

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S



ISSUE # 303

March 26, 2026

Open Church: Sanctuary
Wednesdays at 12:00 - 1:30 pm

Meditation Hour: Sanctuary
Wednesdays at 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Activity Group: The Gathering Room
Thursdays at 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Worship Service: Sanctuary
Sundays at 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday: Sunday, March 29 at 10:30 am

Good Friday: Friday, April 3 at 10:30 am

Easter Sunday: Sunday, April 5 at 10:30 am




From the Pulpit


Our Palm Sunday sermon is entitled "Made Perfect in Weakness." This sermon contrasts human displays of power with the humble way of God. Many of us remember when Christianity was a popular and powerful part of our culture, but now we find ourselves grieving over Christianity's lost dominance in the Canadian way of life. As we come to Palm Sunday, we see how Jesus enters Jerusalem amid expectations of violent revolution, yet chooses humility, silence, and self-giving love instead. Jesus rejects imperial power and confronts injustice through truth, peace, and sacrifice, revealing a God whose power is made perfect, not in strength, but in weakness.


- Rev. Wes Denyer


Announcements


 **SPECIAL MUSIC:** St. Andrew's Services will feature special music during Holy Week and Easter Sunday! Music Director Susanne, the Choir, the Choral Scholars, the Bell Choir and David Barss (on trumpet) have been working hard in the past couple of months to share special music chosen specifically for Services on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and of course, on Easter Sunday. This Holy Week, let music help tell the story of our Lord's Passion and Resurrection!


 **LENTEN DEVOTIONAL GUIDE:** This is from the introduction to The St. Andrew's Hall Lenten Devotional Guide, available for you to download and view [HERE](#). Please contact the church office for a printed copy.


 **ACTIVITY GROUP:** The shipment for [Compassionate Resource Warehouse](#) headed to Ethiopia at the end of the month is in urgent need of reusable, grocery type bags. Ethiopia has very recently instituted a ban on single use plastic bags so alternative packaging is required. If you have spare bags please drop them in the baskets in the narthex. Thank you!


 **VIOLIN SPRING CONCERT:** Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program in partnership with UVic School of Music. Donations are appreciated, and support our music program, and our musicians! Everyone is welcome to attend. On Sunday, March 29th at 2 pm in the Sanctuary: Various violin selections from the classes of Ann Elliott-Goldschmid, Associate Professor, UVIC School of Music.


 **LENTEN STUDY:** Join us for a Lenten Study on March 30th at 3:00 pm. Experience Visio Divina, a similar practice to Lectio Divina, by meditating on select scripture and artwork. If you would like to attend please RSVP with Colina at 250-418-0730 or email colina.titus@gmail.com for more information.

 **THE LINK:** Contribute to St. Andrew's monthly newsletter! **April's** deadline for submissions is **Sunday, March 29th**. To contact the editor or make submissions please email: thelink@standrewsvictoria.ca.


 **SESSION MEETING:** The next in-person meeting is on Monday, April 13, at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.


 **WANDERLUST** Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program on April 19th in the Sanctuary at 2 PM. Donations are appreciated, and support our music program, and our musicians! [The Sequoia Vocal Ensemble](#) is a small, local a capella choir directed by Eva Smith, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Choral Scholar. Join us for 'Wanderlust', an afternoon of music on the theme of wandering.

 **TEA FOR TUTU 'ALICE IN WONDERLAND':** May 5, 6, 7 at 2:00 pm in the Kirk Hall. Reserve your free seats - email tea4tutu@balletvictoria.ca or phone 250-380-6063. For more information about the program go [HERE](#).

 **CHOIRBURST:** Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program in the St. Andrew's Sanctuary from 10 am - 6 pm on May 15th & 16th. Local and visiting choirs & singing groups will share their music with the Victoria community! Each group will sing for 20 minutes, creating a vibrant showcase of voices throughout the day. A performance schedule is available at podium2026.ca.

 **PRESBYTERY MEETING:** on Tuesday, June 23 at 10 am in the Sanctuary and The Gathering Room of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

 **QUARTET FEST WEST:** Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach program on July 5th in the Sanctuary at 2 PM. Donations are appreciated, and support our music program, and our musicians! Quartet Fest West is one of the finest chamber music programs in North America! This concert features several participants from this year's festival.

 **SHANNON SAYS GOODBYE:** St. Andrew's Administrator, Shannon, will regretfully be leaving us at the end of August. She and her partner will be moving to northern BC to be closer to her family. The search to find a replacement will begin soon. If you have questions please contact Jean Marcellus or Colina Titus.

Lenten Liturgies

Tara's Journey to Self-Worth and Independence: Tara Kumari, a 25-year-old who lives in the Champapur village of India, once dreamed of studying and shaping her own future. But these dreams ended when she was married young and forced to leave school. She also suffered abuse from her husband and in-laws. Pregnancy did not ease her suffering. After giving birth to two daughters, the harassment worsened, as her in-laws demanded a son. Even when she finally had a boy, Tara's poverty and lack of education brought new insults and violence. Unable to bear it, she returned to her father's home. Everything changed when she learned of the PWS&D-supported Karuna Project's vocational training courses. With determination, Tara trained as a beautician and opened her own parlour, soon becoming a successful businesswoman. Today, she supports her parents and children, disproving her father who once thought daughters were a burden. Tara's success now inspires other families to believe in their daughters' potential. This Lenten season, faithfully respond with PWS&D to help build self-reliance through vocational training and skills development.

Mission Moment

In the mountains of Bamyan, Afghanistan, 65-year-old Ghulam Hussain has endured a lifetime of hardship. After losing his first wife, he cared for their infant son alone before remarrying and having three more children. He worked tirelessly as a labourer to support them. But after the death of his oldest son, Ghulam experienced severe mental health issues that left him unable to work, leaving his family in poverty. With his wife, Sabira, struggling to find work amid limited opportunities, hope came through a Cash-for-Food program supported by PWS&D. The aid allowed the family to buy essential food. "For the first time in years, my children went to bed with full stomachs," Sabira shares with deep gratitude.

Community Events

AROUND THE TABLE: Join 'Inclusive Christians' on Wednesdays, from 5 - 6 pm, at the UVic Multifaith Center, for a simple Christian service of prayer, song, scripture, and contemplation. All are welcome. A free simple dinner is provided following the service. Hosted by the Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and United Spiritual Care Providers. For more information contact the [Rev. Laura Kavanagh](#).



The poster features a blue background with a white 'T' logo in a circle at the top center. Text includes 'All are welcome!' in a speech bubble, 'TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY SOCIAL' in large white letters, and 'DRAG - POETRY - MUSIC - LIGHT REFRESHMENTS - SPEAKERS' below. It lists the date 'SUNDAY MARCH 29th 2026' and time '7:00 PM - 8:30 PM'. Four speaker portraits are shown: LJ WEISBERG, RIEL DEADLY, NOAH LOTT, and SARA ROSE. The event is at SINGEQU HOUSE | SINGEQU 7E7LAD, UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA. Logos for UVic and the Chair in Transgender Studies are at the bottom.

FREE VISTA: Free public lectures through the Vancouver Island School of Theology are happening on Thursdays in April and May at 7 PM - venues to be determined. Go [HERE](#) for more information as it becomes available.

COLLECTIVE 2026: Join us on April 15th at 1:00 pm for an in-depth webinar designed to walk you through everything you need to know about Collective 2026, an event for youth, young adults, and their leaders. [Register here](#).

HEART CALLED & FORMED: Join us Friday and Saturday May 8 and 9 for a conference on theology with Mark Buchanan and Gordon T. Smith through the Vancouver Island School of Theology. [Tickets Available Here!](#)

VIP SUMMER CAMP 2026: A program of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. This year's locations and dates are as follows: Little Qualicum Falls Provincial Park (June 8-12), Rathtrevor Provincial Park (July 25 - 30), and Rathtrevor Provincial Park (July 30 - August 3). For more information go to our [website](#) or contact the registrar at jermareng@gmail.com.



Choirburst

'Choirburst' is a special [PODIUM 2026](#) event providing local and visiting choirs/singing groups the opportunity to share their music with the Victoria community from 10 am - 6 pm on Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16, 2026.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's Sanctuary is hosting this festival, and will be open to the public to see these performances. St. Andrew's Music Outreach Program will help to coordinate these performances. More than 30 choirs will be taking part! Performances will take place every half hour - a marathon of choral music.

During each performance, featured groups will have a designated space to display a poster with their image or logo, along with a table for ticket sales, singer recruitment, information sharing, CD sales, etc.

As part of this event, St. Andrew's would like to offer snacks and drinks for sale. This sale would be from 11am - 3pm each day and would consist of prepackaged items and drinks in containers.

If you can help for an hour or two on either day, please contact Sheelagh, 250 385-5157 or leave a message at the office, 250 384-5734. Please check your calendars and see if you can help!

This is a terrific opportunity to share St. Andrew's with hundreds of folks and to hear many talented choral performances.

Palm Sunday

Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven! (Matthew 21:9)

Our lives are filled with uncertainty and mystery. The only thing we can be sure of is that the grace of the living God, the love of Jesus, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit are with us. However, even with this assurance, our lives often feel incomplete, frequently clouded by doubt. We receive God's Word in our lives, but because of our inner conflict and hesitation, we struggle to follow that divine voice with confidence.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells two disciples to go into the village and bring a donkey tied with its colt. He instructs them that if anyone questions them, they should say, "The Lord needs them."

When we encounter various trials in life, especially those that arrive in forms we cannot understand, they often provoke doubt and anxiety within us. At times, the path God sets before us feels incomprehensible or even nonsensical. However, God's plan is wonderful. It is always reaching far beyond our human thoughts and imagination. We are being prepared for an amazing purpose through God's mysterious ways.

Jesus asked for the two donkeys to fulfil the words of prophecy. Although the two disciples did not fully understand his intent at the time, they followed his word and brought the donkeys. They laid their cloaks over them to prepare a seat for the Lord. Then, Jesus entered Jerusalem on that donkey amid shouts of glory.

Now, what calling has God placed on us today? What is the "donkey" we are asked to bring? Are we ready to follow the Lord's Word and share in both the glory and the suffering of Christ?

O God, please use us for your amazing plan, and give us your wisdom and courage to walk faithfully through uncertainty. Amen.

Chorong Shin, a pcc-certified student, will soon continue pursuing a MDiv degree. She is living in Red Deer, Alberta with her spouse and two lovely kids. She is a former resident of SAH.



Middle East Appeal

Since February 28, escalating military violence in the Middle East has been worsening and widening, with humanitarian needs rising rapidly:

- More than 2,000 people have been killed, and more than 20,000 people are injured.
- Nearly 4 million people are internally displaced. In Lebanon alone, more than 810,000 people, including 290,000 children, have been forced to flee their homes.
- Hostilities have affected 14 countries so far, destroying or damaging schools, hospitals, health centres and energy infrastructure.

PWS&D, through our membership in Canadian Foodgrains Bank, is taking part in the Humanitarian Coalition appeal in response to the ongoing conflict. Responses will help provide food, water, emergency health service, temporary shelter and psychosocial support.

PWS&D continues to respond throughout the region, including Palestine (Gaza and the West Bank), Lebanon and Syria.

Visit the Presbyterian Church in Canada's post, [On War In and Around Iran](#).

The World Council of Churches and ACT Alliance have released a [joint statement](#) raising deep concerns on the social and humanitarian impact of the widening conflict.