

# *Friday News from South West*

June 9, 2023

## *2nd Sunday After Pentecost*

Our reading from Matthew this Sunday is one of healing and hope. We reflect how God's grace provides a fresh start and new life for a tax collector, a young child, and a woman with a chronic illness.

This selection from Matthew also reflects the situation facing the church members who were Matthew's first readers. Jewish and Christian communities remained related at that time, though in conflict. Or as biblical scholar Thomas G. Long writes, "a family dispute among loyal and devoted Jews – those who held that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah and those who did not" (Thomas G. Long, *Matthew: Westminster*.)

When disputes arose between synagogue and church, the church (early followers) turned to Jesus' words for a response.

Some Pharisees question the disciples about Jesus' choice of dining companions. Before they can answer, Jesus explains his mission to call out to those needing healing and wholeness.

Seemingly irrational hope flows through these stories. Tax collector Matthew would have little reason to hope for a life of purpose in God's realm. The religious leader had no rational reason to hope for the death of his daughter to be reversed. The woman whose illness had separated her from the community for over a decade had no reason to think that she would be able to get close to Jesus.



Through these stories, Matthew tells the good news of God's compassion that extends beyond human boundaries. A tax collector whose work funded the Roman occupation would have been considered a traitor among patriotic Jews. The disease suffered by the woman left her ritually unclean, separated from worship and community (see Leviticus 15:25, 27). Anyone who came into contact with her would share that separation. Young girls

held little value in the society of that day. Beyond that, according to Numbers 19:11, her death rendered anyone who touched her unclean.

Yet Jesus sits at the table with Matthew, honours the woman's touch and great faith, and takes the little girl by the hand to enjoy new life. Jesus' words and actions speak invitation and enact restoration. Matthew finds new life in the community of disciples. The woman is restored to wholeness and the possibility of returning to her community. The young girl is restored to family.

## **Matthew 9:9-13 New International Version**

### **The Calling of Matthew**

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup> While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

<sup>12</sup> On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>13</sup> But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'<sup>[a]</sup> For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

## **Matthew 9:18-26**

### **Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman**

<sup>18</sup> While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." <sup>19</sup> Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

<sup>20</sup> Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. <sup>21</sup> She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."

<sup>22</sup> Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed at that moment.

<sup>23</sup> When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, <sup>24</sup> he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him.

<sup>25</sup> After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. <sup>26</sup> News of this spread through all that region.

Hope against hope. Call and response, promise and journey, trust and hope mark the lives of any who would follow God. This week we meet unlikely people touched by God's grace and led by faith to respond.

My Prayer:

**Open our hearts, O God, that we might better understand what it means to live in hope as we follow your lead. Enable us to live with openness to and trust in the restoration you bring. Amen.**

In peace

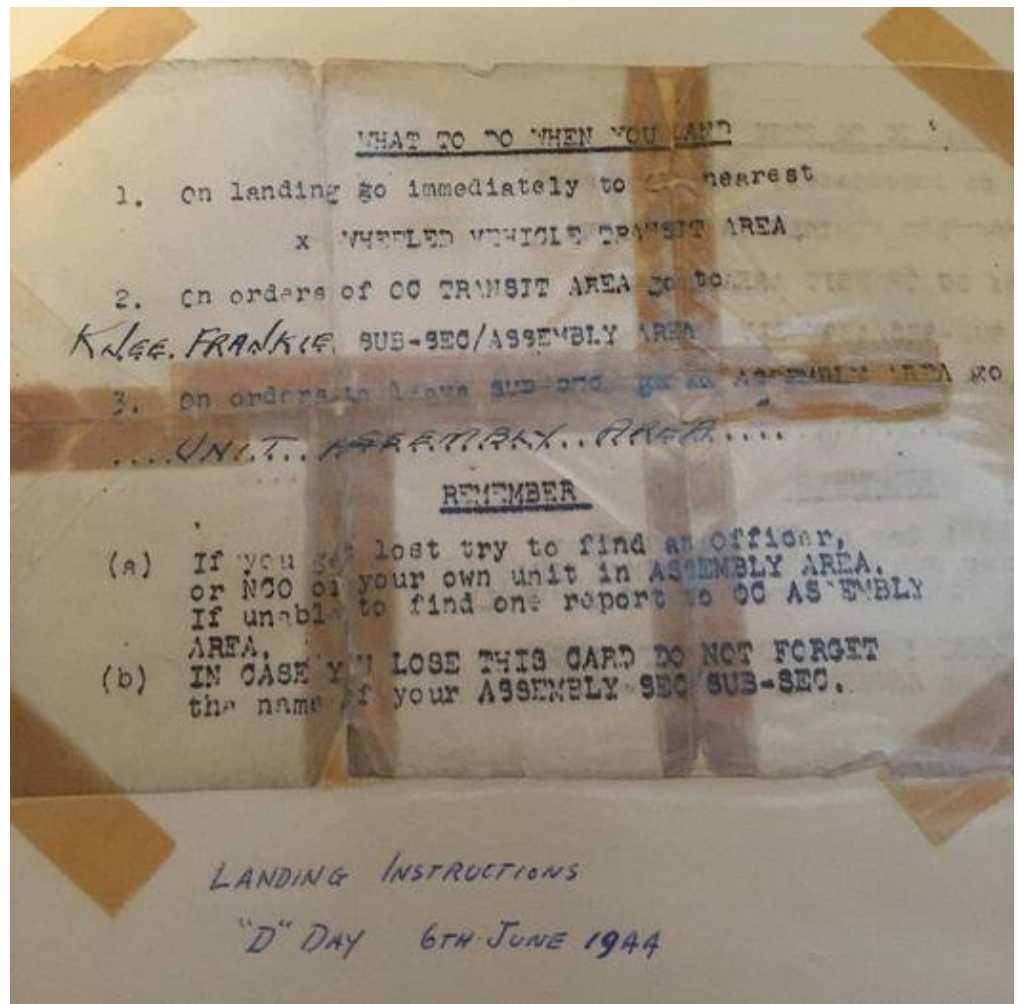
Pastor Beryl, DLM

## *D-Day Landing Instructions*

June 6<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) was the 79th anniversary of the Normandy landings, or "D-Day." The Allied invasion by sea and air in 1944 involved 150,000 troops, some 14,000 of them Canadian. The losses on that first day were colossal, and there would be more over the course of the summer as the campaign continued to liberate France and Western Europe.

Liz Ludlow Collymore, who grew up in Crawford Park and whose family attended our church, shared these D-Day Landing Instructions that made it home from the war with Bill Ludlow, who would become her father. Held together by yellowing tape, the typed sheet is hard to read, but it basically tells soldiers who and what to look for as soon as they get to the beach.

As Liz writes, "I am blessed (and am here today)



because my father was fortunate to survive and bring this document home with him. Sadly, thousands were not."

### ***Upcoming Services at Summerlea (10AM):***

June 11: 2nd after Pentecost

June 18: 3rd after Pentecost; Father's Day, Indigenous Day of Prayer / Food Sunday

June 25: 4th after Pentecost

**Summerlea United will close for the month of July. Services will resume August 6.**

### ***SouthWest Prayer List***

John Adnum

David Adnum

Helen Cameron

Donna Cobb & Keith Wood

May Cook

Violet L'Esperance

Phyllis Luther

Bridget McCarthy

Shirley Mitchell

Patrick O'Leary

Roberta Roberts

Doris Smith

Maurice Tringle

Suzanne Webster

If you would like your name added to (or removed from) the prayer list, or if you are requesting on behalf of a family member, call the office or contact Pastor Beryl directly.

**Pastoral Care:** for emergencies, you may contact Pastor Beryl directly on her cell phone. No calls after 9pm please: 514 942-6212.



*SouthWest United Church*  
225 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Lachine, Qc. H8T 2T7  
phone: 514 538-0624  
email: [southwestunited@gmail.com](mailto:southwestunited@gmail.com)  
Web: [southwestunited.net](http://southwestunited.net)