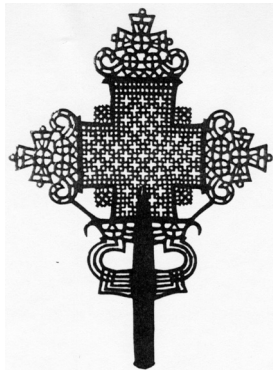


THE CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

240 Avenue Road, Toronto M5R 2J4

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HOLY EUCHARIST *The Eighth Sunday after Epiphany*

February 27, 2011 ✠ 10.30 a.m.

Today we celebrate the contributions of Black Christians to our common understanding of God's work among us. God wills for all the people of the earth to be free from all forms of slavery, that united by bonds of love we may serve God and each other. In North America we remember the struggle of our brothers and sisters of African descent to lift the bonds of oppression in the new world even as we celebrate the legacy of music and culture they gave all of us.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

We gather in quiet prayer or meditation

PRELUDE

After the sounding of the bell, stand as the opening hymn is sung.

HYMN

"HEALING HANDS"

APOSTOLIC GREETING

President: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: Let us pray,
God of peace, thank you for a society that honors the achievements and sacrifices of all people. This February, bless all who, in the spirit of Black History Month, seek to bring Your world together, rather than to tear it apart. Show us how your Gospel brings freedom to those who are near and those who are far. Bless all Your beloved children, Loving Father, and teach us to live together in peace, now and always.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 49:8-13

Israel, in exile, is said to be "barren"- unable to bring about her own future. Yet God, through the prophet, promises to be faithful and grant a salvation that is not merely spiritual in character, but has physical and political ramifications, as well. This is welcome news, indeed, to a people oppressed.

Thus says the Lord:
In a time of favour I have answered you,
on a day of salvation I have helped you;
I have kept you and given you
as a covenant to the people,*
to establish the land,
to apportion the desolate heritages;
saying to the prisoners, 'Come out,'
to those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.'
They shall feed along the ways,
on all the bare heights* shall be their pasture;
they shall not hunger or thirst,
neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down,
for he who has pity on them will lead them,
and by springs of water will guide them.
And I will turn all my mountains into a road,
and my highways shall be raised up.
Lo, these shall come from far away,
and lo, these from the north and from the west,
and these from the land of Syene.*

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
break forth, O mountains, into singing!
For the Lord has comforted his people,
and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

At the conclusion of the passage, the reader says

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

All stand for the reading of the Gospel.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 8.31-36

Gospellor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Gospellor: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, ‘If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’

They answered him, ‘We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, “You will be made free”?’

Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there for ever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.’

Gospellor: The Holy Gospel of Christ

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Please be seated.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PRESENTATION

Mr. Glenn Marais

Jesus, addressing faithful Jews who had come to follow him, makes clear that the freedom he offers is from sin. He is the Truth, the one perfect Word expressing God’s love.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

THE PEACE

Presider: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

The congregation greets each other and offers a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN

(Paperless)

Freedom Come

Ben Allaway

Chorus: *Freedom Come! Freedom Come!*
Alleluia, Alleulia, Alleulia!

PRAYERS

The Presider offers prayers and thanksgiving for the congregation gathered, the church, and the world.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Presider: let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider: Eternal God, Source of all being,
we give you thanks and praise
for your faithful love.
You call us into friendship
with you and one another
to be your holy people,
a sign of your presence in the world.

When those we trust betray us,
unfailingly you remain with us.
When we injure others,

*This Eucharistic Prayer
("S2") is taken from
Eucharistic Prayers,
Services of the Word,
and Night Prayer:
Supplementary to The
Book of Alternative
Services. It was chosen
for its Social Justice
Themes and resonance
with the captivity and
freedom images that
appear elsewhere in
today's worship.*

you confront us in your love
and call us to the paths of righteousness.
You stand with the weak,
and those, broken and alone,
whom you have always welcomed home,
making the first last, and the last first.

Presider: Therefore we raise our voices
with angels and archangels,
forever praising you and saying:

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider: Blessed are you, O Holy One:
when Hagar was driven into the wilderness
you followed her and gave her hope.
When Joseph was sold into bondage,
you turned malice to your people's good.
When you called Israel out of slavery,
you brought them through the wilderness
into the promised land.
When your people were taken into exile
you wept with them by the river of Babylon
and carried them home.
Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

All: **Restore us, O God, let your face shine!**

Presider: At the right time you sent your Anointed One
to stand with the poor,
the outcast, and the oppressed.
Jesus touched lepers, and the sick, and healed them.
He accepted water from a woman of Samaria
and offered her the water of new life.

Christ knew the desolation of the cross
and opened the way for all humanity
into the redemption of your reconciling love.

Presider: On the night he was betrayed,
Jesus, at supper with his friends,
took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread,
gave it to them, and said, “Take and eat:
this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Presider: After supper he took the cup of wine,
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them,
and said, “Drink this, all of you:
this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Presider: Loving and Holy One,
recalling Christ’s death and resurrection,
we offer you these gifts,
longing for the bread of tomorrow
and the wine of the age to come.

Therefore we proclaim our hope.
**All: Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Presider: Pour out your Spirit on these gifts
that through them you may sustain us
in our hunger for your peace.
We hold before you
all whose lives are marked by suffering,
our sisters and brothers.

When we are broken and cast aside,
embrace us in your love.

All: Restore us, O God, let your face shine!
Restore us, O God, let your face shine!

Presider: Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
O Source of all life,
now and for ever.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Presider: And now, as our Saviour Christ
has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: **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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Presider: "I am the bread of life," says the Lord.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry;
whoever believes in me will never thirst."

All: **Taste and see that the Lord is good;**
happy are they who trust in him!

COMMUNION

Please come forward to receive communion as invited by the sidespersons. If you wish to receive a blessing, indicate this by crossing your arms in front of your chest as the communion ministers approach. All baptized Christians are invited to receive communion.

HYMN

Guide My Feet

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GUIDE MY FEET

Leader All

1 Guide my feet while I run this race. Yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet while I run this race. Yes, my Lord!

Guide my feet while I run this race, for I don't want to run this race in vain! (race in vain!)

“Guide my Feet” is a traditional African-American Spiritual. It was harmonized by Wendel Whalum (1932-1987).

- 2 Hold my hand...
- 3 Stand by me...
- 4 I'm your child...
- 5 Search my heart...
- 6 Guide my feet...

CHOIR ANTHEM

Like a Child

Glenn Marais

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Presider: Let us pray.
Merciful God, whose love draws in to share
in the one bread and the one cup,
send us out to live as one in Christ
and to work for the salvation of all.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POST COMMUNION DOXOLOGY

Presider: Glory to God,
All: whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Presider: God the Father, the Majestic Glory; God the Son, the
Morning Star; and God the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, bless
you and grant you peace.

All: Amen.

Assistant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

FINAL HYMN

Take me Higher

Glenn Marais

GLENN MARAIS

Glenn Marais is a singer/songwriter who uses his music for healing and hope through his company, Music in Mind. He teaches character education through music, motivational speaking, curriculum kits, workshops, activities and school assemblies to thousands of students inspiring them to get involved locally and globally with his universal motto, "Give to Live". His groundbreaking educational kit, Songs in the Key of Character, teaches character traits through ten songs and activities. Glenn traveled to Africa to film a video for his song, "Like a Child" that went to number one on Much More Music, and a documentary on the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa. The CD/DVD of Like a Child raises money and awareness for the children of Africa. The song and video were featured at the International AIDS Conference in Toronto in 2006 and Glenn closed the conference with a live performance in front of 7000 people that was broadcast around the world. He is currently raising funds for the Cotlands Orphanage in Cape Town South Africa, under the Kids for Cotlands campaign. \$75 000 has been raised to date. He orchestrated the One Candle campaign in Dec.2007 to raise money for families of Canadian Military personal in the Afghanistan War, www.onecandle.ca. He recently composed a song, "On the Shoulders of Giants" that was selected by the Nelson Mandela Children's Foundation to commemorate Nelson Mandela's upcoming 90th birthday.

Glenn has been nominated for a Juno award for the song, "Everybody Wants to be like You", by the artist Snow. The song is the 5th most played song in Canadian History.

Glenn believes strongly in empowering and educating our young people to become the voice of change that we need to see in our world.

www.likeachild.ca



Ministry Team

The Rev. W. Tay Moss, AHC
INCUMBENT

The Rev. Canon John W.B. Hill
HONOURARY ASSISTANT

The Rev. Dr. Catherine Keating
THEOLOGICAL STUDENT

Nancy Springer
THEOLOGICAL STUDENT

Kerrie Fulton
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Caroline Archer-Barnes
Thaddeus Gacci
Charles Waterman
WARDENS

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WELCOME!

We gather each Sunday to read and reflect on scripture, and to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection. We do this in thoughtful ways, formed by tradition, yet unafraid to be innovative and challenging.

We are pleased you are worshipping with us today. We invite you to complete the "Visitors Card" in the back of the chairs and leave it with our ushers or on the offering plate. Your presence is a gift.

Children are full members of our church and we welcome their presence. Sunday School is available for children on most Sundays, however we ask that children remain with their parents today to enjoy the special Black History Month service. Activity kits are available from the sidespersons.

All baptized Christians (including children) are welcome to receive Communion. If you prefer not to receive, come forward for a blessing (simply cross your hands in front of your chest).

Please join us after the service for coffee and refreshments.

Readings for Next Sunday

Sunday, March 6 - Last Sunday after The Epiphany
Exodus 24.12-18, Psalm 2, 2 Peter 1.16-21, Matthew 17.1-9
Musical Guests: "Infinitely More"

Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Supper

Please remember to join us on March 8th beginning at 5.30 p.m. for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Please see Betsy Moss if you want more information or want to help out.

Ash Wednesday - The Solemn Ashes

Lent begins with the solemn imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. at the church.