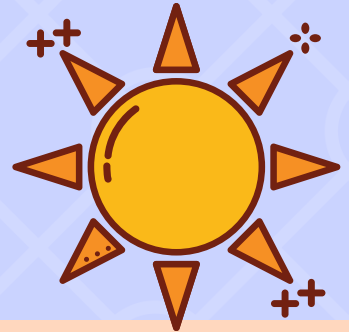


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June 24, 2020



Session has asked the Link editors to continue publishing our newsletter during the summer. In order to do that we need your input. What have you been doing to keep busy during the last few months while we were self-isolating? Did you garden and is your garden now a mini Eden? Send us a photo with a description. Did you have a birthday? Send us a photo. Did you read some good books? Let us know which one you really liked and why. Did you do some redecorating? A photo would show us your creativity. Did you clean up your basement? Do you have a before and after picture? Other members of the congregation would love to read about it. Send it to thelink@shaw.ca

Indigenous People's Sunday

Some churches marked National Indigenous Peoples Sunday on June 21st. The Presbyterian church in Canada is working to understand the trauma caused by systemic racism and colonialism. More can be found [here](#). In the meantime, all of our churches continue to support relationship building with indigenous people through Presbyterian Sharing.

Today we highlight Winnipeg Inner City Missions:

Winnipeg Inner City Missions (WICM) is a place of reconciliation and healing. The ministry provides a safe place to grow and learn for people in Winnipeg's North End and inner city.

WICM serves Indigenous people who have suffered inter-generational and systemic injustices from Residential Schools and the 60's Scoop and non-Indigenous people seeking well-being. Through temporary housing, employment services, and children/youth programming, WICM supports healing and reconciliation initiatives.

Our First Steps to Employment program offers transitional housing for adults age 30-50 which provides a safe place while they discover themselves through courses and education or during their job search. We operate 19 suites.

Our After-School and Summer Day Camp for children and youth provide healthy food and safety, as well as fun and physical activity, offering a place of healing for the younger generation.

The Learn and Play program for infants and preschool children helps to break the chains of systemic injustice by supporting parents and preschoolers with stimulating play and developmental activities.

[Click here](#) to sing along with Christine to the hymn "When Long Before Time"



Look at this stunning rose from Bev Higgins' garden. According to Bev its scent is as beautiful as you'd imagine.

Read From Your Bible This Week

Genesis 22:1-14

Psalms 13

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42



Pastor's Parable

"How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?" is one of our scripture passages for this Sunday from Psalm 13. The Psalmist feels left out and abandoned. He continues with his rant, "How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?"

Recently while undergoing several medical tests I was able to observe others waiting for similar procedures. Only the small children were able to have caregivers present and there was one father present with a crying newborn. For the most part it was the mother who rocked, comforted and sung in order to pacify. Worried faces wore the question, "How long, Lord?"

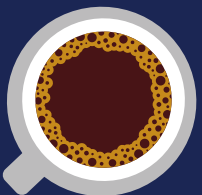
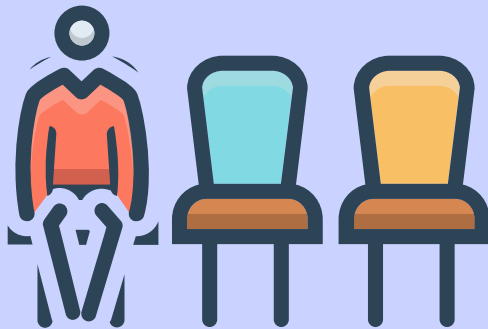
Some were angry and demanding that they be treated immediately, not allowed certain privileges to which they felt entitled. Most just wanted to know why their "enemies had the upper hand.

The hours ticked slowly by and most could only sit nervously and wait.

A particularly poignant comment spoken by an exhausted and depleted woman at the end of many hours of waiting highlighted surprise and sadness, "I thought I was only here for a simple test and would be in and out. Now I am being admitted with a battery of tests and treatment to endure."

She was alone – physically and literally, until she said, "At least God who has been with me will be with me still." The Psalmist's words resonated, "But I trust in your God's unfailing love The Lord has been good to me."

Not everything that happens to us is easy, pleasant or comfortable. We often find ourselves in the cross hairs of people that are angry and entitled, afraid and worried, expecting the worst and hoping for the best. Through and in it, the greatest discovery we can make when we ask, "Will you forget me forever?" is to remember, God who has been with me will be with me still." Never forget. Never. Forget. Amen.



Pastor Mitch is hosting another virtual coffee chat on Thursday Jun 25, 2020 10:00 a.m. Join in and say hi to your friends from St. Andrews! To access the zoom meeting [click here](#) If you need to call in using your phone [click here](#) to find the Canadian dial-in numbers.

The Meeting ID is 814 6986 5989. Contact Mitch if you have any questions about using zoom.