



October 6, 2020

This Week at St. Andrew's



Parable from the Pastor



We did it. We worshipped together for the 2nd time since March. We (for the most part) are figuring out the registration process (with only a few bugs). We all wore masks! We recorded a worship service during the week that included scriptures, prayers and call to worship greetings from a former minister, a minister in the national PCC church and Pastor Mitch's friends from Bloomington, IN. We also provided a live service on Facebook for anyone who was not present with us in worship at St. Andrews. Most of all we celebrated Holy Communion!

We Need Your Opinion!

It is time to check in about the worship experience provided to you at home. Every so often we'll include a couple of questions and would appreciate your answers. You can email office@standrewsvictoria.ca with your responses. Please answer just the questions for this week, there will be future opportunities to give us more information.

This week's questions:

1. What do you like about the pre-recorded worship video we post to YouTube/ the website each week?
2. What length do you think this video should be?

The Psalmist had lamented the previous week, "How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" Translated: How can we hold church and celebrate Holy Communion with such vast differences in our gathering styles, our worship format and with more dislikes than likes in terms of our personal comforts and pleasures.

Thomas G. Long, the Bandy Professor Emeritus of Preaching at Candler School of Theology writes in his article "On returning to our places of worship" in a recent edition of Presbyterian Outlook: Regarding the worship of Presbyterian and other so-called "mainline" churches: "We are wise and righteous people," our prayers subtly imply. "Here is a list of some more righteous deeds to perform," our pulpits sometime proclaim, as if the only thing standing between us and God's kingdom is applying wisdom we already possess and performing righteous deeds we already intend to do.

In his recent book "The Meaning of Protestant Theology," Phillip Cary reminds us that the classic liturgies of the ancient church breathe a different air. They "give us Christ," he writes, "not advice about how to live the Christian life. ... They focus not on telling us what to do but on telling us what Christ does, thus directing attention away from our own works to Christ himself." Of course, when we have been given Christ, we rise and go out into the world to serve him. But in the face of an evil pandemic that has thwarted all efforts to domesticate and control, perhaps we will return to our sanctuaries on our knees, aware that we are beggars in need of Christ's mercy and alert to and hungry for what former archbishop Rowan Williams names as the mark of good worship: something happened in this place today that no human being in the room has done.

Perhaps that is the most sacred thing we offer to one another in worship; something happened in this place today that no human being in the room has done. May that continue to be so...and may it be so that something happens within me (and within you) week after week that no other human has experienced to that degree before.

Blessings to all. - Pastor Mitch



Reserve for Sunday

Rsvp

 [Click here](#) to fill out the reservation form in order to join the in-person worship this Sunday.

Reservations close at 2:00 pm on Thursday so that we have time to ensure accuracy and create check in sheets for our ushers. Please remember to reserve if you are participating in the service or volunteering (there is a place on the form to indicate your participation). This helps us make sure a maximum of 50 people are in the Sanctuary on Sundays. The information on the form may be used for contact tracing so it is important that everyone reserves so we have accurate information in case health authorities need to access our records.



This Week at St. Andrew's:

- Ballet Victoria uses the Kirk Hall for classes and socially distanced performances
- Our take-out breakfast for people in need is on October 10th

We're Working on a Virtual Tour of the St. Andrew's Sanctuary

If you have any pictures, audio, documents, stories or any content that can contribute to understanding the history of the sanctuary, you are welcome to email us at tourproject@standrewsvictoria.ca



Gratitude Prayer

Lord, I want to cultivate a grateful heart. Please help me, Lord, and open my eyes so that I can see all that I have to be thankful for. Enable me to recognize Your hand of blessing in my day to day life. Help me to express gratitude to You daily, for that is

Your will. Amen

Read [Ephesians 5:19-20](#)



What are you grateful for at this moment?

Next Week

Whitney will be away some of next week so "This Week at St. Andrew's" will arrive in your inbox a little early and your Sunday, October 18th worship materials will arrive Saturday evening (October 17th) instead of Friday evening.

Don't worry, we are making all the arrangements so that you'll still be able to reserve your place for worship during the regular hours!



Want to chat?

Pastor Mitch is available to meet with you over the phone, via zoom or in person with appropriate physical distancing. If you would like to have a visit, call or email him to arrange to meet up at a time and place that is safe and comfortable.

Bell Choir Rehearsal: Sunday from 11:30 - 12:30

If you are attending Bell Choir, please leave the Sanctuary after the service (following the instructions of the ushers). You may come back in once all the aisles are clear.

Read From Your Bible This Week

Deuteronomy 8:7-18

Psalm 65

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Luke 17:11-19

