

PRA^{XIS}

February 20, 2022 | Season of Epiphany
Acts 5:1–11 *“Telling the Truth...Even If It Kills Us”*

Jesus told the truth and he was crucified for it. The world runs on lies. We lie to ourselves, we lie to each other, and we lie to God. We believe we cannot survive without lying. But, Jesus doesn't just tell the truth, he is the truth. To be Jesus's people means we become a community that is crucified to the world and its lies. We, by the power of Jesus's Spirit in us, must tell the truth about ourselves, each other, and God. Only by first becoming a community that embody's the truth can we faithfully witness to the gospel.

February 27, 2022 | Transfiguration Sunday (Communion)
Mark 9:2–13 *“Witnessing About an Odd God”*

God seems determined to remain hidden. Where we would expect powerful revelation to motivate belief, we follow three kids onto a mountainside who come away with a secret. This points to the greatest hiddenness of God of all, the cross. Who can see the creator of the universe as he's nailed to two pieces of wood and is bleeding out? But, we have been incorporated into a community with that hidden God at its centre and we are called to reveal him to the world. Our witness is simple and true, and itself is difficult to see and believe.

March 6, 2022 | First Sunday of Lent
Revelation 5:6–14 *“Wasting Time With Worship”*

Marva Dawn begins her book, *A Royal “Waste” of Time*, saying: “To worship the Lord is—in the world's eyes—a waste of time. It is, indeed, a *royal* waste of time, but a waste nonetheless. By engaging in it, we don't accomplish anything useful in our society's terms.” When God himself is the high priest and sacrifice, worship is not something we can offer. All we can do is to cling to the cross ourselves as we declare God's justice and mercy graciously mixed in the Lamb who was slain.

March 13, 2022 | Second Sunday of Lent
John 13:1–17 *“Submission for Service”*

While Canada isn't a class system type of culture, most of us want to be taken seriously and treated with respect. In order to have this we find it necessary to present ourselves to others as people who are due this sort of treatment. But, the church is told everywhere in Scripture to submit to others. Gender, ethnicity, education, and status don't give advantage. We are all equally to submit to each other. Once again, this embodies the good news in our community. Jesus himself came not to rule in power, but to serve. We too are called to sacrifice our dignity for the gospel.

March 20, 2022 | Third Sunday of Lent
Romans 12:14–21 *“Make Love, Not War”*

Nonviolence is more than not taking up arms in times of conflict. Like all these praxes, nonviolence is a way of life determined by the cross. Jesus himself does not take up arms or allow his disciples to do so to save himself. If the cross is the truest revelation of who God is, then God is essentially nonviolent, allowing himself to be crushed under the violence of the world instead. Our own way of life must be cross shaped. Even in the most mundane conflicts in our lives we do not take up the weapons of evil. Evil cannot overcome evil, it must be overcome with good.

March 27, 2022 | Fourth Sunday of Lent
Luke 24:13–35 *“Radical Hospitality”*

Most of us recognize the obligation we have to care for our family and perhaps even our close friends. Beyond that we know that it is good to be charitable and we encourage good people to give generously. However, the cross shows us how radically far God goes to extend his hospitality to us. As a result, the Christ community is to be marked out by an answering radical hospitality to others. This is especially important as we extend the Lord's Table to our neighbours, because it is here that Jesus himself is disclosed.