



This Week at St. Andrew's

September 9, 2020



Dear church family,

Many of you may have already heard the good news that a date has been set for re-entry to worship in the sanctuary. It may have seemed a long wait and we thank you for your patience.

After much research and careful planning over several months, session has made the decision that we have done what is required and are ready to gather in the sanctuary for worship. The date has been set for 27 September.

So that no one is disappointed, please note that:

- This will be a modified, shortened service.
- There will be no congregational singing.
- There will be no choir.
- Masks must be worn when in the sanctuary
- Seats will be allocated by the ushers
- Opportunities for fellowship will be limited- at a physical distance and outside the sanctuary
- There will be no coffee hour.

We anticipate that many of the congregation, for varied reasons will not be attending the service in the sanctuary, but will continue to worship at home as we have all done over the past 5 months. Each week a virtual service will be posted on the website to bring a worship experience into the lives of those who cannot join worship in the sanctuary. As Rev Mitch said in his message a couple of weeks ago, we can expect that there will be more of our church family worshipping through the virtual service than those attending the in-person service. The service from the sanctuary will be 'live-streamed' (can be watched at the same time as the service is happening in the sanctuary) and will also be available to watch throughout the week.

The format and timing of the St Andrew's weekly communications; TWASA (currently Wednesday) and Worship Service (currently Saturday) will be modified to provide materials to enhance the worship experience for both those in the sanctuary and those at home.

Remember: you will need to register for a seat in the sanctuary for the worship service. Early each week, you will be receiving an email from Whitney at the church office, inviting you to register you and your family for a seat to attend worship in the sanctuary. This email will provide you with detailed instructions about what you need to do. Be assured that arrangements are in place to ensure that those without email can register by phone.

At this time plans for Sunday school are still in process and families will be contacted directly. If anyone would like to receive the weekly lesson and activities whether for children or yourself, please contact the church office.

Thank you to all who have worked so hard and shared their gifts over these past months to lead us in the virtual worship that has spoken to each of us through words, music and visual images. In particular we thank Rev Coggin, Whitney and Christine for going 'above and beyond', working together to lead us in worship through such difficult and unusual circumstances.

It will be wonderful to see some of the familiar faces, but let us remember as we worship in the sanctuary that there are many who are unable to join us. We will continue to worship together as a church family, whether in the sanctuary, in our homes around the city or even farther afield.

If you have concerns or questions, please talk with your elder.

Blessings

Colina Titus
Session clerk



From the United Church's Prayer for People Affected by Fires

God of Creation, We live in a world where both beauty and danger surround us. Receive our prayers for those impacted by, and living in fear of wildfires. We pray and ask that you help heal the pain of all affected. Strengthen with your presence all who are numb with fear and distress. Guide those who anxiously search or wait for loved ones. Be near those who are grieving, and bless them with your peace. In the midst of disaster we give thanks for moments of generosity and human-kindness. Grant tenderness, strength, and wisdom. Amen



While it is Hot and Smoky...



During an air quality or heat advisory, it is often best to stay indoors and limit physical exertion when possible. Stop or reduce physical activity if you don't feel well. Be sure to drink plenty of water or other fluids in order to stay hydrated. Call 811 if you need medical advice or 911 if you are having a medical emergency. For more information, see [this bulletin from the BC government and local health authorities](#).

[Click here to sing](#) along to the song 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord, O My Soul)



[Click here](#) for a message from Pastor Mitch including a reading of scripture and a prayer.

New Phone Number

We have a new phone number to reach Whitney while the physical church office remains closed. You can call **778-587-1227** on weekdays if you need to get a hold of Whitney by telephone. If there is no answer, please leave a voicemail and include your name and number in the message.



On Wednesdays (starting September 23rd), please only use the phone number if you are calling to reserve a spot at the upcoming Sunday's service. Please call between 9:30 am and 2:00 pm. Telephone reservations should only be used by those who are unable to use the online form. More information on reservations will be available next week.

Email is still a preferred way to contact the office but we understand that not everyone has access to a computer and we are excited to offer this method of communication once again!

Summer Flavour

Infusing your water with flavourful fruit or herbs can make for an interesting and refreshing drink! To get started, fill a jug with water (and ice, if you like) and try adding:

- 10 fresh mint leaves and half a cucumber (sliced)
- 1 orange (sliced) and 3 thin slices of ginger
- 1 cup of pineapple chunks and 1 lime (sliced)
- 1 cup blackberries, 1 lemon (sliced) and 1 sprig of rosemary

Refrigerate for an hour and give it a stir before serving in order to let the flavours infuse the water. Keep the jug in the fridge and enjoy for up to one day.



Engaging with the Readings

Every week, this newsletter provides a list of some or all of the lectionary readings. When you read them, consider asking these questions:

1. What is God doing in this Bible reading?
2. How does this Bible reading relate to your congregation or community?
3. What might God be saying to you through this Bible reading?

Sit with these questions and see if any answers come. Consider calling or emailing a friend or making a few personal notes on your answers in a journal.



End of Summer Prayer

Thank you, God, for light and warmth. Thank you for the sun. Thank you for the gifts of nature and for the annual cycles and seasons. Today, give us that grace again, to see you as the Creator, the One who lifts us up to be with you forever, even now.

- Author Unknown

Read From Your Bible This Week

Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

