



This Week at St. Andrew's

June 30, 2021



Pastor's Parable

St. Andrew's After Dark. Sounds mysterious, doesn't it? Actually, this is not a "who done it" but a "how did we do it!?!?" Ordinarily my goal in finishing study and writing of the sermon would be completed by mid-day Wednesday. For several weeks in a row, Wednesday evenings after 10:00 PM has been the normal time that the meditation has been completed. This means a Thursday AM video session at church with the video team to film the sermon, scripture, and prayers. Once the recordings are made and safely stored on a thumb drive, I take them home to download the recordings to our staff communication link so that Whitney can begin to create the Sunday worship video. My videos are added to those that Christine has previously recorded of her instrumental, vocal, and guest vocalist pieces that she submits in the same format. A planning, preparation, and recording process that began days and often weeks earlier is in it the final stages on Thursday when all the recordings have reached Whitney's inbox. Whitney combines her technological and theological skills to work crafting our Sunday worship video. Currently we are averaging 80-100 views per week of our worship with no less and representing persons throughout Victoria, Canada and points beyond.

St. Andrew's After Dark indicates the labour of love deeply etched into the worship videos. Next week our worship videos will change to what we are calling a companion video. In the hopes that you will follow the Sunday livestream services as we return to in-person worship on July 11, the companion video will include a hymn, scripture, prayer and a question to ponder by the pastor. Along with the companion video will be the digital bulletin with elements of worship for the Sunday livestream and a print bulletin available in small numbers to those attending the in-person worship who will need a paper copy.

All the above has emerged over these months to meet the needs during the Pandemic of all who care about and follow St. Andrew's. While we anticipate being together again in-sanctuary, we know and understand the many of you who will join us via the companion videos or our livestreamed services rather than in-person. St. Andrew's after dark reflects our shift to a new realization that most of the ministries that have emerged for us during the Pandemic "after dark" and beyond the normal office hours for St. Andrew's staff functioning. My recent 10:00 PM work sessions have occurred with much greater frequency during pandemic even more than pre-Pandemic.

Our return to the office as a staff is under consideration as we weigh all these variables of present and future ministry. We will announce soon when that will be as we consider when it is safe and feasible to balance our emerging work with our in-office work. Each of the St. Andrew's staff have rolled up our sleeves and have adapted to the challenges of creating new ways to do the work that has emerged. While the work has been difficult, with a figure-it-out-as-you-go kind of opportunity, we would not trade what we have learned in the last 17 months, most of it "after dark" and after hours. We move forward cherishing what we have leaned and the new ministries we now have to carry with us into the future.

Blessings to each of you. Pastor Mitch

Life and Mission Agency of the PCC Responds Regarding Residential Schools

The Life and Mission Agency of the Presbyterian Church in Canada has published a letter ensuring Presbyterians that the church is responding to the commitments outlined in the [June 15th Statement of Repentance](#). The church is working with affected communities in order that we move forward in a way that is in line with the wishes of those who the church has harmed.

The Life and Mission Agency suggests that all Presbyterians can respond in various ways such as:

- Reading the [Calls to Action](#) (especially 71-76) of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
- Read the Final Report and Calls to Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and use the PCC study guide on the final report: [Why Work to Decolonize?](#)
- Learn about the impacts of colonialism, why it was necessary for the church to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery, and PCC-run residential schools. Resources are available [here](#).

All these links make it easy for each member to take a moment in honour of lives lost to learn about the continuing impact of the residential school system.

To read the full LMA statement [click here](#).

Reservations and Re-entering the Sanctuary

Next week we will start accepting reservations for the service on July 11th. This will be very similar to last autumn and masks, registration and physical distancing will still be a part of the "new normal" at St. Andrew's for now.

"This Week at St. Andrews" will arrive in your inbox Tuesday afternoon with a link to a reservation form. Those who do not have a computer are welcome to call Whitney at 778-587-1227 to reserve a spot at the service. Reservations need to be made by Thursday afternoon.

The session will be considering the new provincial guidelines and will make decisions about future services. You will be notified about any changes to these procedures through our regular means of communication.

Trinity Mini Free Pantry: Your friends at Trinity Church are asking their Presbyterian friends in Victoria if someone handy with carpentry skills would help them build a food pantry box for their neighbourhood. If you would like to volunteer or know someone who might be interested in volunteering, please email Ruth at pzoom@shaw.ca



An Ancient Tree is Resurrected

Forests of Judean date palm trees once covered ancient Israel, from Lake Galilee to the Dead Sea.

The fruit of the tree symbolised life and prosperity and was praised in ancient literature for its unique medicinal properties. But the dates of Judea were made extinct by the Middle Ages.

Now a team of scientists has succeeded in resurrecting the ancient tree.

[Click here](#) to see the video from the BBC

Read From Your Bible This Week

- 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 and Psalm 48
- 2 Corinthians 12:2-10
- Mark 6:1-13
- John 13:1-17, 31b-35

