



# This Week at St. Andrew's

September 16, 2020



## A New Kind of Choir

There is still a lot of concern about singing and the spread of Covid-19 however, we know that music is an important way for people to serve and worship. So while the St. Andrew's choir cannot meet to sing safely, it will be transforming itself into a bell choir. The St. Andrew's Bell Choir will be practicing after church on Sundays.

You can look forward to hearing the bells in a church service later in the fall. St Andrew's has a full set of handbells donated some years ago and this is a great opportunity to really put them to use!



## Remember...

Whitney is now available by phone or text at: 778-587-1227

Please leave a message if there is no answer. The office email is still [office@standrewsvictoria.ca](mailto:office@standrewsvictoria.ca)

## Reminders About Worship

As announced last week, there will be a worship service in the Sanctuary on Sunday, September 27. This service will have a maximum attendance of 50 people and anyone interested in attending will need to reserve a spot ahead of time.

Starting next Tuesday afternoon, "This Week at St. Andrew's" will include a weblink to an online form for you to fill out if you would like to attend on the 27th. This form will be used to ensure that everyone has the same information and to be used for contact tracing if the need should arise.

Our "new normal" will include the wearing of masks or face shields, a shorter service, allocated seating and no choral or congregational singing. These are all ways to help create a safe worship space for everyone who attends.

For those who will not be attending worship in-person, we are still going to provide videos with music, scripture, prayers and the sermon. At some point in the future, we will also live stream the Sunday service. As things change, we will always let you know in our weekly correspondence.



**Opportunities to join in this Sunday:** Along with our regular worship video (which will be sent Saturday, as usual) you can also check our [facebook](#) page at 10:00 am, Sunday to watch a test live stream with Pastor Mitch and Christine.

**At 11:00 am Pastor Mitch will host a virtual chat on zoom** for anyone who would like to attend. [Here is the link to zoom](#) or you can [call in](#) on your phone if you wish.

The meeting ID is: 839 0360 3594



# Parable from the Pastor

I saw a weather cartoon yesterday that resonated with many of us. Weather radar showed an ariel view of a large section of North America with storms in every section. The cartoon by-line said, "If you are not in the path of a hurricane, one will be assigned to you shortly." Too much has been assigned to us of late! Deadly fires continue to burn. The Pandemic persists. "How long, O Lord?" "From where will our help come? Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." The earth has been telling us for quite some time, "I am beyond stressed. Help. Stop destroying me. I can't breathe! I cannot see." And finally, the earth has stopped trying to make subtle hints. Finally, the earth said, "Enough is enough! You will stop!" Stop we have. While we have been stopped, have we listened to what the earth – what God has been trying to say to us? Have we understood what God needs us to understand about our lives and our world? We are itching to return to "normal". We are tired of distancing that keeps us from seeing those we love and cherish. We miss handshakes and hugs. We miss sharing a meal and the relaxed laughter of family and friends. We miss church. We miss singing and coffee hour and hearing the laughter of children playing in Kirk Hall. "How long, O Lord?" No one knows the answer to that question, but a part of it is up to us? When will we say, "I hear you, Lord. There are still some additional things we need to learn. Help me hear and understand them. Help me accept, in time, the changes you are asking of me – of us all – so that our world and our lives might be restored to health. "How long, O Lord?"

Well, only a few short days (Sunday, September 27 to be exact) before we are finally able to gather in St. Andrew's for worship. It will not be like what we remember. It will not have ALL the elements that are normal and familiar, but God will be there, waiting for us. And many of you will be there – in person or joining us online, and for me, for now, that is enough. Thanks be to God. -Pastor Mitch



Today's hymn to sing  
to is "Christ, of all my  
hopes the ground"



This hymn was written by a Presbyterian- The Rev. Ralph Wardlaw (b. 1779) who was accepted as a student of Theology at Glasgow University at age 12.

Rev. Wardlaw would publish books and hymnals during his ministerial career. He was a professor of theology and a co-founder of the Glasgow Theological Academy. Rev. Wardlaw was a prominent member of the anti-slavery movement in Scotland.

The hymn tune was written by César Malan (not to be confused with the Cesar Millan of dog training fame!) in 1827.

## 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.

## Read From Your Bible This Week

Exodus 16:2-15

Psalms 105:1-6, 37-45

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

