

'The Ambassador'

st. paul's
anglican
church

As Ambassadors for Christ, we are called to bring our Lord's grace, love, and peace to everyone.

~ Friday October 22, 2021 ~



God Is So Good!
After a very long 26 months between visits, an enthusiastic Elli & Eevi climb Gramma Deborah like a tree when she arrives at the airport in Finland.

'Ukki Jouni' receives a slightly more sedate greeting from 2 serious 'big sisters' as Archdeacon Deborah meets 9 month old grandson Oliver for the first time.



A "GRACE NOTE" from thunderbay-northshoreanglicans.com

"Eyes are useless when the mind is blind."

visit our website @ stpaulsanglicanchurch.ca and find us on facebook

Editor's Notes: Archdeacon Deborah & Jouni are having a wonderful time getting to know their new grandson and visiting with Thomas & Riitta and the girls. Along with those great airport photos, she sent us this beautiful picture of them with Oliver and his parents, below, taken on the day of Oliver's Baptism. And you can see a video clip of the baptism during this Sunday's 10:00 am Service livestream ([YouTube/St. Paul's Media](#)).

Please remember to send Fr. Gordon the names of those you would like him to pray for during Saturday & Sunday's "Prayer Of The People." Please Include anyone who needs prayer, anything you are thankful for, and also anyone who has recently been called home to Jesus so that Deacon Anne may light a candle for them on the altar during our petitions. Fr. Gordon's email is gholroyd@tbaytel.net or you can call him at 620-5558.

Archdeacon Deborah will be back in the Office Friday October 29 and invites you to join her for the return of her weekly FRIDAY 9 am ZOOM MORNING PRAYER Service.



1. Rector's Grace Notes ~

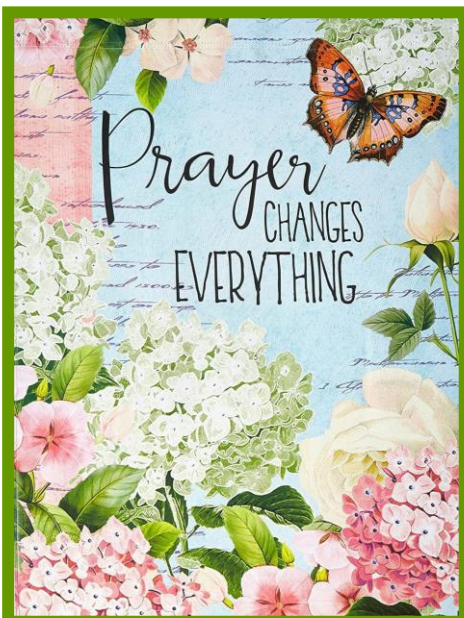
"Christ's Own Forever . . ."

I had the privilege of baptizing my grandson Oliver Olavi Elwood in northern Finland on October 19, 2021. Here he is with his parents Thomas & Riitta. I signed him with the cross and marked him as Christ's own forever.

We Offer 3 IN-PERSON SERVICES Each Week ~

- ✝ Saturday at 5 pm
- ✝ Sunday morning at 8:30 am & at 10 am

The 10 am service will continue to be live-streamed ([YouTube/St. Paul's Media](#)).



9 am Friday ZOOM Worship RETURNS Oct 29

Join Archdeacon Deborah for this 30 minute service. You are then free to leave the call or stay on for a check-in.

Deborah Kraft is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting:
↓ SAME LINK EVERY WEEK ↓

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82208698866>

- 📄 Topic: Morning Prayer with the Parish
- 📄 Time: Every Friday Morning at 9 am
- 📄 Meeting ID: 822 0869 8866

OR Dial any one of these numbers ~

- ☎ 1-[204]-272-7920
 - ☎ 1-[438]-809-7799
 - ☎ 1-[587]-328-1099
- Meeting ID: 822 0869 8866

Healing Prayer AVAILABLE VIA OUR 'PARISH PRAYER CHAIN'

The power of prayer to heal and to comfort is truly a blessing! We encourage you to request a Healing Prayer through our **CONFIDENTIAL Prayer Chain ministry**. The dedicated parishioners who undertake this special ministry offer up the names they receive in prayer continually throughout the day. Call/Text **Sandra Rejall at 629-3431** to leave a name; give as little or as much info as you wish. *"Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them."* (James 5: 14)



Good News! We're On TV!

Watch our weekly Sunday 10:00 am service on local TV, every Tuesday at 7:00 pm on **Channel 10, "Shaw Spotlight."** This Sunday's Service will be broadcast **Tuesday October 26 7:00 pm**. This free service from Shaw Spotlight is a blessing many of you have been able to enjoy.



watch live or **ANYTIME**



Our Sunday Service LIVESTREAMS ARE HERE FOR YOU!

We live-stream our **10:00 am Eucharist Service** every Sunday. If you can't come to church for 1 of our **3 in-person Services**, worship with us on **YouTube / St. Paul's Media** or watch the service on **Shaw TV Channel 10, Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm**.

Archdeacon Deborah+

2. Wear A Costume To Our Annual "All Hallows Even" Service October 31 ~

All children [and all those 'young at heart'!] are invited to come in costume to our 10:00 am Service on "Halloween." [No witches, demons, or devils, please! ☺] Archdeacon Deborah will carve a pumpkin for her 'Jack-O-Lantern' Children's Talk, and we'll have special activities for Sunday School and Children's Bible Study.

Editor's Note: Archdeacon Deborah sent me this cute photo of Elli & Evi so of course I had to share it! She writes: *"The girls had a Halloween Party today at their English school and they were very excited to dress up as Anna and Elsa from "Frozen" !! [Wait, is that SNOW?! That might be taking the theme a bit far . . .]*



3. My Sermon from Sunday October 10, 2021, 'Thanksgiving Sunday' ~ "Cultivate Thankfulness"

Gracious God, on this Thanksgiving Sunday, bless us with grateful hearts of praise in Jesus' name. Amen.

A lady was picking through the frozen turkeys at the *Superstore*, but couldn't find one big enough for her family. She wanted a large bird over 6 kg. She asked the meat clerk, *"Do these turkeys get any bigger?"*

He quickly answered, *“No, ma'am. They're dead.”*

The tune and the words to ***“Now, thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices.”***


has been running through my thoughts and my prayers all week. The hymn ends with giving praise and thanks to God. The tune was written by Mendelssohn.

What are you thankful for this day? I want you to quietly list in your heart before God 3 things you are thankful for. If you are reading this sermon at home, please state them out loud. *(To the readers of this sermon: I am not planning ahead of time what I am thankful for when I preach this Thanksgiving sermon. I will wait and see what God plants in my heart.)*

Our readings for Thanksgiving all deal with gratitude and rejoicing for what God has done. The prophet Joel talks about the great things that God has done. We are called to rejoice and be glad. In the first letter to Timothy in the New Testament, we pray to lead peaceful lives in all godliness and dignity. Our gospel for Thanksgiving is from the Sermon on the Mount with Jesus instructing us to trust in God and not to worry:

“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow, they neither toil nor spin yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.”

Like every other spiritual discipline, we must practise and embrace a life of giving thanks, of being grateful. In first Thessalonians, St. Paul instructs us to *“give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* The author of Ephesians encourages us to *“give thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*



Be joyful always; pray continually;
give thanks in all circumstances, for
this is God's will for you in Christ
Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Why is expressing our gratitude to God so significant for our spiritual lives and for deepening our personal relationship with Jesus? When we give thanks, we are obeying God's call. When we give thanks, we are opening our hearts to God's truth.

William Law was a Church of England priest in the 1700s who believed in following a holy life. He wrote a famous book which is known as an 18th century classic. In the book titled ***A Serious Call To A Devout And Holy Life***, Law wrote about what we must cultivate in our ordinary lives, and wrote that we must practise devotion. I have this book on my *Kindle*. Law was very worried that so many Christians, and we're speaking about the early 1700s, *“fall so far short of the holiness and devotion of Christianity . . . Had I now a thousand worlds, I would give them all for one year more, that I might present unto God one year of such devotion and good works, as I never before so much as intended.”*

When Law was nearing the end of his life and yearning for more of a holy life for himself, Law made the following statement:

“Would you know who is the greatest saint in the world? It is not the one who prays most or fasts most; it is not the one who gives most alms or is most eminent for temperance, chastity, or justice; but it is the one who is always thankful to God, who wills everything that

God wills, who receives everything as an instance of God's goodness and has a heart always ready to praise God for it. Could you therefore work miracles, you could not do more for yourself than by this thankful spirit, for it turns all that it touches into happiness."

The best thing we can do for ourselves this Thanksgiving season is to be thankful to God for everything. If you are sick, be thankful for *Tylenol* and a warm cozy bed. If you are journeying with a person you love who has cancer, be thankful that you are able to reach out to them and sit with them at their chemo appointments. If you are worried sick about your high *VISA* balance, be thankful that you have time in your life to go on a strict budget. If you have a family member who is not speaking with you, be thankful that you desire to rebuild the relationship. Is it easy to always be thankful? Of course not!

Even when it is easy to give thanks we still must discipline ourselves to state our reasons for our gratitude. I would like to share with you a story about my grandmother, Muriel. She was always working hard and I am grateful for the life lessons she taught. At our little cottage on *Mill Lake* at Parry Sound, my grandmother was always working ~ I remember her picking up sticks on the front yard by the lake, and sweeping the kitchen floor and pinning up colourful pictures from the Sears catalogue in the outhouse. She didn't think of herself as very special but she sure was. She had a thankful spirit and a faith in God that always turned into joy.

Lou Gehrig was a baseball player in the 1930s for the *New York Yankees* who contracted the debilitating muscle disease that is now named after him, *ALS* or '*Lou Gehrig's Disease*.' On his last day of play for the *Yankees* he said that he considered himself to be the luckiest man on the face of the earth. Here he was dying of *ALS* and yet Lou Gehrig had a heart of gratitude. "The luckiest man on the face of the earth?!" Why?! Gratitude for the athletic gifts he had been given, gratitude for all his fans, gratitude for the opportunities he had . . .

Let's commit to cultivating thankfulness. Gratitude comes from humility. **Like Lou Gehrig, we Christians are truly the luckiest people on the face of the earth.** We have our salvation. We have eternal life. We have a Saviour who lives in our hearts and loves us unconditionally. We have amazing grace.

Thanksgiving Blessings for hearts of gratitude to you this day, and forever more. *Amen.*

Archdeacon Deborah+



4. Fr. Gordon's Sermon from Sunday October 3, 2021, 19th After Pentecost ~ "Life Is A Test"

This morning's Gospel passage is not a popular one to preach on because it deals with human relationships, particularly divorce; not a popular subject, but I would like to focus this morning on what was going on at this meeting of Jesus and the Pharisees.

The Pharisees were testing Jesus, testing him to see what he would say and do regarding the law of the time, so I would like us to think about testing, being tested, and the ways that can happen.

God continually tests people's character, faith, obedience, love, integrity, and loyalty. Character is both developed and revealed by testing. And the truth of the matter is, all of Life is a 'Test.' We are always being tested. God is constantly watching how we respond to people, problems, success, conflict, illness, disappointment and even the weather. This morning is a test for me because I haven't preached at St. Paul's for a long time, about 8 years.

Our trials and tribulation can be a test of patience. The Lord has a timing for fulfilling His plans and purposes. Often His plans take much longer than we expect. In the meantime we go through severe trials and tribulations and they seem to last forever. These seasons are tests of our patience; I'm convinced these tests are to guide us in the way we should go.

Do we trust in God even when we do not understand His ways and the way He works in our lives?

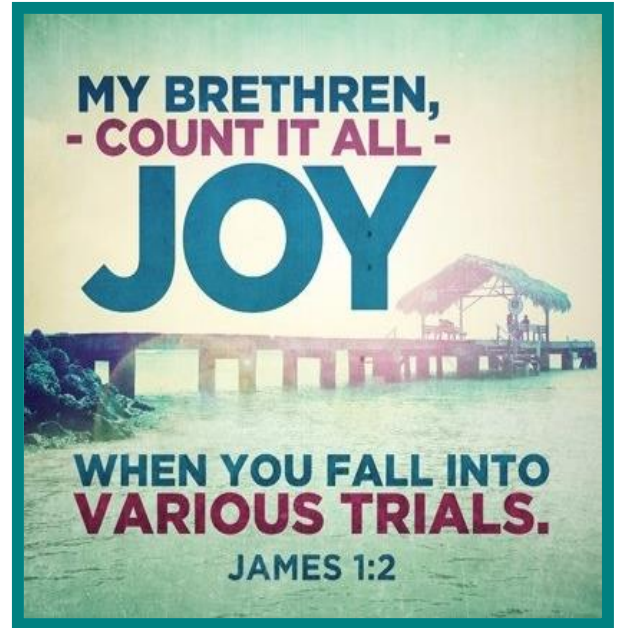
I can remember two particular tests that came to me as a young man, a year or so before I met Violet, and as I later looked back, they were a guide to my future, tests to show me which way to go.

Unknown to most of you, if not all, except one . . . I used to be an avid motorcycle enthusiast. I got very fond of racing and it was placed in my mind that I should try out with the "big boys" at the *Isle of Mann TT*, you may or may not have heard of it, but it's a very challenging, high speed track through some of the roads on the Isle of Mann.

As I saw this later, it was surely a test as to my future in the sport. Well, guess what, my bike and I parted company at just over 100 mph! Thank the Lord for full leather racing suits, because I was not hurt at all. Then I thought, well automobiles are much safer, so I started communications with the *Lotus* car company, and after a number of interviews I was granted a trial in a *Formula One* racing car. By this time, Violet and I were going out regularly and making plans for our future. I told her about this test; her answer was, "Well, it's *Lotus* or me."

After 54 years of marriage, I believe my choices were obvious.

Are we willing to wait for God's timing? James chapter 1 tells us, ***"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."***



To tell you the truth, I do not really enjoy this verse, when James tells me to "count it all joy," because when I am going through all kinds of trials and tribulations, in fact when I am experiencing hardships, I consider it to be horrible.

But the Bible tells us that hardships and trials have a purpose: they produce patience, and I sure could use more patience, but I don't really like the process of obtaining it. But I also know that God, the author and finisher of my life, knows what is best for me. If He considers that I need more patience, so be it. I know that many of our lives are a test of patience because I know that many of you have gone through some very rough times. Praise God that He has been right by our side as we have walked this rough road.

Billy Graham was once asked: "Why are we tested throughout our lives?" His answer was "Sometimes, we have to take the long way home."

Trials can be a test of our faith, and I will close leaving you with 3 questions:

- 1) **Do we believe in God** even in the midst of pain and suffering?



2) Do we believe in the promises of God even when everything looks impossible?

3) Do we trust in God even if He does not deliver us from our problems?

Amen.

Fr. Gordon+

5. Scriptures for this Saturday & Sunday October 23 & 24, 2021 ~ "22nd Sunday after Pentecost"

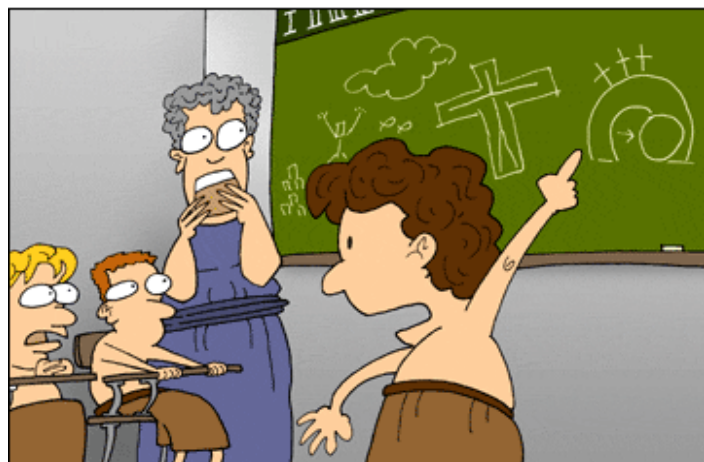
Rectors' Note: I encourage you to read these passages. If you don't have a Bible they are all accessible online. The church uses the *NRSV* (New Revised Standard Version).

- **Job 42:1-6, 10-17** ~ Job is humbled and satisfied and his fortunes are restored twofold.
 - **Psalms 34:1-8** ~ The psalmist penitently pleads to God to be healed from his suffering.
 - **Hebrews 7:23-28** ~ Jesus is our great high priest, a perfect Son of God, interceding for us forever.
 - **Mark 10:46-52** ~ Blind beggar Bartimaeus calls out to Jesus, is healed and then follows him.
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6. The Last Laugh ~ "A cheerful heart is good medicine." [Proverbs 7:22]

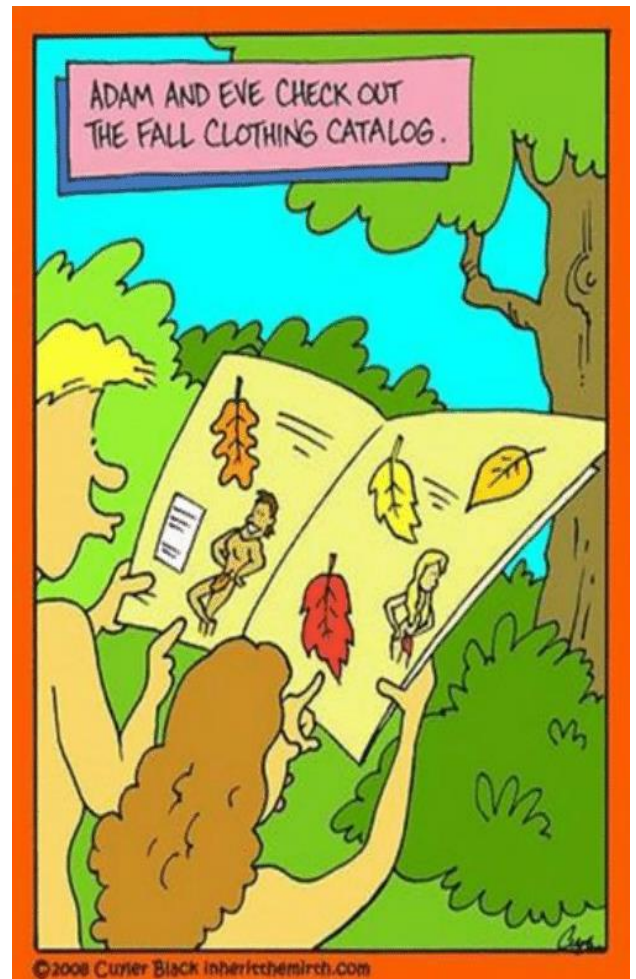


(See Exodus 34) 02-13-2012
MOSES RETURNS DOWN THE MOUNTAIN WITH THE TWENTY COMMANDMENTS



Thanks to Rowena 01-24-2006
JESUS BLOWS SOME MINDS ON "WHAT I WANT TO BE WHEN I GROW UP" DAY

*Lesser
Known
Bible
Stories*



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"The Happy Rector & Archdeacon"