others, inside and outside the church
- have sound judgment for decision making
- can collaborate as a team member
- are able to give time and effort to this role
- live an honest and respectable life that can be an example to others
- are willing to learn about serving and leading others in faithful living
- are knowledgeable about church governance or willing to learn about it

If someone comes to mind, approach them first and ask if they would be willing to stand. Names can be submitted anytime during the Oct. 9-30 nomination period. Nominations must be in writing and signed by two members of the congregation. Bring them on Sunday or drop them off during the week in the church mailbox.

Session, acting as the nomination committee, will review the names on Nov. 1, conduct interviews and discern whether the nominees are qualified. An important factor is divine calling: the existing session and the nominee will discern whether God is truly calling them to serve. Once session has nominees, they are presented to the congregation for final approval. (This elder election process follows PCC guidelines.)

Questions or comments? Talk to Pastor Andy or any of the existing members of Session: Cindy Brewer, Sheila Eves, Mark Labadie, Mark Richards or Julie Shaw.

IMPORTANT NOTE: In the PCC, a congregation's financial and building management is delegated by Session to a Board of Managers, whose members have a somewhat different set of skills. Members of the Board are elected by the congregation for specific terms, which is done during the annual meeting. Both Session and the Board play a vital role in the health and management of the congregation.

GIVING:

E-transfer to pcvan1313@gmail.com. Leave envelope in the black locked box at the hall entrance, or if you have a key, leave your donation in the treasurer's mailbox

Mail it to the church, PO Box 93 Dresden. NOP 1M0. Put it in the mailbox at the home of treasurer Paul Vandebogaerde. 1313 North Street, Dresden. Telephone number 519-683-6194

GIFT CARDS – You pay face value for the gift cards and the church buys them at a discount through Chatham Christian Schools. Next deadline Oct. 30.