



Rockway and First (North Pelham) Pastoral Charge
Sunday September 4, 2022
Worship at Home

Email: northpelham.rockwaypc@gmail.com **Website:** <https://northpelhamrockwaypresbyterian.ca>

Our sincere thanks to **Diane McMillan**
for leading us in worship today.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lord, in the stillness of this hour we bring
to You our joy and our thanksgiving. Hear us when we pray and hear our songs of
love as we lift our voices to You.

HYMN # 323- HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

OPENING PRAYER OF ADORATION

Lord God we lift up all praises, glory and honour to Your Holy name. Being so thankful for the gifts and blessings You pour upon us. Lead us on Your straight and narrow path as we search for Your peace and encouragement. Continue Lord to support us with Your love as we in all humbleness and contrition admit our sins and faults to You confessing our need for forgiveness and healing. You surpass all understanding as we cling to the hope of answered prayer and renewed faith uttering the words You taught us to say- 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 our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We are assured through God's saving grace, eternal salvation residing with us and within us.
Amen

HYMN # 67 BLESSED ASSURANCE

RESPONSIVE READING- PSALM 34:1-8

SCRIPTURE- PROVERBS -3:1-6

EPHESIANS -6:10-18

SERMON: WHY ARE WE HERE?

Why are we here? What has brought us to church this morning? Simple questions but answers can be complex and even lead to more questions.

Many of us will say, I've come to worship the Lord.

Or I've come to pay my dues. Perhaps others will state, it's expected of me, the proper thing to do.

Or grandmother would roll over in her grave if I didn't show up.

Proverbs encourages us to trust in God and not be dependent on ourselves. But to seek God's ways and then acknowledge God as He directs us on our faith journey.

But why are we really here? Is there a longing in heart and soul to be in this place of hallowed worship, where we feel the most comfortable with the Lord?

Do you come hungry in heart, searching for spiritual comfort and encouragement?

Do you come for fellowship and to sing hymns of praise or just hear the organ and piano play?

Do you come to hear the message? For a glimmer of hope to follow for the rest of the coming week?

Do you come for a combination of all of these elements?

Did God call you to worship and you responded out of obedience to Him? Or did you come out of curiosity because someone different was in the pulpit?

What brings us to God's sanctuary and His throne of grace and prayer? What comfort and strength do we draw from joining together in worship and praise?

Sometimes we need to ask ourselves these hard questions to find the true meaning of our desire of hungering for God's love and the direction He wants us to take in our faith journey.

Do we understand the true meaning of hungering for His word and grace? As Christians we've searched for normalcy in our home life, in our worship, and in our daily needs since the beginning of the pandemic.

We've had to pray alone, to study God's word alone, to worship alone and yes to take communion alone. We've had no chance to gather with like-minded souls, no chance to shake a hand, hug a shoulder or share someone's grief at time of death.

These things we have missed, but our love and concern for one another has not diminished. But now we have slowly and carefully returned to our togetherness and this sharing is a wonderful and blessed feeling

Large crowds rushed to hear Jesus preach. We've missed that feeding of the soul in person. But during that period of aloneness God has never left our sides. He has heard our prayers of wonder and concern. He has felt our pain and sorrow and comforted us in our grief. His Holy Spirit has not changed or left us.

God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit has continued to reside in our hearts and souls.

Why are we here? Because God calls us. Answer His call by putting on the armour of Ephesians that not only protects us, but encourages us to live our faith and celebrate the gifts and Grace God has given to us. Not boastful and full of pride but as humble servants of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

HYMN # 677- They'll Know We Are Christians

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

Lord God thank You for coming into our lives this day. In our humbleness we lift up our gifts to You, freely earned and freely given to be used in humility and thanksgiving to further Your church to all peoples. We ask in Jesus name. Amen

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND FOR THE PEOPLE

Father our hearts ache over the oppression we see in the world today. Give solidarity and grace to intercede for the lonely, the afraid, the sick and the hungry children. Pour out Your healing grace and power upon the hurting and lost who are fleeing persecution and injustice around the world today. Comfort and encourage our indigenous friends across our country.

We pray for our governments and for healing in the rest of the world. Draw us together as one united nation and as one community no matter of race or Colour or creed or belief as Your family Lord to carry on the work of Your church.

Feed the hungry with Your bread of life, comfort and encourage those who doubt and are filled with hopelessness.

Continue to be a light in our darkness as we journey towards Your heavenly throne.

We make our requests known through the Grace of Your precious Son, Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen

HYMN # 79- TRUSTING JESUS

BENEDICTION-

SUNG RESPONSE- Go Now In Peace

**We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional
Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe**

Next Sunday worship will be at North Pelham at 10:00 am with Kent Reynolds leading the service

Wednesday September 7 – RPCW will meet at the church at 1:30 pm

Wednesday September 14 – Session meeting at Rockway

7:00 pm North Pelham will meet

7:30 pm Rockway will join

There are several churches in the Niagara Presbytery vacant and also searching for ministers. Pulpit supply is difficult to find, so there will be some Sundays when services will be lead by members of the congregations