



St Paul's Hampton

*Growing spiritually and building community
through discipleship, worship & service*

February 19, 2017

7th Sunday after the Epiphany

9:00 am Holy Communion | Book of Common Prayer P67

10:30 am Holy Communion | Book of Alternative Services P185

Collect: Almighty God, your Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving love. Renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

This Sunday's Readings:

LEVITICUS 19:1-2, 9-18 - *In this passage we are told that the people are God are to be holy because the LORD himself is holy. Five times we are reminded that we are to live in these ways simply because "I am the LORD". This Holiness Code is spelled out in terms of our responsibility to love our neighbor as ourselves. This goes beyond simply treating others with respect to actively promoting their welfare.*

PSALM 119:33-40 - *The Psalmist understands that the Commandments are not just an arbitrary list of rules but a way or path to the kind of life promised by the LORD for his people. It is the Psalmist's deepest prayer to know, understand, and walk in this way.*

1 CORINTHIANS 3:10-11, 16-23 (9am) - *St. Paul continues making his point to the Corinthian church that their faith and their standing with God rests on Christ alone and not on the work of any merely human leader. Built on this foundation, they are a holy temple, indwelt by the Holy Spirit and, because they belong to Christ, precious in God's eyes.*

MATTHEW 5:38-48 - *In the Gospel Jesus tells his hearers that they are to be perfect just as their heavenly Father is perfect. While this may sound like the Holiness Code described in Leviticus and elsewhere, Jesus seems to be setting the standard even higher for his followers, to the point of impossibility apart from the grace of God.*

REFLECTIONS:

Which of Jesus' commands in this morning's gospel reading do you find most difficult?

What do you think Jesus means when he says that we ought to be perfect just as God is perfect (Matthew 5:48)?

How could anything that Jesus says here be possible?

St Paul's Prayer Corner

Mission of the Month: Hampton Middle School

International: Our Companion Diocese of Ho - Bishop Matthias

Diocese: Our Bishop David and his wife Janet & Retired Bishops Harold, George, William and Claude.

Government: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Brian Gallant, Mayor Ken Chorley and the town council

Deanery: Parish of Sussex Corner: Rev. Allan Tapley, Retired Clergy: Rev. Terry Doncaster

Parish: Rev. David & Family, Rev. Deacon Deborah Cochran & Family

Printed copies of the newsletter with upcoming events are available
at the back of the church

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