



This Week at St. Andrew's

September 22, 2020



Parable from the Pastor

Sunday, September 27 at 10:30 AM! The chimes will ring us into worship for the first time in 7 months! It will have been 27 Sundays and 193 days since we last worshipped together at St. Andrews. Notice the reference to "at" St. Andrew's because we have never ceased to worship together as the church family. Weekly we have gathered in living rooms, at kitchen tables and even in RV's to worship, to pray and to repeat the Lord's Prayer together. The Saturday breakfasts have continued serving nutritious meals outside Kirk Hall. Countless hours have been spent by Session, the Re-enter the Sanctuary Committee and soon, the Recital Committee through the miracle of Zoom.

Our Treasurer and Finance Team, our Link Staff, Jean Marcellus, our Facebook Coordinator and the Property team have maintained regular hours maintaining the building, our financial structures and our communication pathways. Thanks be to God for this work and commitment over these 7 long and difficult months. But a colossal thanks are in order for the team that I am privileged to work with on the St. Andrew's staff whose long and countless hours must not go unnoticed:

*For Grant Shepherd, our Church Officer who has kept our building by maintaining the safety and the sanitary condition therein. Thank you to Grant!

*To Martin Perez, our internet wizard who joined us in the nick of time to assure that our internet accounts remain safe and secure. This in the midst of occasions when our website has been hacked, when the web host has suffered malfunctions and our storage space on our website has been at near capacity. Martin has been ahead of every curve that has been thrown our way and continues to help us assess and develop a strategic plan our future technological needs. Thank you, Martin.

*To Christine whose never-tiring work ethic and never wavered during these months. Christine has faithfully recorded instrumental and vocal pieces that fit succinctly with each week's meditation. Weekly she spends hours at the church organ and within her own home practicing and recording to have the video's to Whitney in a timely manner so the worship videos can be a rich and full worship experience. Thank you, Christine.

*To Whitney who continues to be the link that keeps us organized and functioning efficiently. Two times a week she produces This Week at St. Andrew's with articles, news and videos from Christine and me that take several hours to prepare and to download. Since March she has created the worship video that has enabled St. Andrew's to view our virtual worship service on Sundays. The worship video has no less than 4-5 music videos, scripture readings, meditation and prayer videos as well as words to hymns, scripture verses, titles and subtitles and relevant images that fit the service theme to find and to add. This work is a labour of love for St. Andrew's and takes many hours morning, afternoon and evening that could never be accomplished in a prescribed time schedule.



Pastor's Parable continued:

These video's will continue in some variation so that those unable to worship with us in the sanctuary will still be able to experience a well-rounded and musically based service on our website and Facebook. Whitney's commitment to assuring our outside signage, our worship reservation process, our on-going rentals of our building and a host of other duties has never wavered during these months and we are indebted to her for her commitment and dedication. Thank you, Whitney. Sunday, September 27 is actually a celebration. Whether in the sanctuary or worshipping with us at home, we are the church and we come as a testimony of God's grace. Pray for us and pray for yourself as we worship together. Come open to worship what may feel different and disjointed but is still our opportunity to break the difficult streak of 7 months, 27 Sundays and 193 days. Thanks be to God. -Pastor Mitch



Click here to fill out the reservation form in order to join the in-person worship this Sunday

For the Week of the 27th:

Everything is a little bit different this week! You may have noticed that "This Week at St. Andrew's" arrived in your inbox on Tuesday instead of Wednesday. You also won't be receiving an email from the office on Saturday any more but instead on Friday. That email will include an electronic order of worship bulletin and a pre-recorded video that will include music, prayers, scripture and a sermon. You may wish to watch the video whether or not you attend the service in-person. Although some elements will be repeated, others will be unique to the pre-recorded video and will compliment the service experience. We appreciate your patience as we navigate the next few weeks and figure out our process.

If you plan on attending worship in the Sanctuary on September 27th, you will need to fill out the reservation form as mandated by the session/ committee to re-enter the Sanctuary. If you have access to a computer, please fill out the form by clicking on the link in the red circle above. If you or someone you know doesn't have access to a computer, call Whitney at 778-587-1227 and she will go through all the questions over the phone and fill out the form. The form will be available until 2:00 pm on Thursday.

More information about worship at the church or at home can be found here on the [church website](#).

Join the Bell 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! **Would you like to join the bell choir?** If you are interested in joining the bell choir please contact Christine at music@standrewsvictoria.ca. No experience necessary, reading music helps but is not essential. You would be very welcome to join the group. The first practice is on Oct 4th at 11:30 - 12:30.



Tis the season?

It's that time of year once again! Time to consider your involvement in the annual Christmas Bazaar at St. Andrew's! Obviously this year will be a little different- our bazaar will be held virtually for the very first time. Mark your calendar for the third week of November and let us know your ideas for this event. Already we know that preserves and baking will be made available for delivery. We hope to put on an online version of the silent auction and possibly have a virtual tea party. If you have ideas or would like to join the committee or consider coordinating the electronic aspect of the bazaar, contact David McLean or email the church office.



The deadline for submissions to The Link is Sunday, Sept. 27th

The Link editors are especially interested in running articles about how you entertained yourself this summer including any pictures or stories you'd like to share!

*I will open my mouth
with a parable; I will
utter hidden things, things
from of old— things we
have heard and
known, things our
ancestors have told us.
- From Psalm 78*



Reading Ministry

Could you record a scripture reading for our pre-recorded services? It is wonderful for our community who worships at home to hear different voices and remember each of you! Email Pastor Mitch if you would like to sign up.



[A video message
from Pastor Mitch](#)

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 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

