

4TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – (OT-14)**ST PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH BUNDOORA****Sunday 06th July 2025****Fr. Stephen Monsieigneur****Readings:** 2 Kings 5:1-14 / Psalm 30 / Galatians 6: 1-18 / Luke 10:1-24¹**Theme:** *Responding to Christ's Call in a Troubled World***2 Kings 5:1-14**

5 Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

² Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

⁴ Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. ⁵ "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. ⁶ The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

⁷ As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!" ⁸ When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹ So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

¹¹ But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage. ¹³ Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!" ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

Psalm 30

¹ I will exalt you, Lord,
for you lifted me out of the depths
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.

² Lord my God, I called to you for help,
and you healed me.

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³ You, Lord, brought me up from the realm of the dead;
you spared me from going down to the pit.

⁴ Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people;
praise his holy name.

⁵ For his anger lasts only a moment,
but his favor lasts a lifetime;
weeping may stay for the night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning.

⁶ When I felt secure, I said,
“I will never be shaken.”

⁷ Lord, when you favored me,
you made my royal mountain stand firm;
but when you hid your face,
I was dismayed.

⁸ To you, Lord, I called;
to the Lord I cried for mercy:

⁹ “What is gained if I am silenced,
if I go down to the pit?

Will the dust praise you?
Will it proclaim your faithfulness?

¹⁰ Hear, Lord, and be merciful to me;
Lord, be my help.”

¹¹ You turned my wailing into dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

¹² that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.
Lord my God, I will praise you forever.

Galatians 6:1-18

6 Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. ² Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ³ If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves. ⁴ Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, ⁵ for each one should carry their own load. ⁶ Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor.

⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. ⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Not Circumcision but the New Creation

¹¹ See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand!

¹² Those who want to impress people by means of the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. ¹³ Not even those who are circumcised keep the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your circumcision in the flesh. ¹⁴ May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to

me, and I to the world. ¹⁵ Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. ¹⁶ Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the Israel of God. ¹⁷ From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. ¹⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Luke 10:1-24

¹⁰ After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ² He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. ⁴ Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road.

⁵ “When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ ⁶ If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. ⁷ Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.

⁸ “When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. ⁹ Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰ But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ ‘Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.’ ¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

¹³ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. ¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted to the heavens? No, you will go down to Hades.

¹⁶ “Whoever listens to you listens to me; whoever rejects you rejects me; but whoever rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy and said, “Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

¹⁸ He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. ²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

²¹ At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²² “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

²³ Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. ²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”

SERMON

Whose mission do you truly serve?

Jesus call to mission is not some nostalgic memory or romanticisation of the early church. Neither is it some activity we can periodically participate in when it suits our schedule and ignore when it does not. Jesus call to mission is a living, breathing invitation first made to the apostles and then to every member of the church since. It is an invitation that is still made to each of us today. However, in a world full of distractions, where uncertainty looms large—where political unrest, economic instability, and social fragmentation dominate news headlines—responding to such a call is only possible with faith and from this determination to serve God.

Today's scripture passages offer us a rich tapestry of faith, healing, humility, and hope, reminding us that faith is not merely belief—it is the posture of trust that empowers us to respond in tangible ways to Christ's call, even when the world feels hostile or indifferent.

The healing of Naaman², a man of power and prestige, yet marked by leprosy—a condition rendering him vulnerable and desperate, does not come through royal decree or military might, but through the humble faith of a servant girl and the simple obedience to Elisha's command to wash in the Jordan.

Naaman's story is a parable of mission: beginning with a witness—a young girl who dares to speak of the prophet in Israel—and culminates in transformation. Faith here is not flashy; it is quiet, persistent, and rooted in trust, reminding us that mission often begins in the margins, through voices the world might overlook.

“You turned my mourning into dancing,”³ proclaimed by the psalmist is not naïve optimism—it is the hard-won testimony of one who has walked through the valley of despair and found God faithful.

In a time when many are weary—disillusioned by politics, burdened by injustice, or grieving personal loss—this psalm reminds us that faith holds fast to the promise of joy, even in the face of persecution. It is this hope that fuels our mission: we go not because the world is easy to fix, but because we believe God is already at work, turning sorrow into song.

Paul⁴ exhorts the church to “bear one another's burdens,” to restore the fallen gently, and to sow to the Spirit. Here, faith is not abstract—it is embodied in relationships, in acts of kindness, in perseverance. How do our relationships stand against this measure?

In a sociopolitical climate marked by polarization and cynicism, Paul's words are a radical call to countercultural living. To live by the Spirit is to resist the temptation to retreat into self-preservation. It is to engage the world with compassion, to do good “to all, especially to those of faith.” Our mission, then, is not just proclamation—it is also participation in the healing and reconciling work of Christ.

² 2 Kings 5

³ Psalm 30

⁴ Galatians 6

And then we come to the gospel⁵, where Jesus sends out seventy-two disciples. He sends them not with swords or strategies, but with vulnerability: “like lambs among wolves.” They are to travel light, to depend on the hospitality of strangers, to proclaim peace, and to heal the sick. Their mission is urgent, their message simple: “The kingdom of God has come near.” Faith, in this context, is radical trust in the One who sends. It is the courage to go without guarantees, to speak peace in a world that often prefers conflict, and to rejoice not in success, but in the assurance that our names are written in heaven.

So, today, in 2025, what does this mean for us?

In a world grappling with climate anxiety, rising nationalism, and the erosion of truth, in our local community with reports of increasing crime, domestic violence, housing and job insecurity, Jesus is still sending us. We are being sent not because we are perfect, but because we are willing. That’s right, we are willing. Jesus cannot make us follow him, we must be willing to follow him, we must be willing to trust that what others need of us will be provided.

Like Naaman, we may need to let go of pride and embrace humility. Like the psalmist, we may need to remember God’s past faithfulness to sustain our hope. Like the Galatians, we must carry each other’s burdens and resist the weariness that comes from doing good. And like the seventy-two, we must go—trusting that Christ goes with us.

Faith is not a retreat from the world’s pain; it is the courage to step into it with hope. It is the conviction that healing is possible, that joy can rise from sorrow, and that the kingdom of God is not a distant dream but a present reality breaking in through acts of love, justice, and mercy.

In practical terms, this might mean advocating for the marginalized, regardless of who they are, speaking truth in love, or simply showing up for a neighbour in need. It might mean resisting the temptation to despair and choosing instead to believe that God is still at work—even when the headlines suggest otherwise. It means being a people of peace in a world of conflict, a people of hope in a culture of fear. It means responding to Jesus call in a troubled world.

Reflective Questions:

- Where is Jesus calling you to go?
- What burdens are you being called to carry—or to lay down so you may follow?
- How might your faith become a healing presence in a divided world?

Closing Prayer:

God of mission and mercy,
 You call us not to comfort, but to courage.
 Not to certainty, but to trust.
 Send us out with hearts full of faith,
 hands ready to serve,
 and voices bold to proclaim your peace.
 In Jesus’ name, Amen.

⁵ Luke 10:1-24