



Rockway and First (North Pelham) Pastoral Charge
12th Sunday after Pentecost, August 16, 2026
Worship at Home

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather today to celebrate the goodness of God, which we see reflected in the kindness of people.

People: We thank God for those who offer a helping hand, a listening ear, and a generous heart.

Leader: Christ calls us to love our neighbours as ourselves and to put our faith into action.

People: Let our worship inspire us to serve and let our love be shown in what we do for others.

Leader: God's grace transforms us so that we can be a blessing to the world.

People: Open our hearts, Lord, to see the needs around us, and give us the strength to serve you by serving one another.

All: Come, let us worship God together in love and service.

Hymn 410

Joyful, Joyful we adore you

Prayers of Approach and Confession

Let us lift our hearts to God in adoration, and then in the quietness of our souls, offer God our honest confession.

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth, we praise You for Your infinite goodness. We see the reflection of Your glory in the beauty of creation, and we feel the warmth of Your presence in the kindness of those who serve others.

You are the source of all compassion, the true light that guides our steps through the darkness, and the steady strength that sustains us each day. We worship You for Your endless faithfulness, which never fails us, and for Your wide grace that welcomes us into community just as we are.

Receive our praise this day, O God, as we offer You our hearts, our minds, and our voices.

Merciful and holy God, we confess that we often fail to live out the love You have so freely shown us. You call us to do good for others, yet we frequently turn inward and focus only on our own comfort. We ignore the needs of our neighbours, and we look away from the brokenness in our communities.

We pass by opportunities to be kind, choosing convenience over compassion. We hold back the resources, the time, and the generosity You have entrusted to us. Forgive us for our selfishness, our apathy, and our silence. Cleanse our hearts, renew our spirits, and help us to be active in our outreach to others, following the example of Jesus Christ.

Let us now look into our own hearts and bring in a moment of silence our personal, unspoken prayers to you.

(Pause for silent confession.)

We pray all this in the name of Jesus, 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.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news: God's steadfast love endures forever. God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. Through Jesus Christ, we are completely forgiven

Thanks be to God. Amen

Passing the Peace of Jesus Christ- Passing the peace is our way of saying: “God’s grace is bigger than anything that divides us.” It’s a moment to acknowledge each other, to welcome each other, and to remind one another that Christ’s peace is alive in this community. Let’s take a moment to share Christ’s peace with one another.

Hymn 670

Amazing Grace

Prayer for Understanding

God of grace, as we gather to hear your Word, silence any thoughts that distract us. Open our hearts to receive the challenge and the comfort you offer in the name of Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

Responsive Psalm 67

Galatians 6: 1-10; Proverbs 21: 1-3, Romans 12: 3-21

Sermon

“Good People Do Things for Other People”

Today we hear a simple but powerful message from Scripture: God blesses us so that we may be a blessing to others. The Christian life is never simply about what God does **for us**. It is also about what God does **through us** for the sake of our neighbours.

Psalm 67 begins with a prayer for blessing:

"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us."

Many of us know those words. We have heard them in worship services, baptisms, and benedictions. But notice what comes next:

"that your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations."

God's blessing is not meant to end with us. It flows through us. Just as a river does not keep water for itself, God's people are called to let grace flow outward to a thirsty world.

The question before us is this: **What does it look like when ordinary Christians become channels of God's goodness?**

The Scriptures we read today offer several answers.

In Proverbs 21 we read:

"To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice."

God certainly welcomes our worship. He welcomes our hymns, our prayers, and our offerings. But God is not interested in worship that stops at the church door. True worship leads to righteous living. It leads to compassion, justice, mercy, generosity, and kindness.

We cannot sing "Amazing Grace" on Sunday and ignore a neighbour in need on Monday.

The Apostle Paul develops this same theme in Galatians 6. He tells believers to restore those who have fallen, bear one another's burdens, and not grow weary in doing good.

That phrase is important:

"Let us not grow weary in doing what is right."

Why would Paul say that?

Because doing good can be exhausting.

Helping others often costs us time, energy, money, and emotional investment. Sometimes our kindness is not appreciated. Sometimes people disappoint us. Sometimes we wonder whether we're making any difference at all.

Yet Paul reminds us that every act of care matters. Every burden shared is an act of Christian love. Every kindness reflects the character of Christ.

One of the most memorable examples of this truth comes from an unexpected place: the Netflix series *After Life*.

In the show, Ricky Gervais plays Tony, a man consumed by grief after losing his wife. Throughout the series he has conversations with Anne, played by Penelope Wilton, an elderly widow who becomes a source of wisdom and comfort.

Sitting together on a bench, Anne says something remarkably profound:

"Good people do things for other people. That's it. The end."

Now, that is not a complete Christian theology. We know that salvation comes by grace through faith, not by good works.

Yet there is something deeply true about Anne's observation.

When you strip away our excuses, our fears, and our self-interest, goodness often looks very simple.

Good people help.

Good people show up.

Good people listen.

Good people encourage.

Good people carry burdens.

Good people do things for other people.

And when Christians do these things, we are reflecting the heart of Jesus Christ.

Romans 12 paints a beautiful picture of this kind of life.

Paul says:

"Love one another with mutual affection."

"Contribute to the needs of the saints."

"Extend hospitality to strangers."

"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep."

"Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good."

Notice how practical Christian discipleship is.

Paul does not say, "Feel loving thoughts about people."

He says: love them.

Help them.

Serve them.

Welcome them.

Bless them.

Pray for them.

Feed them.

Care for them.

In other words, faith becomes visible through action.

We see a modern example of this in the work of social media influencer Zachery Dereniowski, better known as **MD Motivator**.

Millions of people have watched his videos. He shares acts of kindness, giving help and encouragement to strangers, often surprising people who themselves have shown generosity. His message centers on kindness, human connection, and reminding people that they matter.

What is particularly moving about his story is what inspired him.

During a difficult period while studying in Australia, he struggled with depression, loneliness, and isolation. He has spoken about reaching a very low point in his life and feeling invisible to the people around him. That experience became the catalyst for a mission of reaching out to others and helping people feel seen, valued, and loved.

He discovered something important: kindness changes lives.

Not because money alone changes lives.

Not because viral videos change lives.

But because people are transformed when they are reminded that they are not alone.

Christians have known this for centuries.

A meal shared can change a life.

A hospital visit can change a life.

A prayer can change a life.

A phone call can change a life.

A listening ear can change a life.

Sometimes we underestimate the impact of small acts of goodness.

Yet Jesus never did.

Think about the Good Samaritan.

Think about Zacchaeus.

Think about the woman at the well.

Think about the feeding of the five thousand.

Again and again, Jesus saw people whom others overlooked.

The kingdom of God advances not only through grand gestures but through ordinary acts of compassion offered in Christ's name.

Perhaps some of us hear all this and think, "But I don't have much to give."

Maybe we're retired.

Maybe we're struggling ourselves.

Maybe we don't have wealth, influence, or special talents.

But Romans 12 reminds us that every believer has gifts.

Some teach.

Some encourage.

Some serve. Some give. Some lead. Some show mercy.

Every member of Christ's body has something to offer.

You do not have to change the whole world.

You only need to change the part of the world that God has placed in front of you.

One neighbour.

One friend.

One family member.

One stranger.

One burden.

One act of kindness.

Psalm 67 reminds us that God blesses us so that all peoples may know God's saving ways.

Galatians reminds us not to grow weary in doing good. Proverbs reminds us that righteousness and justice please God more than religious performance. Romans reminds us that genuine love must be active and practical.

And perhaps Anne's simple wisdom on that bench captures something of the heart of it all:

"Good people do things for other people."

As Christians we might add one more sentence:

Because Christ has first done everything for us.

We love because He first loved us.

We forgive because He forgave us.

We serve because He served us.

We give because He gave Himself for us.

May God bless us, not so that we become comfortable, but so that we become a blessing.

May we never grow weary in doing good.

And may our lives point others to Jesus Christ, whose goodness has changed the world forever.

Amen.

Hymn 592

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Invitation to the Offering

With deep gratitude for the healing and freedom that Jesus offers, let us present our offerings to God. Our offering will now be received.

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

O God, we place our hope and trust in your loving kindness. Because we want to praise you with more than just words, we offer our gifts to support Christ's mission in the world. Bless these gifts and use our energy for your good purposes, so that the world will know your loving kindness.

Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and for the People

Please join me in our prayer of thanksgiving and for the people

Gracious and giving God, our hearts overflow with gratitude for Your countless blessings. We thank You for the gift of life itself, for the beauty of the world around us, and for the daily provisions that sustain us. We praise You for the community gathered here, for the love of family, and for the warmth of friendship.

Most of all, we thank You for the spirit of kindness we see in others. We give thanks for those who quietly feed the hungry, comfort the lonely, and offer a helping hand without asking for anything in return. Thank You for showing us Your love through the actions of ordinary people. May their generosity inspire our own.

Loving God, you have bound us together in a human family. Because You care for all people, we bring the needs of our world before You today.

We pray for those who are struggling. We remember those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit, and those who face the heavy burden of grief. Surround them with Your healing presence and grant them peace.

We pray for our local community. Open our eyes to the hidden needs of our neighbours. Where there is loneliness, let us bring companionship. Where there is hunger or hardship, give us the courage and the generosity to share what we have. Help us to be a church that does not just talk about love but acts with love.

We pray for the nations of the world. Guide our leaders with wisdom and compassion. Lord, we especially pray for the people of Colombia who were struck with a devastating earthquake. We think of those who perished, those who grieve and those who are working tirelessly to rescue others. Give them strength, comfort, and courage to help each other.

We also remember members of the North Pelham and Rockway church families who are quietly struggling in body, mind, or spirit. Even when their needs are unknown to us, they are fully known to You. Hold them close and help us notice how we may care for them.

We continue to pray for Don Hallett. Surround him with Your grace and mercy. Give him strength and comfort.

In silence, we now place before You the people and situations we are carrying in our hearts.
(silence)

Living God, fill us with gratitude, and lead us forward in faith, hope, and compassionate love. We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

BENEDICTION

It is good and pleasant when God's people live in unity. So go with the conviction that we can serve together to do good and find pleasure in Jesus' name. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and unity in the Holy Spirit be with you now and always. Amen.

Sung Response- Go Now In Peace

Postlude

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Next Sunday Service, August 23, at 10:00 am at North Pelham**

***Summer Pulpit Supply:**

Rev. Jacob will be on holiday from **August 10 to August 31**. During his absence, we are grateful for the spiritual leadership of our guest worship leaders:

- **Rev. Martin Wehrmann – August 23**
- **Mr. Kent Reynolds – August 30**

We give thanks for their spiritual worship leadership and pray that God will bless them as they share God's Word with us.

***Tai Chi & Qigong – Summer Break:** Tai Chi & Qigong classes are now on summer break for July and August. Classes will resume on Monday, September 7, at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

***Wednesday Bible Study – Summer Break:** Wednesday Bible Study is now on summer break and will resume on Wednesday, September 9, at 10:00 a.m. at North Pelham. Thank you to Diane and all who shared in this time of study and fellowship.

***Thursdays – Outreach 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.

***Prayer Requests and Pastoral Care:**

If you or someone you know is facing illness, grief, or any need, please contact your elder or Rev. Jacob: **Phone: 289-213-2797; Email: jacoblee0501@gmail.com** We are here to pray and care for one another. "Carry one another's burdens." (Galatians 6:2)