

Jonah and the labourers played by the rules,

lived their faith and gave it their all, only to be bewildered, angry and disappointed with God. Things do not turn out as they anticipated. This is a God who can have a change of heart! Nineveh will not be destroyed. The labourers who arrived late will receive the same wages as the poor sows who worked since dawn.

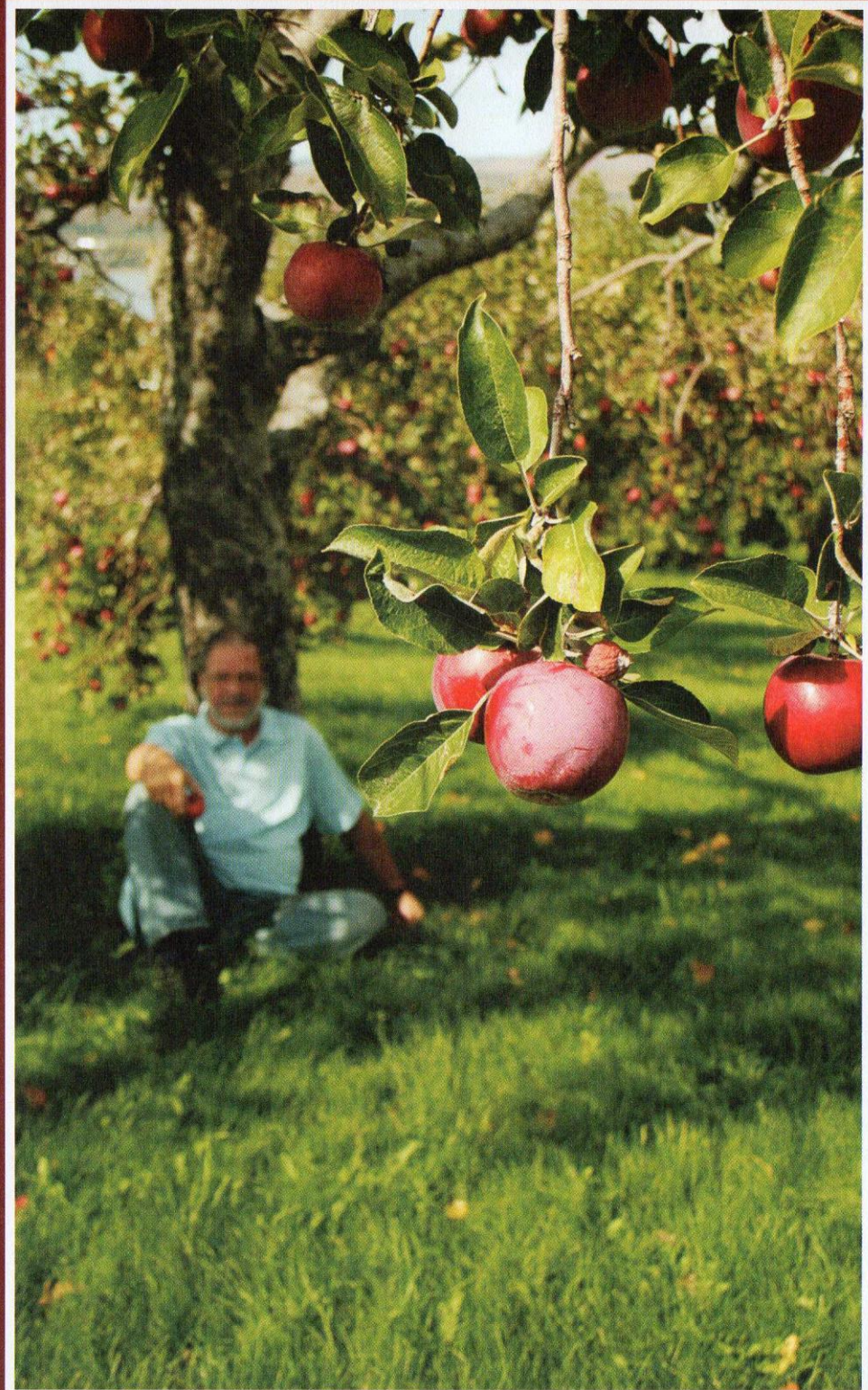
Compassion over judgment – a difficult lesson to learn. Even more difficult to teach.

God doesn't talk about compassion; God demonstrates compassion. Just as God's bush protects Jonah from the sun, so too all labourers are rewarded equally.

"Don't tell what you can ask; don't ask if you know the answer; tell in dialogue" (Jane Vella, educator).

God the teacher has always engaged in dialogue – guiding, challenging, explaining God's nature. In an act of compassion, not glory, God entered humanity in Jesus to walk with us in our weakness so we might be sustained and work for the kingdom.

The Rev. Dr. Roberta Clare serves as Director of the
Elders' Institute, St. Andrew's Hall, Vancouver, BC.



MacNab Street Presbyterian Church
September 21, 2014 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

**Those who are able, please stand*

PRELUDE

* ENTRY OF THE WORD

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 103)

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

All that is in me, bless God's Holy Name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

And let us not forget what God has done for us

Who forgives all our iniquities

Who heals all our diseases

Who redeems our life from the pit

And crowns us with steadfast love and mercy

Come, let us worship God

who blesses us with good all the days of our lives.

*PRAISE Praise, My Soul, the God Who Crowns You Hymn #467

PRAYER OF APPROACH

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

You know us, O God.

We are like the unforgiving servant

Who has not taken it in

Who has not realized

Who has not accepted it:

"I am forgiven".

Heal our stubborn hearts, we pray.

Open us to our identity in your love.

Christ in your mercy, hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts, debtors)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* GLORIA Hymn #298

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to God the Son,

Glory be to God the Spirit, God almighty, Three-in-One!

Glory, glory, glory, glory, while eternal ages run.

*THE PEACE

Minister: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

With one another: The Peace of Christ.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

*PRAISE Jesus, Stand among Us Hymn #452

WORD IN CONVERSATION (Children's time)

COMMISSIONING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

PSALTER Psalm 114 Refrain #1 Marilyn Repchuck

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35 (p.20 NT)

ANTHEM Not for Tongues, of Heaven's Angels R. Hopp

SERMON "No Less Loved" Rev. Cathy Stewart

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*PRAISE Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive Hymn #751

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise father, son and holy ghost.

*PRAISE Great Is Thy Faithfulness Hymn #324
(refrain only after stanza 3)

*BENEDICTION & THREE-FOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE (please remain seated)

WELCOME TO MACNAB

We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning.

MacNab is a child friendly church. The Church School is located in the Parlour (through the front door in the Sanctuary -lectern side- and to your right - Children who wish to stay with their parents for the church service will find colouring materials in the Narthex (entrance)

Hearing assistance is also available. Ushers will be happy to assist with any questions.

Everyone is invited to Johnston Hall following the service for fellowship and refreshments.

SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY BIBLE TEXTS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS:

Thursday, Sept 25, 2 pm-5 pm

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:30am-12:30pm

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- ❖ The Search Committee
- ❖ Don & Carole MacVicar's Inner City Ministry
- ❖ All who are grieving, facing health uncertainties, lonely or jobless

FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR:

The Search Committee appreciates your on going support and prayers.

We have had the opportunity to review profiles of a number of candidates and are preparing serious follow up on some of them.

I have also appreciated receiving suggestions of candidates from some of you, and ask that you continue to participate in this way.

CHANCEL SEATING: the work on the floor in the chancel opened up some possibilities. Over the next few weeks, the choir will experiment with different arrangements of their seating. Observations from the congregation are welcome. (talk to your elder).

NEW! AT MACNAB

Roster for the Reading of Scripture:

Anyone interested in reading scripture, please call

The office- 905 529-6896 or let Rev. Cathy or the Church Office know.

ASSISTING US TODAY

Church School: Irene Duffey

Greeters: Joyce Boyle, Chris Dawson

Ushers: Mary Kerr, Kevin Russell, Anne Hunter, Merle Jones

Coffee Servers: Kathy Shields, Jim & Fiona Myers

Duty Elder: Marilyn Repchuck

ASSISTING US NEXT WEEK

Church School: Lynda Milmine

Greeters: Jean Hartman, Grace Maynard, Gerda Wolf

Ushers: Ken & Diane Hopkins; Don & Sheila Campbell

Coffee Servers: Doug & Nancy Coutts, Josephine Patterson, Marina Watson

Duty Elder: Kevin Russell

THIS WEEK AT MACNAB:

<u>TONIGHT</u>	7:00pm	Ontario Presbyterian Chorus
Refreshments following. \$20 (\$10 for students and unemployed)		
Mon. Sept 22	7:45pm	RSCD-Johnston Hall
	7-8:30pm	Over-comers-Church House
Wed. Sept 24	7:30pm	RSCD-Johnston Hall
Thur. Sept 25	1:30pm	RSCD-Johnston Hall
	7:30pm	Choir Practice-Sanctuary
Sun. Sept 28	10:30am	Worship with Brent Ellis

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT – Sept 21st

Live like a shepherd, not like a wolf. Remember, recycling is an act of worship!

Christians for Environmental Stewardship

COMMUNITY NOTES

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SUPPORT GROUP ON LOSS

Saturdays, 9:30am (beginning Sept 20th)

To register or enquire contact the facilitators: Rev. Franklin Thomas and Donna Thomas 905 664-8107. Cost is \$5.00 for a workbook

Join us in this “safe space” to find help and answers to grief.

See bulletin board in Johnston Hall for brochures.

MANA DAY AT CRIEFF WITH REV. BOB GEDDES

“Science, God and Evangelism.” Join us at Crieff Hills Retreat & Conference

Centre as we explore how our probing of this amazing cosmos is a key for understanding how much God loves us. We will share time of learning, singing, fellowship and a great lunch!

Thursday, October 16th 10:30 am-3:00 pm

WESTDALE UNITED CHURCH & QUEST CENTRE FOR RELIGIOUS

LITERACY are sponsoring an adult education event, Sept 27 & 28 at Westdale United Church, 99 North Oval, focusing on the Gospel of Thomas.

Discover why Thomas is important at a series of lectures 9am-30m on Saturday 10:30am-Noon on Sunday

Presented by Dr. Stephen Patterson, Fellow of the Jesus Seminar and Professor of Ethics and Religious Studies, Willamette University, Salem, Oregon. Cost \$50 for three lectures (or \$20/per lecture)

See Poster on bulletin board in Johnston Hall.

PSALM 114

Refrain: God has brought forth Israel into joy from sadness.

When Israel went out from Egypt,
The house of Jacob from a people of strange language,
Judah became God’s sanctuary,
Israel God’s dominion.

The sea looked and fled;

Jordan turned back.

The mountains skipped like rams,

The hills like lambs.

Why is it, O sea, that you flee?

O Jordan, that you turn back?

O mountains, that you skip like rams?

O hills, like lambs?

**Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the God of Jacob,
who turns the rock into a pool of water,
the flint into a spring of water.**

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