

May 2020

The Lamp Lighter

The Anglican Parish of St. Mark, Qualicum Beach, BC

Season of Easter at the Anglican Parish of St Mark



In a New Season of COVID 19
we continue to Celebrate ...
and refrain from Gathering.

Alleluia Christ is Risen, He is risen Indeed, Alleluia!

News from the Archives of St Mark, Qualicum Beach

The last regular Sunday worship of the St Mark's community was March 15th, 2020. Since that time we have been continuing to celebrate our faith while maintaining a safe distance from each other. The church building itself has been closed – open only to the Clergy and the Wardens – and so the heat is turned off, the facilities are checked every week to make certain that there are no leaks or “failures” in the building system, and we are moving to a virtual reality of communicating the Good News of God's love.

Sadly, many regular events have been cancelled. Quiet Day Reflections, weekly gatherings, as well as the annual golf tournament and the 48th St Mark's Fair have all been “postponed” until such time as we are able to gather once again.

In support of the efforts to stay safe and also to lend our thanks and prayers to those who are on the front lines of securing our health during this global pandemic – we are ringing the church bells on Wednesday's at noon and most recently we offered our love and support to the people of Nova Scotia, ringing the church bell at 2 pm on Friday April 24th, 2020.

The Lamplighter News page is an effort to reach out and remind us all that we're together in the fight to stay healthy and safe – but most especially, we are together in our journey of faith, remembering that God is never isolated from us.

Joe Forsyth sent the following prayer for us all...

God who comforts, God who disturbs: for some your Easter message lands when spring is at its softest, disrupting our anxiety with the gift of needed peace. For others, though, this season grows harsh and words of comfort become harder to hear. May we who can now absorb these rays of warming light store them up for darker days to come. And for those whose current climate keeps comfort out of reach may we find your presence in our midst, and with it the returning promise of a new and brighter day. Amen.

These prayers are from the Corrymeela community in Northern Ireland – a place of peace and comfort that is especially dear to the heart of our Bishop Logan.

God at the bedside, God at the graveside: in care homes and hospices, in hospital wards, your spirit remains present when family cannot be near. With a comforting

word or silent prayer, in the final minutes of breath, you have spoken a message of peace through nurses and doctors, chaplains and priests: a Samaritan response at this roadside. We give thanks that even if a disease would rob us, through separation, of a healing moment at death, you appear at our side, time and again with embodied, miraculous life. Amen.

God of those in plenty, God of those in want: this disease separates us one from another. It also exposes an underlying division that has been there all along: the difference between the haves and the have-nots. May the chasm finally close between those who will wait this pandemic out with stockpiles of reserves and the luxury of rest, and those who have been waiting too long for a voice at the table, a seat at the banquet, a prayer not filled with pleas. Amen.

God of the protective fold, God of the abundant life: you did not form us to live in fear of others or in want of simple joys. In your keep may we find the abundance you came to provide: a constant supply of the love we need and an ever-opening expanse of a life that is ours to explore. Amen.

When we're not in prayer... we're on camera sharing the Good News. Our regular worship is on Sunday at 10am, and Wednesday at 11:30 am – and these can be shared on the St Mark website www.stmarkqualicum.ca

During Holy Week and Easter Sunday we were “live” to pass out Palm crosses on April 5th, and then had a cross (draped with blue fabric) on Good Friday placed beside the notice board on Memorial. On Easter Sunday we covered the cross with flowers and encouraged the community to take one home – a little Easter blessing.



We offer a blessing for our Bishop Logan McMenamie who will be entering a new phase of ministry in retirement. May God continue to bless Logan and his whole family as they proclaim God's love through their witness and work.



Palm Sunday – April 5th, 2020



Good Friday – April 10th, 2020



Easter Day – Sunday April 12th, 2020

Check out the web page, or call for a “paper copy” delivered to your door - 250-752-5414

And check out Virtual Messy Church and other services at

www.stmarkqualicum.ca

Peace and God's Blessing to you all!