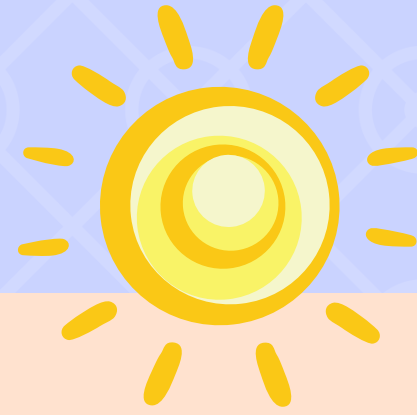




July 13, 2021



Pastor's Parable

July 11 was a remarkable day. Our first Sunday to meet for in-person worship within our beautiful sanctuary was a remarkable worship experience. To gather after so many months away provided a much-needed faith boost! Finally, the eyes of actual persons were looking back during the prayers, scripture and sermon when previously only the camera eye was focused on the chancel area.

It was so good to greet friendly faces finding familiar spots around the sanctuary and readying for worship. While we still are not cleared to sing the familiar hymns we know and love so well, thankfully our technical genius, Jerry Verwey has brought to our worship the recorded anthems from our St. Andrew's choirs and worship services of the past to play aloud for us each Sunday. To close our worship with the choir's joyful rendition of "Sing, Amen" is a spiritual high that makes you leave worship with a spring in your step.

We are committed to providing worship that is meaningful and safe for all worship attendees. This is the reason that we continue to require masks to be worn upon entering and exiting or moving about in the sanctuary. The lower level of the sanctuary is still marked for socially distanced seating. The ushers are doing a helpful role in greeting persons upon entry and helping to find appropriate seating.

The worship experience was remarkable in knowing that not only were we finally gathered in-person, but our new video system was connecting St. Andrew's faithful and friends from near and far to be able to worship with us. Many who either cannot be present with us physically in worship may now join us for the same worship at the same time from remote locations. Thanks to God for this new community of faithful attendees in vastly different mediums than ever before.

And a note to our in-person worshippers: Most who join us electronically will continue to participate in our livestream for a variety of reasons. It challenges the rest of us to reach out and say "Welcome. You are at home here. Your presence makes a difference to us. Is there something we might pray with you about?" It will take new initiatives to learn a bit more about reaching across the divides of technology to make the human connections that the Church needs us to make.

Sunday is another opportunity to come back to worship if you were waiting to determine the success of our re-entry. Why not register this week yourself? Why not see how exhilarating it is to hear our beautiful organ play the hymns again in person? Why not come back and join us in hearing prayers, scripture, and a sermon in living color? Why not reassemble after many months of being away from persons you may not have seen and worship together again?

Join us Sunday, July 18. Won't you. Blessings, Mitch

Joining us for worship? Here's what you need to know:

- Please do not attend the service if you, or anyone in your group, feels unwell, has a fever, persistent cough or other flu like symptoms.
- Everyone waits in a socially distanced line, outside, until space is available for you to move forward to a seat.
- All those attending the service (12 years and older) must wear a mask – on entering, on exiting and if moving about inside the building.
- Hand sanitizer is available for use at each door.
- Please be seated as quickly as possible so that others may also take their seats.
- Once seated you must remain in that seat until, at the completion of the service, you will exit as directed.
- Please do not sit on the "yellow tapes" in the pews, or move these tapes. Social distancing is achieved by sitting between the tapes.
- If, after being seated, you need assistance, or the use of a washroom, please raise your hand and an usher will come to you to assist.

Favourite Hymn Series



Betty Cowper requested the Hymn "Just as I am Without One Plea". This hymn was written by Charlotte Elliot (b. 1789). She would write around 150 hymns over the course of her life. 'Just as I am' was written by Elliot after an illness had left her permanently disabled and suffering from depression. She asked a friend how to come to Christ and he answered her "Come as you are". Many of Charlotte Elliot's hymns deal with themes of chronic pain, hope and perseverance. .

Robin Rohrmoser (Betty Cowper's daughter) writes the following about her Betty's love of hymn music:
"When she read the May 5 TWASA and "In the bulb there is a flower," she immediately began to sing it out loud. She has an organ in her apartment, and several old music books. One had a selection of hymns, which I played when I visited this weekend, and she sang along to almost every one.

A memory she did have was standing by the piano when she was a little girl, while her mother played. Also of walking to church with her mother for evening service, in the then-very small town of Burlington, Ontario, just her mother and her. It was a family of six children but Mum seems to have been the one who liked to go. Probably nice to have time with her mother. The minister of the Presbyterian church then was English. He called my grandmother Mrs. MACfar-LANE. If I remember Mum's story right, he would say, "Mrs. MACfar-LANE, you and I are strangers in this church!" (Being two of the few English people in a rather Scottish group in Canada.)" [Listen to the hymn here.](#)

What do you get when you combine two canopies, a few chairs + sunny weather? You get a perfect spot for St. Andrew's friends to meet for an outdoor visit. Grant has tidied up the laneway and added not only his ongoing plant production but also a few extras. Drop in for a visit Thursday afternoons between 2 and 4 pm. Come to the laneway gate and we'll be happy to open it for you. Iced tea will be available but if that is not to your liking feel free to bring your own beverage. Questions? Call 250 385-5157



See you in the lane!

Reservations for Sunday

[Click here](#) to fill out the reservation form for this Sunday's service.

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 Friday afternoon.

Read From Your Bible This Week

- 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 and Psalm 24
OR Amos 7:7-15 and Psalm 85:8-13
- Ephesians 1:3-14
- Mark 6:14-29

