



This Week at St. Andrew's

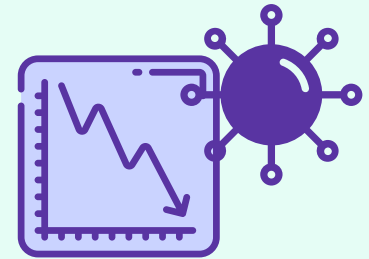
May 26, 2021



Pastor's Parable

Granted, it has been some time since we sang these familiar words...

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore



Certainly, these words express my sentiment after the news update this afternoon related to the update from BC Health! Vaccinations are working. Wearing masks and being socially distanced are working and it is soon to pay off with a return to the things we know and love ... such as gathering with our St. Andrew' family for worship!

The earliest date given by Dr. Henry when we might return to our mid-COVID levels of no more than 50 is no earlier than June 15. Obviously, there is much work and consideration that needs to be done to determine the safest methods possible for returning to worship at the earliest date Session deems it possible. Pray for the Sanctuary Committee who will be meeting to work out the details of our re-gathering and for Session as they discern next steps. An announcement will be made ASAP for specifics of our first in-person worship.

In the meantime, this Sunday we continue to worship in the way we have met for many months, through our virtual format. Sunday is Trinity Sunday, a day most do not regularly celebrate on the lectionary calendar. Easter has passed. The Ascension occurred two weeks ago. Pentecost happened last week. It is now time to pay attention to the significance of the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The idea that God is a Trinity is confusing to most and perhaps contributes very little to our day-to-day attention. Sunday provides a fresh opportunity to see the Trinity through new eyes (and ears); through the hymns composed long ago with the Trinity in mind. The hymns: Holy, Holy, Holy; Come, Thou Almighty King and In the Bulb, There Is A Flower and subsequent meditations about those hymns give us a unique window in understanding the role of the Trinity in our lives and faith.

Christine and I are excited to share this unique aspect of Trinitarian worship with you! In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Blessings. Pastor Mitch



The deadline for submissions to our congregational newsletter is May 31st (this Sunday) send your submissions to thelink@shaw.ca

Prayer for Healing and Reconciliation Sunday

In 1994, The Presbyterian Church in Canada adopted the Confession to God and to Indigenous people for its role in the Indian Residential School System. The church is committed to walking with Indigenous people on a journey toward reconciliation and living out the spirit of its Confession.

The Healing and Reconciliation Program was established by General Assembly in 2006 to assist The Presbyterian Church in Canada in restoring right relations with Indigenous people.

Creator God,

Help us to come today in a spirit of humility as we pray for healing and reconciliation between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada, and the world

Help us to listen, and break open our hearts in love,

That we might receive and care for each other well

Remembering before you the children and the experiences of all who attended the Indian Residential Schools and the impact their absence had and continues to have on their families and communities:

We pray for the healing of the generations;

For children, for their parents and elders, for their families and communities.

We pray that they might thrive body, mind and soul;

That they might delight in their culture and identity, and be safe and secure in this world

We pray O God for the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex and Asexual people

We pray for those who are missing, and for those who love them.

For all who seek answers, and justice;

And for all who are still waiting and needing to feel safe.

We give you thanks for the many ways you reveal yourself, Creator God, in the lives of your beloved peoples. We pray for Indigenous Elders and those who keep the teachings of their people; And for all who work for the wholeness and health of their communities.

For the full text of this prayer by Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock, see the [Presbyterian Church in Canada website](http://www.pcc.ca)



Favourite Hymn

Contact Christine or the office if you would like your favourite hymn featured on our YouTube channel!

music@standrewsvictoria.ca

Read From Your Bible This Week

- Isaiah 6:1-8
- Psalm 29
- Romans 8:12-17
- John 3:1-17



This week's worship reader is Saul P.