

FARRINGDON CHURCH



***'THEY WERE DEEPLY OFFENDED
AND REFUSED TO BELIEVE IN HIM.'***

MATTHEW 13:55

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022

WELCOME TO FARRINGDON!

Thank you for joining our worship service.

Everything you need for the service is in this bulletin.

Hymn books and Bibles are in the pew racks.

Hand sanitizers are provided throughout the building. Please, use them.

Wearing a mask is now optional, as per provincial regulations.

Washrooms are downstairs: one is a barrier-free washroom below the Narthex, two more are in the Christian Education wing, accessible via the elevator or stairs. Just ask for directions.

Children are a special part of our church so we include a Children's time in the worship service. After this, children go with Katelyn to the conference room for Sunday School.

Sunday School is available to children ages 5-12 . There is no nursery care at this time due to health precautions. If your child wishes to remain with you in the service, that is fine. All parents must pick up their children from Sunday School.

The **offering** is a member responsibility. So, if you are visiting, simply, be our guest. All who include their name and mailing information on an offering envelope will receive a tax-deductible receipt. Offering plates are at the front and rear exits.

Corporate communion is held on the second Sunday of each month.

If you are looking for a **home church**, please speak to Rev. Mike after the service to learn more about how Farringdon can help you.

A warm welcome to all first-time **visitors!** Introduce yourself to Rev. Mike after, and we'll thank you with a **welcome gift.**



OPENING HYMN: TO GOD BE THE GLORY (66)

*1: To God be the glory, great things He hath done
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin
And opened the life-gate that all may go in*

*Chorus: Praise the Lord (X2), let the earth hear His voice
Praise the Lord (X2), let the people rejoice
O, come to the Father through Jesus, the Son
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done*

*2: O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood
To every believer the promise of God
The vilest offender who truly believes
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives*

*3: Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done
And great our rejoicing through Jesus, the Son
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see*

—ANNOUNCEMENTS—

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:	Ezekiel 3:1-11
(After lesson)	Leader: The word of the Lord
	People: Thanks be to God

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:	Matthew 13:53-58
(After lesson)	Leader: The word of the Lord
	People: Thanks be to God

THE LORD'S PRAYER (IN UNISON):

**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
forever and ever, Amen.

CHILDREN'S HYMN: HIS NAME IS WONDERFUL (102)

*His name is wonderful (X3), Jesus, my Lord
He is the mighty king, master of everything
His name is wonderful, Jesus, my Lord*

*He's the great shepherd, the rock of all ages
Almighty God is he.
Bow down before him, love and adore him
His name is wonderful, Jesus, my Lord*

CHILDREN'S TIME WITH KATELYN HINES

(Children remain in pews until Katelyn takes them to Sunday school.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

*Holy Father, we confess our sins to you.
We have dirty hands and hard hearts.
We have ignored those in need.
Forgive us for putting other gods before you.
Have mercy on us and wash our sins away.
We pray in the name of your Son,
whose blood will cleanse every stain. Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

HYMN: THERE IS A REDEEMER (117)

*1: There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Ho-ly One*

*Chorus: Thank you, O my Father for giving us your Son
and leaving your Spirit till the work on earth is done*

*2: Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain*

*3: When I stand in glory, I will see His face
There, I'll serve my King forever in that holy place*

SERMON: JESUS: HERO OR ZERO?

Do you like the TV shows where ordinary folk, like you and me, can show off our skills to a panel of judges, who then vote either 'yay' or 'nay'? On TV shows like Masterchef Canada, America's Got Talent, and The Voice the judges either give you a golden ticket or send you home based on your performance. I like these shows.

I especially like it when someone who's rejected on those shows doesn't give up. They go on after the show to prove that the judges were wrong: like Mandisa, a singer. She was on 'The Voice' 16 years ago, and Simon criticised her harshly, as usual, because that's his schtick. Despite having a beautiful voice, Mandisa was rejected.

But, she didn't quit singing. In fact, she sang all the more. Since leaving 'The Voice', Mandisa has recorded 7 albums, 4 of which were nominated for Grammy Awards. In 2014, she won the Grammy for best Christian album. She's been nominated 4 times at the Dove Awards as the best female singer and has sold a million albums. On the show, one man gave her a 'zero', but to millions she's now a hero.

Jesus goes to his hometown synagogue, in Nazareth, one Saturday to preach and faces a panel of judges. It's interesting how God has only one son, and he became a preacher – not an accountant or a lawyer, but a preacher. I like that. People sometimes ask our son, John, if he's going to be a preacher like his dad, and he wisely answers them, 'I don't know'. It's not what I wanted to be, as a kid.

Anyways, Jesus preaches, and some in the congregation praise him. **'Many are amazed and ask, "Where does he get this wisdom and the power to do miracles?"** (Mt. 13:54) They're impressed with two things about Jesus: his wise preaching and his miraculous power.

How I wish I could have been there to hear Jesus preach. I wouldn't have had to go to seminary for years if I could have just sat at the Master's feet, for he is the best preacher to ever preach. Jesus made no mistakes when he preached. He put no one to sleep. His sermons were full of riveting truth.

Tens of thousands of people listened to him outdoors, sometimes for an entire day. Remember how they ran out of food and Jesus was afraid they'd faint on the way home, having not eaten all day? That's why he multiplied the bread and the fish for them (Jn. 6). Many people hung on his very words because Jesus **'spoke with authority'** (Mk. 1:22).

He didn't beat around the bush or go down endless bunny trails. He said **'Amen, amen. Here's the truth'**, or in KJV: **'Verily, verily. I say unto thee'**. This was strange because no one starts their speech with 'Amen, amen', Where is the word 'amen' supposed to go? At the end of a prayer. The word 'amen' means 'indeed, my prayer is true'. It's like adding an exclamation point, at the end, for emphasis.

Jesus could start his talks with an exclamation point because he knew that everything he says is 100% true. There's not one error in all Jesus says. With every other preacher we have to listen and discern which parts are true and which parts are exaggerated, or just opinion. We need to listen to every preacher, including me, with discernment.

But, not to Jesus. He spoke 100% truth 100% of the time. Think about that. How much do we speak the truth how much of the time? What percentage could we claim? Maybe, we speak 70% truth 70% of the time? Not Jesus. 100% truth 100% of the time. His authority impressed them. He was like no other rabbi.

The rabbis gave educated Bible talks in the Synagogue. They lectured like academics do today. They'd read a Bible passage and then talk about all its possible meanings. To sound smart, they'd quote what other famous rabbis said about the passage. For example, why did David pick up 5 smooth stones before fighting Goliath?

Rabbi 1 says that's because 5 is the maximum you can fit in 1 hand. David had a sling in 1 hand and 5 stones in his other hand. So, the lesson for us is to not be greedy and simply take what we need for each day, nothing more.

No, says rabbi 2. David chose 5 stones because the Bible starts with the 5 books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy). David's power was not in the stones he chose, but in the word of God. The lesson for today is that we can defeat giant problems in life only when we have the Bible in us.

You're both wrong, says rabbi 3. The 5 stones are because Goliath had 4 other brothers (2 Sam 21). In case David had to fight them all, he chose 1 stone for each. So, we should be prepared for any challenge before us. Always plan ahead, including a back-up plan for when things go wrong.

Rabbis would go on and on like this, listing all the possible meanings of a passage. They'd quoted all the rabbis and then leave it up to you, the listener, to figure out the main point. It was like listening to a long, detailed, term paper from a Ph.D candidate.

Jesus was a breath of fresh air. He read the Bible passage, and then said, **'Amen. Amen. Here's the truth you need'**. People loved it because he spoke with authority.

They're also amazed at the miracles Jesus performed. Some of their own neighbours and relatives can walk because of Jesus. They can now see and are free from demons. Jesus did for them what no doctors could do. To some, Jesus is a hero because he helps people in need.

But, not everyone feels the same about Jesus. Some in the synagogue give him 2 thumbs down. **“They scoffed, 'He’s just the carpenter’s son, we know his mother Mary, and his brothers, and his sisters too. Where did he learn all these things?’ They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him”** (Mt. 13:55-57).

Here's a reminder to us that in every crowd there's always a Simon Cowell or two. We'll always have two, or a few, who don't like us. That's just a fact of life, and the sooner we realize it, the better off we'll be. At your work, and in your school, you've probably already found out that not everyone thinks you're perfect. These days, it doesn't take much to offend people. It seems like everyone is just 5 seconds away from blowing up over something. If you tell a simple joke now, you might get publicly slapped in the face.

Surely, not in church where everyone's on the same page. We're all on the same team, worshipping the same God. We'd never offend each other in church,, right? Have you been to church more than twice? My goodness, there've been more church fights and splits over silly stuff than I can count.

I remember my first church ruckus, which I caused. I was a young pastor at my first church in Hamilton. This was when we used overhead projectors to show things on the screen. If you're under 40 years old, you're asking, 'What's an overhead projector?' I wanted to show the Bible passage on the screen so we could read it together as part of my sermon. So, I put the projector on the communion table, which was in front of the pulpit. That way I was close to it, and it was the right distance from the screen so the congregation could see it.

As I did this, I could tell some people weren't happy, but I didn't know why. I saw a few frowns and furrowed foreheads. I figured they didn't like that part of my sermon. Anyways, I found out at the end of the service why some were offended by me. They told me I shouldn't have put that unholy machine on the holy communion table. They said it was a sacrilege. That was new to me.

If you come to church long enough, you will get offended by someone or something. Jesus, the perfect Son of God, was their guest preacher and some were offended by him.

Thankfully, this wouldn't happen in our own families, right? Our immediate family would never put us down, right? Some of you are shaking your heads. You know the truth, that even our own families can hurt us very deeply. '**Jesus' brothers and sisters didn't believe in him**' (Mk. 3:21). They called him crazy and tried to stop him from doing miracles. So, Jesus knows what you're feeling, if some in your own family have turned against you.

Wherever we go, and in whatever group we're part of, we will find naysayers: at work, at home, even in worship. Many in Nazareth call Jesus a hero, but some call him a zero. They say, '**He's just the carpenter's son**' (13:55). How many of you heard that Jesus was a carpenter? I heard that all my life. There are hymns that say it. Johnny cash sang, 'Jesus was a carpenter He worked with a saw and a hammer. And, His hands could join a table true enough to stand forever'.

Maybe, but the Bible doesn't say he was a carpenter. It says, Jesus is '**the carpenter's son**'. We know Joseph was a carpenter, and therefore, assume Jesus learned the trade from his dad. Jewish boys often followed in their dad's footsteps, but not always. The Bible clearly says that Jesus was a preacher and a healer. This is why some are amazed at him.

Some are mad at Jesus because he's '**a nobody from Nazareth**'. They say, 'We know him and his family. We've watched him grow up. He's no hero, and he's certainly not God.' Notice, they don't have any substantive criticism of Jesus. They don't criticize his preaching because they can't. It's biblical and true. They can't deny his miracles because the lame are walking and the blind can see. The proof is right in front of them. They have no solid reason to criticize Jesus, so they resort to insults.

They call him '**the carpenter's son**'. They imply that Jesus is a nobody because he's a Nazarene. Nazareth was a hick-town.

That's what Philip says, in John 2, when Nathaniel invites him to meet Jesus of Nazareth. Philip says, **'Nazareth? Can anything good come out of Nazareth?'** Jesus must be a zero if he's from Nazareth.

This leads Jesus to say that the toughest crowd we'll ever face is our own crowd, our home crowd. He says, **'A prophet is honoured everywhere except in his own hometown and among his own family'** (Mt. 13:56).

We know this as Canadians. We tend to not appreciate what we have here at home. When did multi-millionaire Kevin O'leary become a household name? After he left Canada to be on 'Shark Tank' in the USA. When did singers like Celine Dion and Brian Adams become famous? After they left Canada. Then, we'd finally admit that they're pretty good. Even the 'Great One' (#99) had to leave Brantford, as a kid, to play in Toronto. You know why -because people here booed him incessantly. None of you did that, I know.

Sadly, we can treat hometown heroes like zeros. It happened to Jesus. **'Some were deeply offended and refused to believe in him'** (13:57). This is how it's been ever since. Billions of people have said 'Jesus is my hero, my Lord and Saviour. I will follow him forever'. While billions of others have said, 'No he's not. Jesus means nothing to me. He's a zero'.

Jesus experienced this dual response wherever he went. As we'll see next Sunday, when we begin Holy Week, many yelled out their praise to him, **'Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'**, while others yelled, **'Crucify him!'**

No person in all of history has been so divisive. He cuts every crowd in two and asks us, **'How about you? Are you for me or against me?'** All who cast their lot with Christ receive eternal life, for whoever has the Son, has life. Whoever doesn't believe in him, will die in their sins (Jn. 3:16).

HYMN: JESUS, WHAT A FRIEND (90)

*1: Jesus, what a friend for sinners
Jesus, lover of my soul
Friends may fail me, foes assail me
He, my Saviour, makes me whole*

*Chorus: Hallelujah, what a Saviour
Hallelujah, what a friend
Saving, helping, keeping, loving
He is with me to the end*

*2: Jesus, what a strength in weakness
Let me hide myself in Him
Tempted, tried, and sometimes failing
He, my strength, my victory wins*

*3: Jesus, what a help in sorrow
while the billows o'er me roll
even when my heart is breaking
He, my Comfort, helps my soul*

*5: Jesus, I do now receive Him
more than all in Him I find
He has granted me forgiveness
I am His and He is mine*

OFFERING: *Please, place your offerings in the plate at the front or back of the church as you exit at the end of service. Thank you for being generous!*

PRAYER & RESPONSE:

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly Host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost**

SPOKEN BENEDICTION:

SUNG BENEDICTION: GO NOW IN PEACE

***GO NOW IN PEACE, NEVER BE AFRAID;
GOD WILL GO WITH YOU EACH HOUR OF EVERY DAY.
GO NOW IN FAITH, STEADFAST, STRONG AND TRUE;
KNOW HE WILL GUIDE YOU IN ALL YOU DO.***

***GO NOW IN LOVE, AND SHOW YOU BELIEVE;
REACH OUT TO OTHERS SO ALL THE WORLD CAN SEE.
GOD WILL BE THERE WATCHING FROM ABOVE.
GO NOW IN PEACE, IN FAITH AND IN LOVE.***

THREE-FOLD AMEN

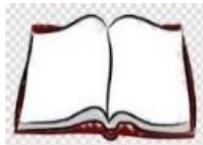
POSTLUDE: A LENTEN PRAYER

by F. Einham

(Please remain seated until the conclusion of the postlude)

**THANK YOU TO OUR SONG LEADERS, HANNAH AND LEESA
MEIJERINK, FOR HELPING TODAY!**

**Thank you for joining us in worship! We pray this service inspires you for
this new week. Please, greet Rev. Mike in the Narthex as you leave.**



Assisting on Sunday, April 3, 2022

Door Greeters: Mike & Elaine Gibbons

Deacon: Dave Kennedy

UPCOMING AT FARRINGDON:

Monday, April 4, 6:30 - 8 p.m. Youth Bible Study

Tuesday, April 5, 6 - 7:30 p.m. Kids Club

Sunday, April 10, 10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship Service

Tuesday, April 12, 6:30-7:45 Family Fusion Service

Friday, April 15, 10:30 a.m. Good Friday Worship Service

For any Bulletin News or Announcements please contact Cindy Hossack at the Church Office by **Thursday mornings** at:
secretary@farringdonchurch.com or 519 759-2495 EXT #4

If you would like to use the church hall for an event, please complete a "Building Use Request Form" and forward it to the Board of Deacons c/o, Chair ~ Wyatt Thompson for approval at 226-922-1927. You can get this form on the CE wing bulletin board or in the Church Office.

Website Address and Social Media

Check out the Farringdon website and Facebook page for all updates and information. To access Member's content, you need to register on the website. You will receive a temporary password via email which can be changed when you log in. Go to www.farringdonchurch.ca

Many thanks to Cyndy Kirk who has served as a Senior Elder for the past 2 years. Cyndy's term ended on March 31st. Our Farringdon Family appreciates your hard work and dedication!

We welcome Susan Daniels to the role of Senior Elder, beginning on April 1, 2022. Thank you for accepting this extra responsibility, Susan!

Today, we ordain Anna Locke to the position of Elder. Thanks Anna for serving God and us in your new leadership role!

A polite, conscientious, visually-impaired man in his 30's needs to rent a room in a house that includes meals. If you can help, or know someone open to having a boarder, please let Rev. Mike know ASAP

INTERNATIONAL ORGAN DAY FREE CONCERT !!

Saturday, April 23 is International Organ Day (who knew?). To celebrate, the Royal Canadian College of Organists will have several organists play a concert on the organ at Brantford's *Grace Anglican Church*, (2 p.m). Our own Derek Tiller will be playing. All are welcome to sit and enjoy!

THE BRANTFORD MEMORIAL CONCERT BAND FREE CONCERT!

The Brantford Memorial Concert Band presents a Sunday Serenade on Sunday April 24th (3 p.m.) at the *Sanderson Center*. A varied repertoire will have your whole family toe-tapping! Donations to Ukrainian Relief. See Derek Tiller for your **FREE** tickets!



CELEBRATING APRIL BIRTHDAYS



4th-Jim Butler, 7th-Helen Kennedy, 8th-Andrew Kirk, 11th—Reese Thompson,



CELEBRATING APRIL ANNIVERSARIES



3rd-Rick & Michele Carter

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES - DO WE HAVE YOURS?

If your birthday, family members' birthdays and/or anniversaries are not in our newsletters or bulletin and you would like them to be, please provide the dates to Cindy in the Church Office.

SINGERS NEEDED! We need 2-3 volunteer singers each week to lead the hymns. You do not need to be a choir member or a 'regular' singer here. Derek will rehearse the hymns with you prior to the service. If you can volunteer for this important ministry, please tell Derek.

LAY READERS NEEDED – We need volunteer lay readers to read Scripture in the service. You would be scheduled once every 2-3 months to read. Rev. Mike will provide you with the reading in advance. If you can help us as a reader, tell Cyndy Kirk.

Barb & Dave Gilbert, our members, tragically experienced a house fire and lost everything. Barb is recovering from her injuries in Hamilton. On your behalf, we made a financial donation from the benevolent fund. In addition, a GoFundMe page has been set up by a neighbour to support the family. If you wish to make an online donation at: <https://gofund.me/3a25e4d9>
If you prefer to donate via cheque, mail it to 41 Huron Street, Brantford, ON N3S 2J5 (payable to Dave Gilbert). Let's keep praying for the Gilberts.

FARRINGDON CHURCH REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - CLOSED

TUESDAY— 9 A.M. – 1 P.M.

WEDNESDAY - 9 A.M. – 1 P.M.

THURSDAY - 9 A.M. – 1 P.M.

FRIDAY - 9 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Office: 519 759-2495 EXT. #4

**If calling after hours, please leave a message and your call will be returned the next business day.
Rev. Mike can be contacted on his cell phone when the office is closed at 1-226-339-4340**

COME AND SEE

