

# New Hope Lutheran Church

189 Regent St.  
Sudbury, Ontario  
P3C 4C4

705-673-2933  
email: [office@nhlc.ca](mailto:office@nhlc.ca)  
website: [nhlc.ca](http://nhlc.ca)

face book: New Hope Lutheran Church  
you tube: New Hope Lutheran Church Sudbury

## Pastors:

Rev. Charles Nolting  
phone: 705-920-3573 email: [pcn@nhlc.ca](mailto:pcn@nhlc.ca)

Rev. Johanna Porkola  
phone: 705-688-6284 email: [pjp@nhlc.ca](mailto:pjp@nhlc.ca)

May 15, 2022

*The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

## Coming Events

May 17 1:30 Finnish Bible Study **Impola Room**  
7:00 English Bible Study **Zoom**

May 18 10 - 1 Kahvi Time **Regent St**  
2:00 Mission Circle **Finlandia**

May 20 6:30 Finnish Bible Study **Zoom**

May 21 10:00 Finnish Worship † **Voima Hall**  
2:00 English Worship † **Regent St**

**In our prayers** Ruth, Marilyn.

## Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, we pray through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Psalms 148

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights above.
- <sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts.
- <sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars.
- <sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.
- <sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, for at his command they were created,
- <sup>6</sup> and he established them for ever and ever— he issued a decree that will never pass away.
- <sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,
- <sup>8</sup> lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding,
- <sup>9</sup> you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,
- <sup>10</sup> wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,
- <sup>11</sup> kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth,
- <sup>12</sup> young men and women, old men and children.
- <sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.
- <sup>14</sup> And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the LORD.

## First Reading “Acts 11:1 – 18”

<sup>1</sup> The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him <sup>3</sup> and said, “You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.” <sup>4</sup> Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: <sup>5</sup> “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. <sup>6</sup> I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. <sup>7</sup> Then I heard a voice telling me, ‘Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.’ <sup>8</sup> “I replied, ‘Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ <sup>9</sup> “The voice spoke from heaven a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’ <sup>10</sup> This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again. <sup>11</sup> “Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. <sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house. <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, ‘Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter.’ <sup>14</sup> He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.’ <sup>15</sup> “As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>17</sup> So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God’s way?” <sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

## Second Reading “**Revelation 21:1 – 6**”

<sup>1</sup> Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” <sup>5</sup> He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” <sup>6</sup> He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel “**John 13:31 – 35**”

When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

By Rev. Charles Nolting  
“The Heart of It”

Our gospel today is probably the very heart of what it means to be a Christian. Love one another. While that may sound pretty simple, we really shouldn’t forget that

there is a second part to that where Jesus has said; “as I have loved you.” In loving others then, we need to remember all the ways Jesus loved, and copy that.

Jesus wasn’t picky about whom he loved and how he showed that love. Jesus showed love to people that most considered unlovable. He cared about Samaritans, people the Jews despised. He cared about those who were destructively demon-possessed and avoided by everyone else. He loved those whose bodies were so mangled by various illnesses that others stayed away from them in disgust. In short, Jesus loved all people regardless of their previous acts or cultural background.

But Jesus didn’t just love, Jesus showed that love, which is probably very important for us to acknowledge. He did things for people to assist them to understand that God actually is at work in the world even when people aren’t seeing God at work in the world. So, Jesus healed. Jesus empowered. Jesus brought understanding.

Probably the best way Jesus showed love was by standing with those whom nobody else wanted to stand with. Jesus didn’t let what others might think about him stop him. Jesus didn’t care if people gossiped about him. You might recall how Jesus stepped into the middle of a stoning in order to protect the life of another. Demonstrating such love as Jesus did means that we are willing to give up something like our reputation, our social standing, or our own health.

Of course, showing that love doesn’t always require such dramatic action. Most of the time showing God’s love is actually pretty mundane, which may be difficult for some to understand. I know that for some, taking credit for loving actions is incredibly important. The danger with that kind of thinking is that we may live with the thought that all our actions add up to brownie points in God’s little black book so that we can earn our way into heaven. If we suffer from that type of thinking, we

need to be reminded that one does not make it to heaven in such a way.

Not all our loving actions will be noted by others, or necessarily anyone, and we should be ok with that. In Europe there are a number of great cathedrals that took generations to build with many of the builders dying before the job was even finished. No one can say exactly who built the great cathedrals – we have no record of their names. These builders gave their whole lives for a work most would never see finished since they took so many decades to build. They made great sacrifices and expected no credit. The passion of their building was fueled by their faith that the eyes of God saw everything.

A legendary story tells of a rich man who came to visit one such cathedral while it was under construction, and he saw a workman beautifully carving a tiny bird on the inside of a beam. He was puzzled about that and asked the man, “Why are you spending so much time carving that bird into a beam that will be covered by the roof? No one will ever see it.” And the workman replied, “Because God sees.”

God sees. God sees the sacrifices of love you make every day, even when no one around you does. No act of kindness you’ve done for others is too small for God to notice and smile over especially when they apply to those who feel unloved. Such actions are the cure for the disease of our own self-centeredness. They are the antidote to strong, stubborn pride. They help us keep the right perspective when we long for some special recognition.

It’s been said of those cathedrals that nothing similar could ever be built in our time because there are so few people willing to sacrifice to that degree. So whether you work quietly behind the scenes or putting yourself out there to be criticized, your work is known to God.

*The love Jesus speaks of today is a love that is expressed in service toward others -- friends, family, even (and perhaps especially) enemies. It is a love that knows no limits, and no bounds. It is a love that is expressed best in the little deeds on a daily basis. The lesson from Acts mirrors this and expands it. Loving others is not simply about loving those we consider to be in our group. It is about loving the outsider, the outcast, and completely ignoring who is or isn't worthy.*

*This passage calls us to demonstrate a kind of love that is not sentimental, romantic, self-satisfying or tied to the lovable-ness of the recipient. We are given a new commandment to love as Christ loved, which is what we do when we render service, whether great or small. May each of us show that love daily, be guided by it, and knowing the blessings of it. Amen.*

### **Prayers**

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation.

Loving God, lead us to follow your Spirit, rather than our own prejudices or desires, as the church cares for one another. Open us to perceive your gifts in those we least expect. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire us to praise you through the beauty and majesty of the natural world around us. Urge us toward more deliberate care of the world you have made. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Humble the rulers of nations before your splendor. Direct them to the people who need their attention most, and turn them from the temptation to hoard wealth of power. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hasten to dwell among those who are in pain or distress. As Christ enters our deepest suffering, remain with those experiencing despair and great need. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Place holy love at the center of all our relationships and communities. By your love heal us, convict us, and renew us. Bring an end to racism in our churches and communities. Let everyone know your goodness by the love we show one another. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us a place in the diverse company of your beloved saints. Teach us the value of each person's identity, and bless us with a shared identity as your children, kindred of Christ. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. **Amen.**