



Rockway and First (North Pelham) Pastoral Charge
Pentecost 3 Sunday, June 29, 2025
Worship at Home

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Jesus said to the woman who had suffered for twelve years, *“Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace.”* (Luke 8:48)

P: **We come to this place to grow in faith, to seek healing, and to discover God’s peace.**

L: The prophet Micah reminds us, *“What does the Lord require of you? To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”* (Micah 6:8)

P: **We come to learn what truly matters—to act with justice, not with pride, but with kindness and humility. We are here to worship God together!**

Hymn 324

Great is thy faithfulness

PRAYERS OF APPROACH, CONFESSION and The Lord’s Prayer

Here we are, O God. We have come.

Some of us come with dreams: We want to do things. We want to go places. We long to explore and imagine—to think, love, and experience life fully.

But we are also afraid. Will we achieve our dreams? Can we reach what we hope for?

Others among us are carrying limitations. We feel stuck in situations or circumstances that weigh us down. Some of us are limited by our bodies, or by stress in our minds, and that stress shows up in depression, or anger, in worry, hopelessness, overwhelm, or even resentment.

Whether we are longing to rise or burdened by what holds us back, we admit—we are afraid, O God. Hear us now, in the silence, as we open our hearts to you. (pause)

In silence, we also confess the ways we fail you and one another. (pause)

But even now, we give you thanks, O God. Because we believe you hear us. We believe you care for us. And we believe you can lead us forward—even if it takes time, even if we can’t yet see the way. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who walks with us, and who taught us to pray together, saying:

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 570

I have decided to follow Jesus

Children of God Moment

Prayer for Understanding

Loving God,

in a world of limits and uncertainty, stir within us the gift of faith—faith that dares to reach out, and faith that keeps walking. By your Spirit, open our hearts to your living Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Responsive Psalm 81: 1-8; Micah 6: 6-8; Luke 8: 40-56

SERMON

New Possibilities in the Limitations of Life

We live in a world that highly values competition. People are constantly encouraged to be the best, to reach their dreams, and to succeed in life. Confidence is often regarded as the key to achieving success. We hear this message everywhere: “If you believe in yourself, anything is possible.” “You can have whatever you want if you just believe in yourself.” “Trust your abilities, work hard, and there’s nothing you can’t accomplish.”

These are powerful and popular messages. But are they always true?

Let me share a small story from our family life. When my youngest son, Joshua, was in elementary school, he played on a basketball team. I still remember taking him to practices and games, watching him grow and have fun. His coach would often encourage the kids with words like, “Believe in yourself. You can be great. You could even become an NBA star someday. Just trust yourself.” It was a message full of energy and hope. And I’ve heard similar things from professional athletes over the years—like Kawhi Leonard, Pascal Siakam, and Kyle Lowry from the Toronto Raptors during their 2019 championship season. They spoke confidently about believing in themselves, in their team, and in victory. That kind of confidence can certainly carry people far.

Especially for young people, the world can seem full of potential and opportunities. But as we grow older and experience more of life, we begin to face limitations. We realize that hard work and confidence don’t always guarantee success. Life can be unfair. Doors don’t always open. Illness, disappointment, or unexpected changes can block our way. So, we begin to see that the idea of unlimited potential through self-belief is, at least in part, an illusion.

But that’s not the whole story. Even in the face of life’s limitations, we also discover something beautiful: we have potential beyond our understanding, when we open ourselves to God. Even when life seems closed, new doors can open. There is always more to life than we can see in the moment.

Today's Gospel reading from Luke invites us to consider this more profound truth. It offers wisdom and inspiration on how to live faithfully in a world full of both possibility and limitation. In this story, we meet a man named Jairus, a respected leader in the synagogue. He is someone people would expect to be confident and capable. But now he is helpless—his daughter is dying. His role, his reputation, his position in the religious community—all of it means nothing in this moment. He is a desperate father.

Still, he comes to Jesus. This is a big risk. Jesus isn't a trained rabbi or doctor. He's a peasant teacher whom many religious leaders criticize. Yet Jairus is willing to humble himself and reach out. Why? Because he loves his daughter, and he is open to the possibility that Jesus can help.

Jesus responds—not with a miracle right away—but with a call: “Have faith.”

Then the story takes an unexpected turn. Before they can reach Jairus's home, Jesus is interrupted. A woman in the crowd has quietly reached out and touched the edge of his robe. She has been bleeding for twelve years. This isn't just a medical issue—it's also a spiritual and social one. According to the religious law of the time, her condition made her “unclean.” She would have lived in isolation, unable to worship with others or even be touched.

Yet this woman believes—just a little bit—that Jesus can heal her. She doesn't want to bother him. She doesn't even speak. She simply reaches out, hoping for a miracle in silence.

And something amazing happens. Jesus stops. He turns around and asks, “Who touched me?” The disciples are confused. They're in a crowd—everyone is touching him. But Jesus knows that something meaningful has happened. He says, “Power has gone out from me.”

The woman steps forward, trembling. But Jesus does not scold her. Instead, he says something truly beautiful: “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace.” This is one of the most tender moments in the Gospels. Jesus not only heals her body, but he also restores her dignity. He calls her “daughter,” affirming her worth, and blesses her with peace.

But just as this miracle ends, bad news comes for Jairus. A messenger arrives and says, “Your daughter has died. Don't bother the teacher anymore.” Can you imagine the pain of that moment?

Yet Jesus, full of compassion, turns to Jairus and says, “Do not be afraid. Only believe, and she will be well.”

It's one thing to believe when things are difficult, but Jairus is now asked to consider the impossible. His daughter has died. But he keeps walking with Jesus. And in the end, Jesus restores the girl to life.

This is not just a story about two miracles. It's a story about two kinds of faith—faith that dares to reach out quietly in the crowd, and faith that dares to keep walking when all seems lost.

From this Gospel reading, I want to lift up two lessons for us today. First, life brings us face to face with limitations. No matter who we are—rich or poor, young or old—we will all face moments where we feel powerless. Illness, failure, grief, loss, or even the quiet disappointment of dreams that don't come true—these things are part of being human.

But the Gospel teaches us that even in those moments, we are not without hope. Even when all options seem closed, we can still reach out in faith. We can still walk with Jesus. We may not know what the outcome will be, but we trust the One who walks with us.

Faith means believing that new things are possible—even when our hearts are tired. It means trusting that God is doing something beyond what we can see. We may not always be healed in the way we expect, but we are never forgotten. In God, there is always the possibility of renewal.

Second, we are not only body and mind—we are spiritual beings. Our culture often teaches us to rely only on ourselves. But human strength alone is not enough. If we place our faith only in ourselves, in money, or in status, we will eventually run into a wall.

We need something deeper. We need to be connected to the Source of life—to God. When we trust in God, we discover new strength, even when we feel weak. We may not become NBA stars or win every battle, but we find something even more powerful: peace, purpose, and hope.

The Prophet Micah reminds us of what God truly desires from us: “To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.” (Micah 6:8) This is the path of a faithful life. Not pride. Not perfection. But humility, compassion, and trust.

So, let me ask you today:

Do you believe in the God who is within you and believes in you? Like Jairus and the bleeding woman, are you willing to open your heart to God's presence even when life is hard?

Faith is not about being perfect or having all the answers. It's about saying, “I will keep walking. I will keep trusting. I believe that God has not finished with me yet.”

And in that faith, we find new life.

May we remember that even when we feel lost or limited, God is always near, inviting us into deeper communion and new possibility. May we live each day trusting not just in ourselves, but in the God who lovingly calls us beloved, essential and precious “daughter” and “son.” Amen.

Hymn 749 **Be still my soul**

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God,

we bring these gifts as acts of faith—trusting in your power to heal, to provide, and to renew. Use them, and use us, to share your love with a world that needs it. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and for the People

God of beauty and truth,
we come to you as those who carry dreams. We dream of lives filled with meaning—of flourishing spirits, of love shared and received, of making a difference and being seen, of relationships that nourish our deep longing for communion. But we also face the weight of reality, O God. Some of our dreams feel out of reach. Some of us wonder if our best days have passed, or if the hope we once carried is now only a memory.

Still, we are here. And in being here, we ask: Is it chance, or your quiet providence, that weaves meaning from the scattered threads of our lives?

We thank you, O God, for the faith that stirs us—faith that dares to hope again, faith that reaches out, faith that believes you are not finished with us yet. Even in our doubts, even in our questions, You hold us in grace. And so, in thanksgiving, we lift our prayers for the world.

We pray for all who live in places of war and fear. In the Middle East, where Israel and Iran exchange deadly strikes, and where innocent lives are lost, give faith to those who long for peace. Make possible what seems impossible, O God.

In Ukraine, where war continues with terrible cost, and grief hangs heavy in so many homes—strengthen those who still walk by faith, who believe in rebuilding, even through ruin. Make possible what seems impossible, O God.

We pray for people in Northern Ireland, where riots and unrest once again divide communities—and for protesters in Los Angeles, seeking dignity in the face of fear and uncertainty. In places where trust is thin and tempers are high, let faith sow seeds of understanding and calm. Make possible what seems impossible, O God.

We pray for those who struggle to find work or face instability in their jobs. For parents trying to provide, and for those unsure how to make ends meet, grant courage, and the faith to keep going. Make possible what seems impossible, O God.

We lift to you those who grieve—through illness, accident, or violence. You know how fragile life is, O God. Give comfort to the brokenhearted, and let them feel your presence close, even when hope feels far away. Make possible what seems impossible, O God.

God of faith and mercy, help us to be people who walk humbly with you, who act with compassion, and live with courage. May our prayers not end with words, but lead us into faithful living—trusting your Spirit is at work, even now.

And now, in the quiet of this moment, we lift to you the names and faces of those who are in our hearts—those who need your mercy and grace. (pause)

We offer all these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our source of peace and hope. Amen.

Hymn 634 **Will you come and follow me**

BENEDICTION

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit strengthen you with faith—faith that reaches out, faith that walks on, and faith that trusts in God's healing and hope. Amen.

Sung Response- Go Now In Peace
Postlude

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Next Sunday Service, July 6, at 10:00 am at Rockway**

***Wednesday Bible study – Summer Break:** Our Wednesday Bible Study, led by Diane McMillan at 10:00 AM at North Pelham Church, will pause for the summer and resume on **September 10**. We look forward to gathering again in the fall!

***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 or 289-213-2797.