



**Rockway and First (North Pelham) Pastoral Charge**  
**Reformation Sunday**  
**October 27, 2024**  
**Worship at Home**

Email: [northpelham.rockwaypc@gmail.com](mailto:northpelham.rockwaypc@gmail.com) Website: <https://northpelhamrockwaypresbyterian.ca>

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Bless the Lord at all times!

**P: May God's praise be always on our lips.**

L: Make great the name of God;

**P: We will lift up God's holy name together.**

L: For the Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

**P: We will love the Lord with heart, mind, strength and soul,  
and praise God now and always.**

Hymn #623 Holy, holy, holy

**Prayers of Approach, Confession & The Lord's Prayer**

**Prayers of Approach and Confession**

God of autumn glory,

Your imagination created the tawny coloured chipmunks,  
who scurry through our gardens gathering for their winter storehouses.

Your creativity taught the migrating geese to fly in formation,  
taking turns leading and taking turns following.

You fashioned the trees in the forests to lose their leaves,  
creating brilliant carpets of orange and russet,

so that when the winter winds and heavy snows fall,  
the tree will not be bowed and break with branches holding too much to bear.

Your love of life O God, nestled hundreds of thousands of seeds into the damp loamy earth to  
rest there until you call them forth in springtime.

God of autumn glory in you we see majesty and wonder  
right before our eyes.

God of mercy,

Despite your constant presents

we confess that we have been indifferent to your will,  
staying silent when we should have spoken up for justice.

Forgive us for the critical things we think of others  
even if we keep them to ourselves.  
We have heard your call to put our faith into action,  
but fear holds us back.  
There is work to be done in Jesus' name,  
but we often find excuses,  
like I am too busy, or I am too old, or I am not equipped.  
Forgive us, O God, and give us courage and commitment  
to serve as your saints in this time and this place,  
whatever the challenges may be.  
We pray for strength through your son, Jesus  
who taught us to pray together:

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

"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 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever." Amen.

Hymn 625                      **Seek ye first**

### **Prayer for Understanding**

May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts  
be pleasing unto you O Lord, Amen

### **SCRIPTURE PASSAGES**

**First Reading: Deuteronomy 6:1-9**  
**The Gospel Mark 12: 28-34**

### **SERMON            Hard Boiled Eggs and other Recipes**

I've got a cooking question for all of you this morning?  
Do you know how to make the perfect hard-boiled egg?  
Chances are every single one of you feels  
you know how to make a boiled egg just the way you like it,  
a perfect breakfast, lunch or even dinner.  
You may find it a bit of a surprise then, as I did,  
that if you Google;  
"How to boil a Perfect Egg"  
there are more than 20 pages of sites, videos, and instructions -  
from regular at-home cooks  
to world renowned chefs,

all trying to teach us how to cook that perfectly boiled egg.  
How could there be so many opinions  
on something we all already think we know how to do?  
I decided to watch Jamie Oliver's video  
on how to make the Perfect hard-boiled egg  
just to see how his advice compares to my own ideas on the subject.  
Jamie claims his way of cooking an egg is 'rock solid',  
promising an egg "cooked to perfection absolutely every single time."  
To begin with he talks about all the variables  
involved in cooking an egg,  
which to be honest I never really thought about.  
He explains that the size of the egg matters,  
and the temperature of that egg  
before we even start to boil it matters.  
He also points out that the size of our pot matters  
and the amount of water in that pot also matters.  
To be honest I never have considered any of this.  
I just grab an egg from the fridge and throw it into my usual egg-boiling pot.  
Jamie also says that he hears lots of really random ideas  
about how to make a perfectly boiled egg  
and as I watched his video  
I started to think perhaps my own techniques were a bit random.  
Next time I am going to try it his way,  
and you may want to try it too;  
I'm going to start with a room temperature, large egg.  
I'm going to dip it 3 or 4 times into the boiling water on a slotted spoon  
and then gently place it into the pot of lightly salted water.  
For soft boiled eggs I'll wait for 7 1/2 minutes,  
for hard boiled, the way I like them best,  
I'll give them 11 minutes.  
And then I'll eat my egg right away  
before it has time to cook more inside its own shell.  
I hope you have all had some breakfast before coming to hear the sermon this morning!!!!  
And what pray tell,  
does cooking the perfect boiled egg  
have to do with our scriptures today?

This morning we have both the First Testament account  
of Moses, in his farewell speech,  
giving Israel the Law, or the ten commandments,  
and then in our Gospel we have Jesus  
reiterating some of those very same words  
in a debate with those gathered around to discuss theology  
and living, in their own time.

Humanity has a sort of love/hate relationship with commands, laws, rules and recipes.  
On one hand give us the tried and true way,  
or as Jamie Oliver says,  
“the rock solid recipe to cook an egg to perfection every single time.”  
Let’s take out the guess work, and the mistakes.  
Let’s avoid the cracked oozing eggs and the greeny-black rings on yolks.  
Let’s skip that costly, frustrating, chaotic bit and get strait to a perfect breakfast.  
On the other hand what if I have no pot,  
or no drinking water suitable to boil an egg in?  
And what if I have no eggs? – could only get my hands on a wild goose egg once or twice in a  
year, if I was lucky.  
What if the perfect breakfast,  
or any breakfast for that matter,  
is just a fantasy for me?  
Rules, recipes and decrees don’t always work for everyone,  
at least not in this world we live in.  
And yet for those who can attain the rules, they tend to get galvanized.  
It becomes all about following,  
even achieving as many rules and rituals as a person can  
while the very focus and purpose of those rules and rituals  
fades further and further away.  
Jesus spent a great deal of this ministry teaching in words and deeds  
about this very thing.  
Remember when some people wanted to kill Jesus  
because he broke the Law of Moses  
by healing a man on the Sabbath?  
The parable of the Good Samaritan has two characters  
who cared more about carrying out the proper rituals  
at the proper times, in the proper manner,  
than stopping to save a human life.  
People trying to catch Jesus up in a technicality  
was actually what he struggled with  
for a good part of his ministry.  
Doesn’t it seem like they were missing the whole point?  
Today happens to be Reformation Day,  
the day we remember Martin Luther  
who in 1517 agonized over things that were being done  
in his own church  
that did not match the Great Commandments.  
He wrote out 95 debate topics  
on the practice of purchasing tickets for salvation  
and posted them on the front door of the church in Wittenburg.  
For Martin Luther and the rest of the Reformers,  
they were asking themselves,

Isn't our church missing the whole point of grace?  
In time the Catholic Church has reformed,  
and that need to reform is ongoing.  
Oh, and lest we get too comfortable in our own Presbyterian pews.  
Our own denomination has lots and lots of rules and regulations  
and forms and agreements and ways.  
These documents are readily available if you have a few years of your life to sit and read them  
all on the computer.  
If we think there are a lot of ideas out there  
about how to cook a perfect hard-boiled egg,  
you should see how much is out there  
on how to be a good Presbyterian.  
And many of these ways and rules and forms are beneficial.  
They are also constantly being reformed.  
For example;  
we had Cornerstone Ministries, right here in Niagara,  
in Dunnville to be specific,  
a unique type of grass roots ministry which taught  
marginalized women and their young families  
about faith and forgiveness,  
about Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit,  
about how to pray and why we pray  
Each participant was taught that  
any question is an important question.  
And yet, up until seven years ago,  
the Presbyterian Church in Canada had no template,  
no agreement, no set system in place  
to recognize or support a ministry whose congregational members  
do not have any money to pay for their ministry.  
I was there, in person, as our Church Offices struggled to figure out  
Was this a mission field?  
Was this a new church plant?  
Was this a satellite of another church congregation -  
who could afford to pay the price of a ministry like this?  
When I challenged my contact at Church Offices  
by saying;  
'Wasn't a ministry to marginalized women and children,  
which helps them to grow in faith and trust  
the very point of church?'  
He said, "Yes indeed, it was the point".  
Then he said,  
"Sometimes the Holy Spirit charges out in front of us  
and we need a bit of time to catch up."

“Hear, O Israel:

The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and with all your strength.

These commandments I give to you today  
are to be on your hearts”.

The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

The Lord our God is one with our created world, and with all humanity.

Can we even be in a right relationship with God  
without loving our neighbour?

Today in our scriptures the “oneness” of God is being high-lighted.

The word “covenants”, the plural of covenant,

does not exist in the First Testament,

because there is one covenant

and one covenant only, with God and God’s people.

God, who is present in the world shaping history is not changing.

God is not random.

That means that God is not fickle

or unreliable or unpredictable.

God is always consistent with us and with the world.

There is for us, however, no quick and fast rules to being consistent.

Just because Jamie Oliver claims to know the rock solid recipe  
to cook a hard-boiled egg to perfection absolutely every single time,  
doesn’t mean that his way is the right way for everyone.

Jesus’ words sound simple and straight forward,

two commandments that most people would be hard pressed to disagree with.

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart

and with all your soul and with all your mind

and with all your strength.

Love your neighbour as yourself.”

As soon as you agree to those two commandments,

the really hard work begins,

because there is no hard and fast, time tested,  
straight forward recipe to live like that.

The world is changing

The society we live in is changing.

The climate is changing.

Our food is changing.

Our health care systems are changing.

What we learn about, and how we learn is changing.

If we cling too tightly to our old ways and our old rituals

we risk the real possibility that we are missing

the very point Jesus is reiterating in our scriptures today.

We need to go into our kitchens and look at our old pots

and our cold, refrigerated eggs  
and ask ourselves if maybe there is a different way.  
We need to ask ourselves who might not be able to eat eggs at all,  
and how can we change that.  
We need to challenge our subconscious biases  
and that is truly hard work my friends,  
always asking ourselves;  
'What was Jesus' point?'  
Love God in every way. Love neighbours as yourself.  
"These commandments that I give you today  
are to be on your hearts", said Moses.  
Let's not let rituals and old patterns of doing things  
take the place of love.  
Instead as the Holy Spirit charges out before us,  
let us commit to allowing change into our hearts  
as we try in faith and trust, to catch up.  
Amen

Hymn #691 My shepherd is the King of love (vs. 1-4 and 6)

### **Invitation to the Offering**

#### **Doxology**

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

We thank you Lord for all the gifts you bestow upon us,  
the world and everything in it.  
Bless the gifts we bring today that we may honour our neighbour as one created in your image.  
May these gifts be put to work toward bringing dignity and health for all.

#### **Prayer of Thanksgiving and for the People**

Enduring God,  
On this Reformation Sunday, we thank you for your faithfulness to us  
and to the tradition that has shaped us as disciples of Jesus.  
Thank you for your living Word which continues to reveal Jesus,  
and for the gift of your Spirit to help us interpret your wisdom  
in the midst of changing times.  
Eternal God,  
we give you thanks for our loved ones who have taken their eternal rest before us.  
We thank you because they showed us your loving kindness through their witness to Christ  
in so many different situations.  
Inspire us by their examples and inspire us in how we, too, can live out our faith  
in the midst of changing times.  
Loving God,  
You keep calling us to care for those in need  
and show hospitality to strangers in our midst.

Thank you for your persistent love which continues to comfort and challenge us all.  
Open our hearts and eyes so that we can see how to offer that love to others  
in the midst of challenging times.

Living God,

You bring new life to the discouraged and those facing danger and death.

Thank you for signs hope in a world at war, for grace, kindness and forgiveness  
in the midst of these challenging times.

Creating God,

we praise you for the beauty of this world

and the rhythms of nature which pulse and swirl around us.

Give us courage to act on behalf of your creation where it is stressed or broken,  
and nurture our commitment to act as your stewards on earth  
in the midst of challenging and changing times.

We pray now for individuals and loved ones who are personal to us.... Silence.

As we prepare to leave this service, walk with us,

and show us how to live each day as those who follow Jesus.

Amen

### **Hymn # 611 For all the Saints**

### **BENEDICTION**

**May the grace of Christ be with you,  
the love of God surround you,  
and the Holy Spirit walk with you,  
now and forever.**

### **Sung Response- Go Now In Peace**

### **Postlude**

<p><b>We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe</b></p>
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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**We welcome Rev. Anita Van Nest and thank her for leading us in worship for the next 2 week**

**Next Sunday Service, November 3, at 10:00 am at North Pelham**

**\*Willing Workers Meat Pies and Mini Bazaar** - orders are now being accepted for 9" Ground Beef or Chicken Meat Pies, \$18.00 each. Pick up day and Bazaar will be Saturday November 16 from 10 am – 1 pm. Orders can be placed with Janice Aulph 905-246-9175

**\*Willing Workers Meeting** – Tuesday October 29 @ 2:00 pm at North Pelham Church



**\*Winter Apparel Drive**—We continue to collect good-used winter coats, hats, mittens/gloves, and scarves to support Brock Chaplaincy's Winter Coat program. Please consider this when you are going through closets. This drive will run for the month of October, and your donations can be dropped off at either Rockway or North Pelham. Thanks for your consideration of this worthwhile project!

**\*Joint Session Meeting:** The Session meeting for Rockway and North Pelham will be held on November 13 at Rockway, starting at 7:00 PM.

**\*Presbytery Meeting:** The Presbytery meeting will be held on November 20 at Scottlea Presbyterian Church, starting at 7:00 PM.

**\*Christmas Joy Benefit Concert, Saturday, November 23 | 2:00 PM, First Presbyterian Church, North Pelham:** Join us for an afternoon of festive Christmas carols! A free-will offering will support the Open Arms Mission of Welland, helping those in need. Come and share the joy of the season through music and

**\*Wednesday Bible Study:** Diane McMillan leads this group at North Pelham every Wednesday at 10:00 AM.

**\*Outreach - Thursday Walking:** Join us for the Wellness Walk and Coffee Chat! We gather at 9:30 a.m. at Canada Games Park to start our walk together. After the walk, we meet at Rockway for a joyful chat over hot and fresh coffee at 10:45 am.

**\*Connect with your Minister Jacob for pastoral visits. Reach Jacob at [jacoble0501@gmail.com](mailto:jacoble0501@gmail.com) or 289-213-2797.**

**Rev. Jacob will be on vacation until November 11<sup>th</sup>, for pastoral concerns, please contact an Elder**