



January 13, 2021



Pastor's Parable

Happy New Year, St. Andrews. If you are like me, you have been glued to the news outlets watching our southern neighbours fight the pandemic and one another. Democracy is under siege as conspiracy theories that have been allowed to fester these last four years have been allowed to reach center stage and embolden the masses to violence and sedition. I am ashamed, embarrassed and worried.

John Wigle shared with me the pastor's greeting from John's boyhood home church, Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church London, Ontario in which Dr. Andrew Fullerton summarized the violent and devastating events in the American capitol last week:

"Fear blinds fascists; fear of their own weakness, and fear of loss and limits. Fear blinds them, finally, to the unbreakable strength of the One whose only amour is a love for truth and a courage to speak and live by it. Divine Truth and Love, not Fear and Lies – these are the foundation stones of Reality. That happens to be a Religious Insight. Societies are stronger and better when they build upon them."

May it be so in these tenuous days ahead. May the Church stand for that Divine Truth and Love and may we show and live it in our words, actions and attitudes. May we pray for all around the world who have fallen prey to a deadly disease of COVID and those who have fallen prey to the fear and lies of the power hungry.

Please know that I am praying for each of you and your families as we continue to fight this deadly disease and the rigours of continued quarantine. Hold strong, Dear Friends. Please reach out when you need to. As always the best way to reach me is through my preferred email – pastor@standrewsvictoria.ca

You may have used another email but using the St. Andrew's address helps me be a better steward of my electronic communication which of late has become overwhelming to manage. To those who have not received a timely response to emails you may have sent, I apologize and ask for your patience as I work toward greater efficiency in channelling the right emails to the correct location. Peace to each of you and to us all.

Blessings.

Pastor Mitch



Psalm Singing

The first part of our Presbyterian hymnal, The Book of Praise, contains many psalms for singing. Singing the psalms is an ancient tradition that allows us to engage with scripture in a different way. Through singing, one is connected to the emotions of the writer and many people throughout history. Singing the Psalms can also help us to memorize scripture. Psalm singing is a part of the Protestant heritage. Whether French Huguenot's or Scottish reformers- metrical recitation of the Psalms has been a source of comfort, prayer and learning. Over the next few weeks, Christine will provide us with Psalms to sing a long to.



[Click here](#) to sing to
Psalm 139



[Click here](#) for a message
from Pastor Coggin

Participating in the Healing and Reconciliation Process as a Newcomer in Canada

the Rev. Wally Hong, minister at Drummond Hill Presbyterian Church in Niagara Falls, Ont. writes about Truth and Reconciliation from the perspective of a new Canadian.

Living as immigrant Christians who are racial minorities is very difficult at the best of times. There is hardly any time left over after working long hours and attending churches to pay attention to matters like healing and reconciliation. The truth is, however, that I, as a newcomer, enjoy the riches of this country, be it cultural, social, economic, political and spiritual.



I have inherited, and become part of, the systems and structures that French, English, Scottish, Irish, German, Scandinavian and many other Europeans built by dominating and unleashing many forms of violence on Indigenous peoples. The systems that afford me a comfortable life are the very systems that have been built at the expense of the First peoples. We participate in the perpetuation or maintenance of those laws, institutions and systems through our votes, taxes and demands. For this reason, those of us who have arrived here later have as much obligation to participate fully and engage meaningfully in the process of healing and reconciliation.

It is important for me and those who have come later to realize that we are not this third impassioned and neutral party, but active participants who are shaping the Canadian future.

[Click here](#) to read more of Rev. Hong's article from the Presbyterian Streams of Justice Newsletter

Read From Your Bible This Week

1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

