



Rockway and First (North Pelham) Pastoral Charge
Sunday September 18, 2022
Worship at Home

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

Our sincere thanks to **Rev. Paul Shobridge**
for leading us in worship today.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Praise the name of the LORD.

All: Blessed be the name of the LORD!

One: From the rising of the sun to its setting, praise the name of the LORD.

All: We will bless God's holy name now and evermore.

One: The glory of the Lord is high above the heavens, but God raises up the poor and needy on the earth.

All: So we will sing God's praise.

Let us worship God.

HYMN # 438 WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES

OPENING PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

God our Creator,

You sustain your creation as the source of life for every precious thing.

You have given us more than we could ever earn or deserve, and so we offer you our love and loyalty, for without you, we would not be.

Receive our worship this day, O God.

Speak to us in the sounds and silence of this hour, and amaze us with your promise of new life revealed in Jesus Christ, and your power at work in us and among us through the Spirit.

In unison we confess . . .

Generous God,

You have enriched us with life worth living, but we confess we often squander your good gifts.

We have wasted our time and energy; but held tightly to things we think we need.

Forgive our foolish priorities and those times we overlooked the needs of others.

Inspire us to live more generously, trusting your goodness to sustain us always.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends in Christ, while it is true that we have squandered God's good gifts, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ.

Trust the mercy of God, and be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

HYMN # 625 SEEK YE FIRST

RESPONSIVE READING PSALM 113

SCRIPTURES AMOS 8:4-7 & LUKE 16:1-13

SERMON: "HOW CAN WE SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE?"

Rev. Leonard Paul Shobridge

To begin with, I believe we want to speak the truth in love as a means of encouragement, to help people grow in their self-confidence to help others.

Whoever you are, whatever you are doing, don't you appreciate it when you're trying your very best to accomplish something worthwhile, but let's face it, you're struggling, and the situation seems hopeless, and you want, with every fibre of you're being to give up.; then, someone comes alongside you and says, "You can do it! Don't give up! Keep going you can make it!"

Maybe you appreciate that kind of encouragement, maybe not.

I remember a long time ago in the last century (and some of you may remember as well), when I believe it was the young sixteen-year old girl, Marilyn Bell, who was attempting to swim across Lake Ontario.

I may have some of the details incorrect (I haven't looked it up on the Internet), but join me for a moment if you will in this memory.

We're huddled around the radio. We're listening to a the announcer giving us a blow-by-blow description of Marilyn battling unbelievable tiredness and exhaustion at night in the cruel, cold, and unforgiving waters of Lake Ontario, . . . stroke by stroke, . . . terrified of swimming through what she might have perceived were poisonous jelly fish.

Her coach, Cliff Lumsden (I believe), was nearby in a boat and maybe some of Marilyn's family, friends and officials too (making sure everything was on the up-and-up); and here was Marilyn, trying to follow the grotesque yellow beam of light supposedly guiding her, just ahead . . and our Marilyn was begging her coach and all that would listen to her, . . . begging them to take her out of the water-perhaps certain (in her mind), she was going to die a death by drowning at any moment.

Yet they encouraged her to swim on.

I ask you, 'Were they speaking the truth in love' as a means of encouragement?

Friends, I want to submit to you this morning, that we can trust Scripture.

'God is love', 'Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life', as shared with us by the Apostle John.

And, surely as we pray, the Holy Spirit speaks the truth to us in love when we listen carefully and are obedient to him.

Praise the Lord, the Psalmist tells us.

Amos tells us the LORD will never forget any of their works.

Friends shall we not be faithful to the Lord in our journey?

Lately, our beloved Queen Elizabeth II passed. By her own words at her coronation she wanted to serve God and her people for life.

In our own lives, friends, shall we not serve the Lord by speaking the truth in love by the power of the Holy Spirit and as an encouragement to all who have ears to hear.

Let us focus our prayers on this most worthy goal! Amen.

HYMN # 382- Spirit of God, descend

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

We bring our gifts to you, O God, in gratitude for all you give us.

Bless them and make them a source of healing for a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who sends us out in love. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND FOR THE PEOPLE

God in whom we live and move and have our being, each week our prayers join with those of Christians around the world to seek your healing grace for those in need and to pray for justice and mercy in your fragile creation.

We thank you for the ways in which your Spirit can surprise us, bringing healing and hope in situations which cause us to despair.

Encourage us when we feel overwhelmed.

God, speak to us a word of hope **Embrace us with your love.**

We remember before you today people living face to face with war and violence, for the peoples of Ukraine, Syria, Yemen, Myanmar, Ethiopia and Tigre, South Sudan, . . . and all those places where ancient hatreds burn.

Keep ten seconds of silence.

God, speak to us a word of peace **Embrace us with your love.**

We remember before you today people living with illness and suffering, for those struggling with disability or waiting for treatment, and for those who know grief or fear or loneliness God, speak to us a word of healing **Embrace us with your love.**

Keep ten seconds of silence.

We remember before you today people facing discrimination and social prejudice, for those who are bullied at school, at work or at home, and for those who are made ashamed of who they are.

Keep ten seconds of silence.

God, speak to us a word of dignity **Embrace us with your love.**

We remember before you people caught up in economic uncertainty, those worried for the future, or struggling to make ends meet.

Keep ten seconds of silence.

God, speak to us a word of reassurance **Embrace us with your love.**

We remember before you today your whole creation in its increasing vulnerability.

Teach us how to care for the rips and tears in the fabric of the world you love so that all your creatures may live together in health and wholeness.

Keep ten seconds of silence.

God, speak to us a word of wisdom **Embrace us with your love.**

Receive all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, as we offer together the words Jesus taught us:

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 debts as we forgive our debtors

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.

HYMN # 747 THERE IS A BALM IN GILEAD

BENEDICTION

Go with confidence and commitment, to serve God in ways large and small for the sake of Christ, our friend and Saviour.

And may God bless you and keep you; may God's face shine upon you, and bring you joy and peace, now and evermore. Amen.

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

Paul grew up in Willowdale, Ontario and along with his family, attended Willowdale Presbyterian Church.

His first career was teaching piano in British Columbia.

Graduating from Knox College in 1996, Paul ministered at the two-point charge of First Presbyterian (St. Davids) and West St. Andrews (St. Catharines) for sixteen years until retirement.

He retired for a second time from Smithville Presbyterian at the end of March, 2022, where he had been serving as a Stated Supply Minister for the last four years.

He is grandfather to eight grandchildren (who make their homes at various time in the Waterdown/Guelph areas; Winnipeg, Manitoba; and in Malawi, Africa).

Paul expects to be a great grandfather in November of this year.

Rev. Leonard Paul Shobridge. B.A., D.Min., A.R.C.T.