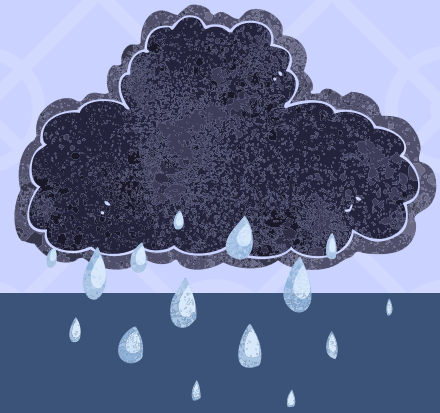




January 27, 2021



Pastor's Parable

We conclude the Who Are We sermon series on Sunday, January 31. The goal during this series has been to help us in looking into the mirror to determine who we are as followers of Jesus Christ and as a congregation. The Psalm for our concluding Sunday is Psalm 111 and the final verse therein is verse 10. It says...

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.

The fear part is certainly understandable to most of us during these months. We fear this deadly pandemic. We fear the isolation and loneliness of not being able to see and to enjoy visits with those we love. We fear when (or if) this disease will continue to take more and more of the things that mean so much to us.

But the verse challenges us to "fear the Lord". Actually, the word "fear" in Hebrew is not akin to the fright we might associate with fearful things. The word "fear" in Hebrew denotes "respect" or "awe". The New International Reader's Version of the scripture says it this way...

If you really want to become wise, you must begin by having respect for the Lord. All those who follow his rules have good understanding. People should praise him forever.

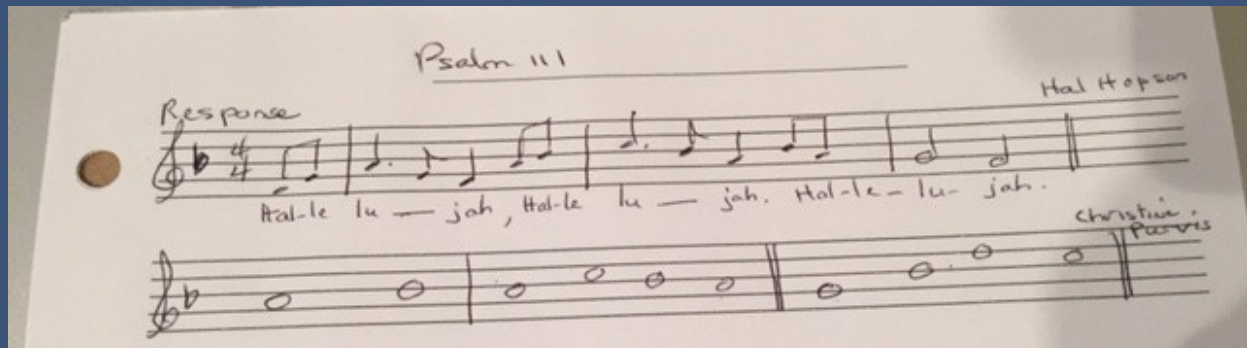
To be in awe of God's strength means that we are not blown about by life's circumstances. Instead, we gain a new understanding that our lives are not our own. God is in control, really! This kind of respect for God's power and grace leads to a wisdom that while we may not be able to predict what will happen, we know intimately the One who guides us forward.

How is your fear quota? Mine is A-OK because more and more I am being led to a holy awe of what God is doing and is yet to do. Thanks be to God. Amen.

In love and fear, Pastor Mitch



As part of our ongoing "Psalm Singing series", [click here](#) to sing along with or listen to Psalm 111. Christine wrote this Psalm chant and paired it with a refrain by Hal Hobson



We've been hearing about snow the past few days. Here are some facts you may not know about this form of precipitation:



Two snowflakes can actually be the same: In 1988, a scientist found two identical snow crystals. They came from a storm in Wisconsin.

Each winter, **over 1 Septillion snowflakes** fall from the sky in the USA (that's 24 zeroes!). Imagine how many fall in Canada!

Nova Scotia holds the record for the most snow angels made simultaneously: 22,022 Nova Scotia residents in 130 separate locations participated in making snow angels at the same time.

The largest snowflake ever seen may have been about 15 inches wide: In Montana in 1887, witnesses claim that the snowflakes were as big as milk pans but there is no way to know for sure if this is true or an exaggeration!

[Click here](#) for a message from the moderator
of General Assembly



Call for Usher volunteers

When we eventually return to in-person worship services, the ushering coordinators would like your help. As you know, the health guidelines direct how we meet safely "in person" and our usher teams are essential for that. Please consider helping, by being part of an ushering team. No experience necessary. Help us to safely welcome folks to St. Andrew's for Sunday services. For more info call Sheelagh 250 - 385-5157 or email the office.



Today marks our
50th e-newsletter!
Thank you for
reading each week!



Read From Your Bible This Week

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

