

ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 9, 2018

10:30 AM

\* Stand if you are able

**Bold:** Said by all

All hymns, scriptures and congregational prayers are projected.

Musical Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP

\* Entry of the Word

Welcome and Announcements

**Call to Worship:**

\*Gathering Hymn: "As The Deer"

(#27)

**Prayer of Approach:**

**Prayer of Confession:**

Almighty and compassionate God,

every day, in our desire to

attain our wants,

avoid discomfort,

and shun those we do not know or love,

we show ourselves to be unworthy of your gifts of life.

Of this we are sorely aware,

and we ask your power to renew us in body and spirit,

that we will be able, through your help,

to walk in the way you intend for us.

Forgive us and lead us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon:**

**Sharing the Peace of Christ:**

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Choir Anthem: "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

(Kendrick and Hayes)

\*Children's Hymn: "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

(#671)

Children's Story

(Grade 12 & under leave for Sunday School)

Church Office Hours: Monday to Thursday, 9 AM to 4 PM

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[www.stpaulssimcoe.com](http://www.stpaulssimcoe.com) 519-426-1845

MINISTER: Rev. Mikal Schomburg

ORGANIST: Ian Madge

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

**Prayer for Illumination (in unison):**

Holy God, whose Spirit comes to us  
in moments of both strength and weakness,  
come now into our midst so that we will hear your Word  
in fullness and in truth, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



**SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 146

James 2:1-17

Mark 7:24-37

*One: This is the Word of the Lord.*

***All: Thanks be to God.***

**SERMON**

*Silent Reflection*

**OUR RESPONSE**

\* Hymn of Response: *“What Does The Lord Require Of You”* (#709)

\* **Declaration of Faith:** FROM THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION  
OF FAITH, CHAPTER 16

1. Works are only “good works” if they’re things God commands us to do in His word. They’re not works people make up without grounding in Scripture, even if they do so out of blind zeal or with outwardly good intentions.

2. Good works are the fruit of a lively and true faith. We do them to obey God’s commands, and by them we show our thankfulness to God. Our good works assure us that we’re saved, build up others, make our profession of the gospel beautiful, shut the mouths of our enemies, and glorify God.

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works.” These works bear fruit that lead to holiness, so that in the end we may have eternal life.

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3. Our ability to do good works definitely doesn’t come from ourselves, but only from the Holy Spirit. To enable us to do good works, as well as the grace we’ve already been given, we need the Spirit to influence us to desire and do what pleases God. But we must not get lazy, as if we don’t have to do anything unless the Spirit specially tells us to. No, we need to be diligent to stir up the grace of God that is already in us.

4. Even people who obey God really well in this life are never able to go above and beyond the call of God’s duty. In fact, such people still fall short of many things God requires them to do.

5. Even our best works won’t earn us forgiveness of sin or eternal life with God – even our best works are completely disproportionate to the glory to come. The distance

between us and God is infinite. We can't benefit God by our works or satisfy the debt of our sins.

When we've done all we can, we've simply done our duty and we're unprofitable servants. To the extent that our works are good, they come from the Holy Spirit. And because they're done by us they're unclean, weak, and imperfect, so they can't withstand God's severe judgment.

6. But despite all this, God accepts us who believe through Christ, along with our works. He accepts us not because He sees our good works as pure and perfect, but because He looks at us through His Son. He wants to accept and reward what we do that's sincere, even if it is weak and imperfect.

Offering

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

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#### SENDING

\* Parting Hymn: "O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (#374)

\* Benediction:

\* *"Go Now in Peace"*

\* Exit of the Word

Musical Postlude