



November 17, 2020



Pastor's Parable

Pastor's Parable Ten year old Joel was home alone, after returning from school until his mum and dad had finished their daily work. Joel knew the after school rules and usually followed them carefully. As he walked through the large house, he never expected to find his dad's detective magazine in plain view on his bedside table. He clearly heard his dad's voice in his conscience, "Don't touch these magazines beside my bed."

The words on the cover spoke more loudly to Joel than dad's voice. The headlines on the cover and the pictures inside were frightening and traumatizing. Joel became increasingly rattled. If this kind of horror could occur there, it was only a matter of time before it occurred in Joel's town and even in Joel's home.

His fears became so irrational, he hid behind their home's largest stuffed chair. If Joel could see around the sides of the chair, the dangerous criminal could have just as easily seen him. Perhaps the lower kitchen cabinets with only a few cans to rearrange would be a safe spot to hide. It was dark there and the cans would hide the rest of Joel. He remained hidden for what seemed like hours, until the voice of his mum called him. Imagine her surprise to find Joel in the kitchen cabinets.

Imagine Joel's reluctance to be found there. As afraid as he had been, he was just as afraid to tell the truth of his reasoning to hide in such an unusual place. He was more ashamed than afraid – at least of his mum's shame. Fear of his dad was a different story. As afraid as he had been of impending danger from a crime committed far away, he was more afraid of the repercussions of having disobeyed his dad.

Fear is often multidimensional. One fear can often cascade into many others. What begins as irrational can just as easily turn into calamity – internally as well as in society. Many of our fears about the pandemic have not tilted toward calamity – yet. The massive loss of life, so keenly and tragically faced in so many other places has not befallen our beautiful city. Our relationships have indeed been strained. Normal ways of relating have been drastically curtailed.

But we are safe for the most part. The deadly killer has been held at bay, at least so far, at least locally. Our fears do persist, sometimes irrationally. They may even cascade from minor "What if's" to declare that "The sky is indeed falling!"

Remember, that a loving parent is not far away, calling to us lovingly to emerge from our hiding places. Never forget that God knows where we are. When Adam and Eve hid in the garden, God called them by name, found them and asked why they were hiding. He loved them out of their fear. Ten-year-old Joel, now known as Mitchell Joel Coggin, has faced countless fears in the years since, some much more frightening than those from the pages of a detective magazine. In spite of everything, God has always proved there is no reason to hide and that most of our fears are not based in reality. May it be so for each of us.



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

If you are wearing shoes, you don't fear the thorns.
-Sudanese Proverb



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! Ann has worked hard to help us with this fundraiser so please consider ordering soon.

These preserves make great stocking stuffers or basket stuffers or are delightful to enjoy at home. [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](#).

[Click to fill out the website survey](#) which is available until November 22.

Thank you for your valuable time and collaboration. If you don't visit the website very often, visit our page (www.standrewsvictoria.ca), navigate a bit, and come back to the survey. Filling out the survey will help us to know what is important to you, what is working well and what could be improved. We appreciate your feedback.



Frequently Asked Questions About In-person Worship

Q: You know me/us why are we asked the same questions each week?

A: Each week is considered a new event and we need to confirm contact numbers and your health status for the official records which could be used by health authorities.

-Submitted by the Re-entry Committee

[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.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him
with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God.
- From Psalm 100



Read From Your Bible This Week

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 100

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46



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 to St. Andrew's on our website or by your church offering envelopes. Deposit the envelopes in the donation boxes in the church narthex. If donating by envelope, 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.



Advent starts on November 29th. This coming Sunday, the 22nd is the last Sunday of the liturgical year and is called Christ the King or Reign of Christ Sunday. It is a time to celebrate the rule of God in Christ over all creation. Whether you worship at St. Andrew's or from home or any other place, we look forward to experiencing the wonders of Advent with you as we look towards the mystery of God who came to be among us.