

November 10, 2020



Pastor's Parable

It is Saturday and the US election has just been called. Of course, there are still votes to count and lawsuits to be filed but the outcome seems certain. The 2+ (actually 4 years) of incessant campaigning and billions of dollars spent have revealed what we knew. America is a divided country. Incivility and discord have polluted every level of government and every rung of human life and relationships.

Who won? In my opinion, kindness won. Civility won. An opportunity to reset a national (and international) value system is now possible. Hopefully, divisive headlines will not lead every news cycle. Decency and integrity may again inform our governance. I have grieved over the divisiveness in my homeland. My family and friends have struggled when relationships became based on red/blue posturing as opposed to long-held family values. Thankfully, hopefully, my prayer is that America can begin to heal. Wherever an election is held, the church plays an important role. It is troubling when the American church becomes enamoured in the political process to the point of blindly endorsing candidates or party platforms while demonizing those on the other side of the aisle. Thankfully, I have not found this to be the case in Canada and I am thankful to be here in a civil society. In any culture, however, the church must faithfully remember and adopt several basic principles. In a blog written by Carey Nieuwhof, former lawyer and founding pastor of Connexus Church in Barrie, Ontario recommends:

1. A Blaming Culture Needs A Confessing Church – when problems emerge, it may seem easier to assign blame than assume responsibility. Confession bridges the gap between blame and responsibility. If the church got better at confessing and not blaming, we'd have a better church. What can we confess? What part of this do you own? Who have you hurt? Have you mistreated anyone? You'll never address what you don't confess. Imagine if that happened 10,000 times over today in families, churches and communities. Resist the urge to post something designed to undermine someone who thinks differently than you do? Here's the best thing I know how to do: Process privately. Help publicly.
2. An Exhausted Culture Needs an Alternative To Itself, Not An Echo Of Itself There's little doubt you're probably exhausted by the division and anger that characterizes culture today. It's pretty clear that the culture is tired of itself too, but it doesn't quite know how to escape. That's where the church can help. Authentic, grace-filled, hope-bearing, truthful people are what our friends and neighbours need. Hope counters hate better than hate counters hate. And hope is what the church, at its best, offers. If you echo the culture, you get more of the culture. If God has all the same opinions you do, you're probably not worshipping God. Imagine, if we stressed hope rather than division. We can disagree but not be disagreeable. We focus on what unites people, not on what divides people. May we take what we have learned and may the church through the lives and influence of each of us seek to be hope that our world needs.

We can, with the help of God. - Pastor Mitch



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

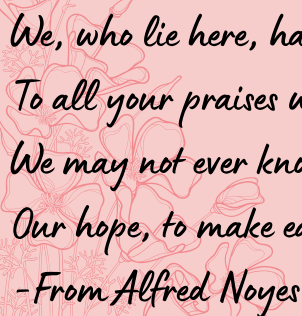


Pastor Coggin and Christine are both off this week. Whitney will work reduced hours on the 11th but will still be available for phone reservations for the Sunday service.



We remember...

Canada will still remember on November 11th but ceremonies and memorials will look different this year. This might be a good year to take time to write down your own memories of war time to share with your family. Perhaps you feel called to write a poem or create an artwork to commemorate peace. If you wish to participate by joining other Canadians in remembrance, [click here](#) for a list of online options.



*We, who lie here, have nothing more to pray.
To all your praises we are deaf and blind.
We may not ever know if you betray
Our hope, to make earth better for mankind.
-From Alfred Noyes' "On the Western Front"*

Martin would like to know about how you use our church website. Go to our [website](#) and click "survey" up at the top in order to participate. Thank you for your feedback!



St. Andrew's Tour Project: Do you like taking pictures? We need some high resolution photos of each of our stained glass windows and photos of the organ and the church seating (from the chancel).
Let us know if you'd like to help!



[Click here](#) to fill out the reservation form in order to join the in-person worship this Sunday. Reservations are available from Tuesday afternoon until 2:00 pm Thursday. Reservations can be made by phoning 778-587-1227 Tuesday to Thursday or by filling out the form.

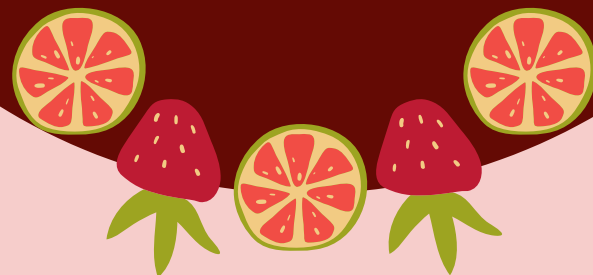
Preserves



Every year Ann Lambie makes preserves for our annual church bazaar. We won't be able to host the bazaar in-person this year but we have an opportunity for you to support the church and get some yummy jams, marmalade and more!

[Click here to fill out an order form for delivery of preserves right to your door](#)

If you don't need any preserves but still want to make a donation to the church while we are unable to host our biggest fundraiser of the year, you can always send a cheque to our mailing address or even [donate online](#).



I will listen to what God the Lord says;
he promises peace to his people.

Psalm 85:8

Frequently Asked Questions About In-person Worship

Q: Do I have to wear a mask all the time when I am at the service?

A: Masks must be worn in the sanctuary at all times and must cover both your nose and mouth. If you are taking part in the worship please replace your mask when you complete your part. Don't forget you may be caught on camera.

-Submitted by the Re-entry Committee



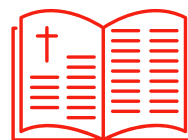
Read From Your Bible This Week

Judges 4:1-7

Psalm 123

Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30



Advent

the season of expectation

Advent Bible Study offered virtually for the four Monday evenings of Advent:

November 30, December, 7, 14 and 21 at 7:00 pm. Order your book on Amazon or from the Christian Book Store. Join in on Zoom each Monday for our book study from "Names for the Messiah: An Advent Study" by Walter Brueggemann.

Remember that you can use zoom by telephone phone if you aren't comfortable using it on your computer/ smart device.

If you plan on attending or if you need any help ordering the book, contact Whitney by phone or email.



Share the Joy of Christmas

This week the shopping begins to fill the Christmas gift bags for the residents of Our Place. The order will be placed for 20 large turkeys for the annual Christmas community dinner there.

Please give generously to the 2020 Share the Joy of Christmas campaign. You can donate via the St. Andrew's website (instructions under the Donate tab) or by your church offering envelopes. Deposit the envelopes in the donation boxes in the church narthex. Indicate that the donation is for "Share the Joy of Christmas".



For more information, call Debra Verwey at 250-383-1009
or Brian Titus at 250-382-2387.

