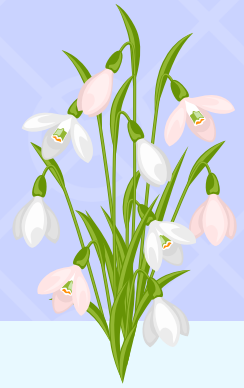




This Week at St. Andrew's

May 5, 2021



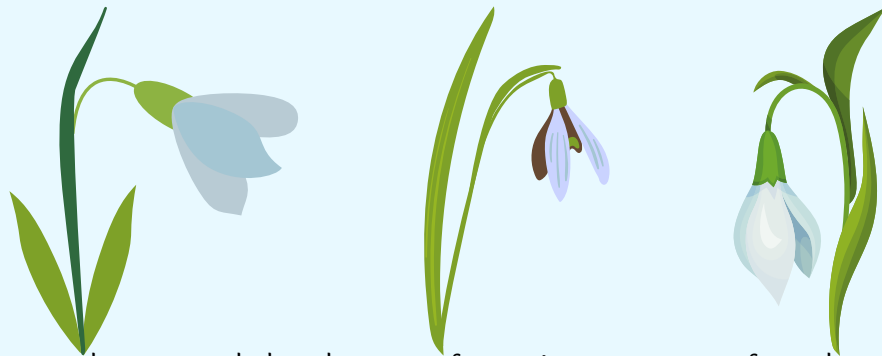
A letter from the Moderator of Presbytery

Dear Friends of the Presbytery of Vancouver Island,

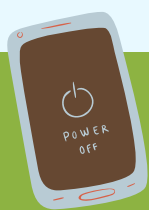
Since it is such a strange time as we continue to live in the shadow of a pandemic I thought I would reach out to our churches and communities in my capacity as moderator of the Presbytery of Vancouver Island. My hope is to provide something like this every couple of months in an effort to keep us "connected." For those who don't know me I serve Comox Valley Presbyterian church, have lived on the island for 12 years with my husband, Mike and our two cats Kato and Charlie. It is an honour to serve the church as moderator of the presbytery.

One of my favourite hymns is In the bulb there is a flower (674 in the Book of Praise). It always comes to mind at this time of year. The first verse is,

"In the bulb there is a flower,
in a seed, an apple tree,
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be
unrevealed until it's season
something God alone can see."



I feel like a small glimpse of that mystery is being revealed at this time of year. As we transition from the season of Easter to the Ascension to Pentecost I am reminded that the disciples experienced major shake ups in their life and ministry. I often muse about what the 40 days between Easter and the Ascension must have been like. I bet they were finding their groove again with Jesus at the helm and then just as it begins to get really comfortable, Jesus is "lifted up" and taken by a cloud and the disciples are left standing looking up. Little do they know that 10 days later the Holy Spirit will descend upon them and transform them from fumbling fishermen to prophetic preachers. Pentecost is about how the renewing Holy Spirit brings new life to the disciples. Remember how Peter couldn't even admit he knew Jesus during the crucifixion? And now Peter transforms into one of the best preachers ever! This is a new chapter in their ministry together but it was not "revealed until it's season." New beginnings can be really exciting but also terrifying. Theologian Gilberto Ruiz points out, "Transitions can initiate new beginnings in the aftermath of trauma. The disciples have just undergone a whirlwind of events, from the crucifixion of their leader to their experiences with him as resurrected Lord, and now they await a new phase of relating to him not in body but through the Holy Spirit." As many of our clergy and leadership begin to think about a post covid church we are all thinking about this transition. I know that many of our congregations are experiencing other major transitions. It can be both frightful and exciting but the story of Pentecost reminds me that possibilities abound! (Continued page 2)



Pastor Coggin is away from his desk this week so be sure to contact an elder if you have a pastoral care need or email the office for other matters.

I know that we are all eager to get back to in-person worship and gatherings. Trust me, your ministers are too! But right now we are in a state of waiting, waiting until it is safe enough to do so, waiting until we are all able to get vaccinated, waiting until our health care system stabilizes. As the hymn says, "there's a spring that waits to be." I think we are like the disciples who are waiting in Jerusalem between the Ascension and Pentecost, not entirely sure when or how the Holy Spirit will show up but following the orders to wait and see.

The second verse of the hymn has the line, "There's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me." It is my prayer that as we continue to be the church without actually being IN our churches that we see this dawn arising.

In my capacity as moderator I was able to attend the UVic Multifaith virtual AGM. I heard about the amazing work of our Spiritual Care Providers, especially the Rev. Laura Kavanagh who serves as our Presbyterian Chaplain. If you thought ministry in a church was challenging at this time, imagine ministering on a campus!

Yet, I heard about how this time has provided new ways of ministering to the students including incorporating the Multi-faith services into the Student Wellness Centre which means that there are more opportunities to provide spiritual care to students. There is hope!

As moderator I am happy to be in touch with not only our presbyters but all of our congregants. Please don't hesitate to email me at revjenng@gmail.com

May the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

The Rev. Jenn Geddes

Moderator of the Presbytery of Vancouver Island

Minister at Comox Valley Presbyterian Church

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Hymn Sing-a-long Videos

Christine would like to know your favourite hymn to sing to. We are going to create a monthly series of videos using old, favourite hymns. Each month, we would like to include some of your stories and memories of the most beloved church music in the hymnal- maybe something you sang in Sunday School or a hymn that reminds you of a special moment with a loved one.

Send your suggestions and stories to Christine music@standrewsvictoria.ca

The 2021 General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada will be held online June 6–9, 2021.

The Assembly considers matters affecting the ministry and mission of our denomination.

Anyone can read the reports that are now available online and more information on the 2021 General Assembly can be found [here](#).



Read From Your Bible This Week.

- Acts 10:44–48
- Psalm 98
- 1 John 5:1–6
- John 15:9–17

