

November 2, 2021



ST. ANDREW'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service in the Heart of Victoria, BC since 1866

standrewsvictoria.ca

This Week at St. Andrew's



Parable of the Pastor

When do you normally pray? Before meals? Prior to a medical procedure? Following a near close call? Perhaps upon waking in the morning or before nodding off at night. Certainly, you responded "yes" to one or all of these.

Do you primarily pray for family and friends? World leaders? Your church? How many pray for the worship before you attend worship? Are the prayers of the minister the only prayers that are viable? (Hopefully, you said "No" to the last!!)

"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." - Martin Luther

These questions should help us to think deeply about prayer and how we understand it's value in our lives. Certainly, no other time in history, in our lives and in our church are we called to pray more than now.

Someone recently commented about our vision process as to the importance of listening carefully to God's leading and direction and I could not agree more. Now is the time for St. Andrew's to show that we believe in the power of prayer.

Prayer is not a magic formula. It is not something reserved for those with a theological degree. There are no right or wrong words that must be spoken in our prayers. In the same way that we speak to our closest friend, merely sharing our lives with him or her is the perfect formula for our prayers with God.

I would like to ask you to commit time in the coming weeks to pray for St. Andrew's specifically. Pray that God will guide us in making choices that show how much we love God. Thank God for the incredible way that God has blessed St. Andrew's and give thanks that God has brought us through our struggles and that we have emerged stronger as a result.

Will you pray in this way for St. Andrew's in your own private devotions? Might you commit to pray with a spouse or a friend? I ask you to do something else as you pray...

...would you listen to what God may say to you in your prayers?

...would you pray for our leaders (our elders and leaders)?

...would you pray for our homebound?

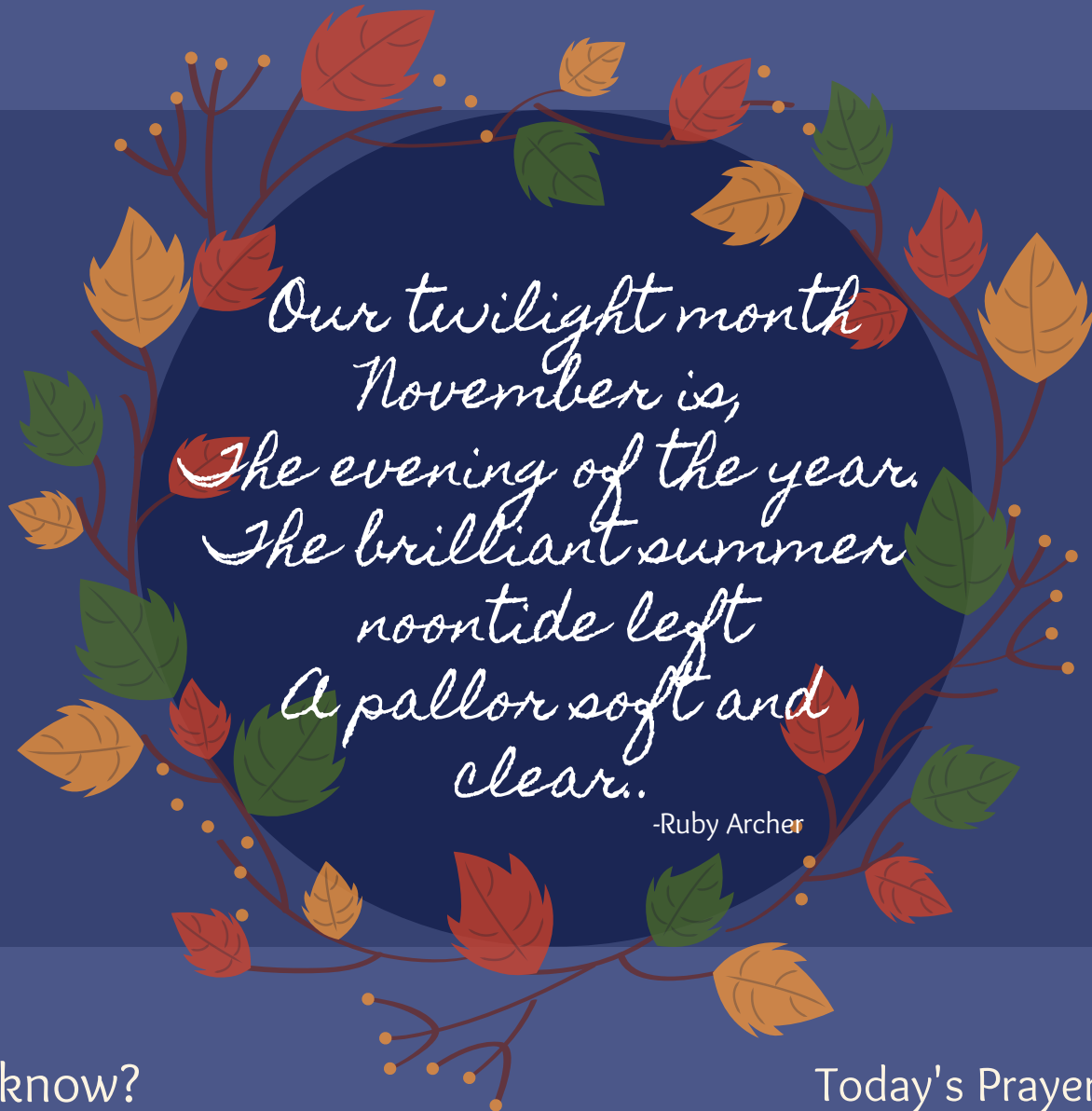
...would you pray for the St. Andrew's family (those you know and those you do not)

Over the coming weeks, I will provide specific requests and guidance for your prayers, but before then, even now, thank you for your prayers. We need them desperately and God is waiting to hear us as we pray and to speak to us as we listen.

Prayerfully, Pastor Mitch

Reservations for Sunday

We are still asking for congregants to register for attendance at the Sunday service. We know that many have stopped pre-registering. However, as more people attend (and we get closer to reaching our capacity of 70 attendees) we need your help to let us know if you'll be there in-person on Sunday. Please help us to prepare for worship by [clicking here](#) for the form to register for Sunday.



Did you know?

During the gray squirrel's fall caching season, when the critters bury nuts and seeds in hundreds of scattered caches to serve as emergency winter larders, a typical squirrel shows a 15 percent increase in the size of its hippocampus—the memory and emotion center of the brain—compared to the rest of the year.



Today's Prayer from PWS&D

Three months after a devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake hit the southern peninsula of Haiti, we continue to pray that those affected find the strength and courage to recover.

Read From Your Bible This Week

- Ruth 3:1–5, 4:13–17
- Psalm 127
- Hebrews 9:24–28
- Mark 12:38–44

