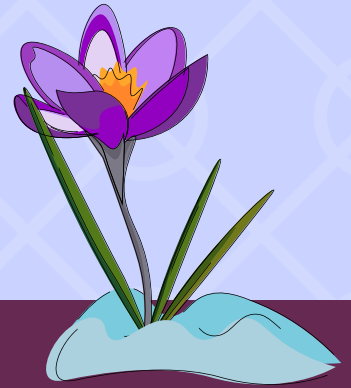




February 3, 2021




Pastor's Parable

Psalm 147 is an invitation from the Creator to bask in the miracle of creation and to respond with praise. Christine sings in today's TWASA. "Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Sing praises to our God." How does the Creator call us to that kind of praise?

This past weekend's meditation reminded us that awe is that sense of reverence for what God is doing. Those who are in awe of God live in a larger world and allow themselves to be open to something greater, something better. The Psalmist reflects on the amazing paradox that the God who names the stars and has an understanding that is beyond measure is also concerned with each of us.

Praise the Lord!
How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
He heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.
He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.
Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.
He covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow on the hills.
but the Lord takes pleasure
in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

What is our response to the Creator's invitation to praise? The Creator is just as aware of us as the rest of creation. Because of our awareness of how God is tuned in to us, our response is praise even with broken hearts. How do our lives answer God's invitation to praise? When the Creator hears our brokenness, remember the words of the Psalmist, "Great is our Lord. His power is mighty. There is no limit to his understanding. The Lord gives strength to those who aren't proud. Praise the Lord."

 [Click here](#)
for the Psalm

Covid-19 vaccinations are underway in our province. If you aren't familiar with the BC vaccination plan, [click here](#) to learn more. We are thankful for the scientists, healthcare workers and officials who are working hard to help us!





Will there be an early spring?

It depends on which groundhog you ask!

Shubenacadie Sam of Nova Scotia decided that spring will come early as he wasn't scared of any shadow this year. Due to his Eastern time zone, Sam was (as usual) the first groundhog in North America to make a prediction on Tuesday morning. Fred La Marmotte of Quebec agreed with Sam and whispered in his handler's ear that spring was on its way.

Warton Willie of Ontario didn't show up on the 65th anniversary of the first prediction in Warton. Instead, a furry hat was tossed into the air and the hat apparently predicted an early spring as well.

Warton Willie did later confirm via Twitter that he agreed with the hat so it seems that an early spring shall indeed be enjoyed by Canadians.

The same cannot be said for our neighbours to the south. Punxsutawney Phil of Pennsylvania USA has declared that winter there will last another 6 weeks. But Phil has an accuracy rate of about 39% so perhaps sleepy rodents aren't the best meteorologists and we'll just have to wait and see.



St. Brigid's Day

Imbolc or Imbolg, also called (Saint) Brigid's Day (Irish: Lá Fhéile Bríde, Scottish Gaelic: Là Fhèill Brìghde), is a Gaelic festival marking the beginning of spring. It is traditionally held on the first of February. Historically, it was observed throughout Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man. For some Christians, especially in Ireland, it is the feast day of Saint Brigid. Imbolc is mentioned in early Irish literature, and there is evidence suggesting it was also an important date in ancient times.

A Brigid's cross is thought to be like the one that Brigid made when she helped a great king convert to Christianity. They are sometimes placed above doorways as a symbol of blessing. Whether or not one believes in all the stories of Brigid, making a cross might be a fun way to spend an afternoon. You can use pipe cleaners, grass, plastic straws or anything else that is stiff and bendy.



Call for Usher volunteers

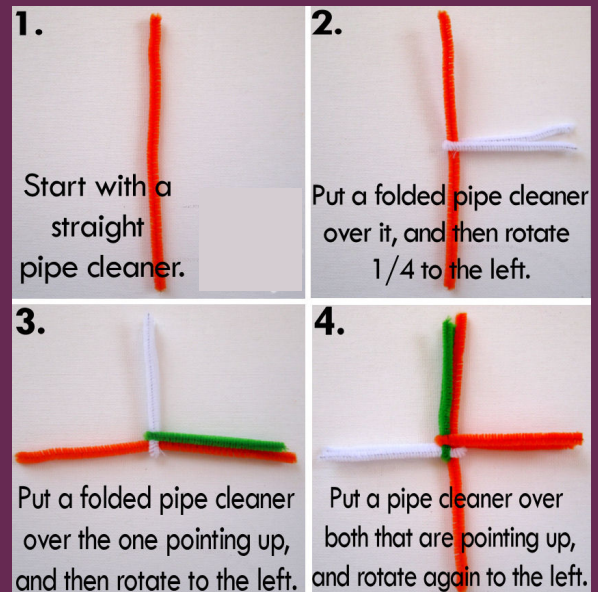
When we eventually return to in-person worship services, the ushering coordinators would like your help.

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.



Read From Your Bible This Week

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

