

March 31, 2020



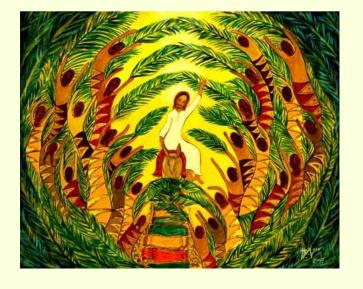
This week at St. andrew's



standrewsvictoria.ca | 250-384-5734

Palm Sunday is Opril 5

Palm Sunday commemorates the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1–9), when palm branches were placed in his path, before his arrest on Holy Thursday and his crucifixion on Good Friday. It thus marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent.



Wondering how you can continue supporting St. Andrew's financially during this difficult period? You can mail a check to the church (680 Courtney St. V8W 1C1).

The mail box is locked and we check the mail twice per week. St. Andrew's is sustained by its congregation.

We prepare for Pulm Sunday Liturgical Readings for This Week: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Matthew 21:1-11



The church office at 680 Courtney Street is currently closed. Whitney is working from home. Please contact the church office via email at this time.





Rev. Coggin is also working from home. You can reach him via email: pastor@standrewsvictoria.ca or by telephone: (250) 883-4132.

Music to Sing to:

We know that the worship materials with music didn't make it on to the website last week. In the meantime, Christine has made a recording of In The Garden to listen and sing along to. The lyrics will be in the video description below the video.

Click here for the song

Worship Services are Postponed

Public services of worship at St. Andrew's are postponed at this time as are all of our regular ministries such as open church and meditation hour, bible study, thrift shop and regular meetings.

We encourage everyone to stay at home as much as possible to care for yourselves and to care for the most vulnerable people in our community.



a Prayer for Today

Dear God, Thank You for Your unfailing love for me, Your blessings, and goodness. Thank You for Your faithfulness to guide me and see me through times of uncertainty, for lifting me up, and setting me on high. Thank You for Scripture that comforts and reminds me of Your promises, plan, and provision. Thank you for taking away my fears and worries, the what-ifs, and reminding me that my help comes from You.

Help me be a good steward and to sow wisely.

In Christ's Name, Amen. ~ Renee Davis





another Saint for March

While St. Patrick is well known and celebrated during the month of March, he shares his day with another saint, a woman who lived in the 7th century named Gertrude.

You may have heard of St. Gertrude as a patron of cats however, this is not official, at least according to the catholic church. It turns out that Gertrude, known for her hospitality is a patron of travellers and also those who recently died. In the medieval artwork of the catholic tradition, the souls of people who recently died were portrayed as mice. Through the years people started thinking that because images of Gertude usually included images of mice, that she would make the purrfect patron of furry felines!



It was suggested that we might send out this lovely video of musicians from the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, who are self-isolating and came together to record a virtual, collaborative performance of Ludwig van Beethoven's 9th symphony from their homes.

Click here for the video

This morning I read Psalm 121 and was reminded again that "God don't never change." I lift up my eyes to the hills from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore. The Psalm reminded me of the life and work of Blind Willie Johnson, a blues, gospel singer and evangelist born in 1897. He would have just celebrated his 21 st birthday when the Spanish Flu of 1918, the pandemic that killed ten percent of the world's population, ravaged the world. Blind Willie recorded a song about the epidemic and as he played his jazz, sang to those in his day (and those in ours as well) of the relevance of Psalm 121. One of his songs is titled, "God Don't Never Change." Two of the verses are copied below:

Yes God, God don't never change He's God, always will be God God in the middle of the ocean God in the middle of the sea The help of the great creator Truly been a God to me Hey God, God don't never change God, always will be God

God in the time of sickness
God in the doctor too
In the time of the influenza
He truly was a God to you
Well he's God, God don't never change
He's God, always will be God
Well he's God, God don't never change
God, always will be God



In the spirit of the psalm, Blind Willie lifts his eyes to the mountains... and to the oceans. His soul surges high and sinks low. He invokes the Creator of heaven and earth who also works in the small "stuff" of life. The blues weren't sung for artistic expression alone, but to cope with a life that was brutal. What we can learn from the Psalmist and from a blues singer that lived over a century ago is how to move forward in faith in wilderness seasons. Trust is the "secret ingredient" that allows us to take the brave next steps whenever the journeys of life seem perilous. We are able to put one foot in front of the other precisely because "God will not let your foot be moved." Whatever "blues" we encounter on the various journeys of our life, we are kept by the One who never sleeps and by the One who "don't never change." Psalm 121 ends as reassuringly as it begins, "The Lord will keep you from all evil. He will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore. Thanks be to God.



Click here for the song