St.Philip's Anglican Church
3737 West 27th Avenue
Vancouver, BC
Telephone: 604-224-3238
www.stphilipsdunbar.com

Notices for Sunday, July 5, 2020

Lovely people of Saint Philip's,

I hope that you had a lovely Canada Day, despite all the limitations and very unseasonal weather! I took the opportunity to go to listen to the voices of Indigenous people at a demonstration organised by 'Idle No More'. The rally highlighted that for many Indigenous Canadians, Canada Day is not a symbol of unity to rally around and celebrate, but one that continues to highlight the injustices that so many aboriginal people experience on a day to day basis. The peaceful event welcomed all people to unite and oppose racism in all its forms under the banner of 'Black Lives Matter,' but concentrated particularly on the experience of Indigenous women. Time and again we hear stories of women and girls who have disappeared and whose cases were not treated with the dignity and respect they deserved by the police and authorities. Each story is a tragic reminder of how racism is endemic in our society and how far the nation has to go to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

How do we respond to such stories? How often do such realities need to be shared before real change can happen?

As I reflect on these things in the light of this week's gospel story (Matt 11.16-19, 25-30), I am curious as to why verses 20-24 were omitted. Jesus is responding to the authorities who are criticising him and John the baptiser for proclaiming the message of the Kingdom of God and calling for people to repent (remember Jesus uses the word, 'Metanoia' which means a transformation of the mind). The authorities, on the other hand, are using classic divide and conquer tactics saying that John is a demonic and that Jesus is a drunkard. But at this point we skip to verse 25, where Jesus thanks God for revealing the secrets of the Kingdom to infants, rather to those who think themselves wise.

So what did we miss? Well, what we miss is that Jesus goes into a tirade of criticism against all the places that he has been preaching the good news, but who did not repent - a passage that is often called the 'Reproach of the Cities.' Jesus rages at them saying,

'"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, on the day of judgement it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that on the day of judgement it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you."

Jesus is so angry because despite hearing the Good News of the Kingdom of God, those in authority feel so threatened that they choose to do nothing. Actually, their response is worse than doing nothing: they go about trying to undermine Jesus and his message of love, inclusivity and justice. It is a sobering reminder that, when it comes to the issues of racism being highlighted by the 'Black Lives Matter' movement, doing nothing is not an option.

Yet Jesus does not leave us to tackle these huge issues alone. He calls us to be 'yoked to " him and to learn from him. During these momentous times of change, he promises to shoulder the burden of change with us and even if the road ahead looks too difficult, he offers to carry our burdens and to give us rest: 'For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light'.

Love and Prayers,

Stuart

CHURCH IN THE PARK
Gather with **real, live people** at Chaldecott Park on Sundays at 4:30 pm starting on July 5th, weather permitting, for a socially distanced get together, which will include a short service. It will be an opportunity for us all to see each other again, catch up and generally enjoy being in each other's company. The play area is open so the kids will be able to come too and enjoy being with one another again. Bring seating, and refreshments of your choice for after the service. (Quarantinis, anyone?) Come as you are. Bring a friend. No registration needed. Cancellation in case of wet weather will be posted on the website by the afternoon. This is a great opportunity to reconnect informally, and a wonderful witness to our community that St Philip's is truly alive and kicking! We hope to see a really good number of us on Sunday!

PRAYER, CARE AND SHARE: Wednesdays on Zoom at 10:00 AM
Join Stuart for midweek prayer and fellowship in a pastoral gathering on Zoom. Meet, greet, pray. Share life's concerns and joys in a small supportive gathering. You may join by telephone, or on a smart phone, computer or tablet. Stuart hopes to hear your voice.
To join the gathering by phone, simply dial 778-907-2071. Listen to prompts. You will be asked for the meeting ID which is 2939572088.
To join by Computer: Click the blue link at 10:00, using your computer for best results.
https://zoom.us/j/2939572088

REOPENING ST PHILIP'S
Stuart Hallam will apply to the Diocese for permission to reopen the church by late August with all health precautions, masks and social distancing in place. Even after we reopen for in-person services, online Website Worship will continue for those who feel they must self-isolate.

TRANSFORMING QUESTIONS: An Online Course for Christian Formation
This pandemic has stirred up basic questions about life, faith, purpose, and God. In 11 sessions, we will seek to move deeper by engaging in some of faith's most basic questions. Let's gather

for prayer, hear a presentation, and then join in small-group discussion. Through listening and sharing, we will wrestle with these foundational questions in each other's company. As we do so, we learn more about ourselves, one another, and the Jesus we are seeking.
Dates*:* Thursdays, 7pm from July 16 - September 24. **Session length***:* 60-75 minutes
Place*:* Zoom
Who is it for*:* adults (16+) preparing for baptism, confirmation, reception into the Anglican Church, or reaffirmation of baptismal vows; those exploring faith for the 1st or the 50th time.
Attendance: Sessions are related to and build upon one another, so this is not a drop-in course. Please register in advance as you are encouraged to attend all of the sessions. You can request to be in a small group with someone you know.
Registration*:* https://tinyurl.com/transformingquestions **Deadline to Register:** July 9, 2020

WEBSITE WORSHIP
Join Stuart Hallam and others in Sunday morning website worship and follow along with the order of service delivered to you on Friday. The services are recorded and posted by Saturday evening, so you can watch and revisit them at your convenience. These services have been viewed by households 777 times in the past month: mid-May to mid-June. Visit our website where there is much to find in worship and news. https://www.stphilipsdunbar.com/blog

PRAYER LIST
Please pray for those who have asked for our prayers at this time: Margie Brown, Ken and Greg, Maura and Brian, Nancy, Tracy and family, Larry Hoad, Mike Lane, Brenda Harrison, Sarah Burns, Richard Fenner, and Peter Harrison. Let us pray for those who have died: Joan Hume and Jenny Sheldon, and for their friends and family bereaved by their loss.

MILESTONES
Let's share life's blessings with our parishioners as we recite the final prayer together.

COFFEE HOUR on Zoom: Sunday July 5th, 11:00 AM
Last week, we raised a cup to our marvellous church school teachers and celebrated Janet England's retirement from teaching our youngest children at St Philip's since 1983. Bravo!
We look forward to seeing **you**. Click the blue link at 11:00 am, using your computer for best results, or join by phone: Coffee Hour ID is 454815164**.** https://zoom.us/j/454815164

To join any Zoom meeting by phone, dial 778-907-2071 and enter the meeting ID 454815167 when prompted.

GODLY PLAY
Families will be happy to hear of a Godly Play session recorded and available on our website, with a possibility of more to come to bring a reconnection to Sunday School for our children.

MUSIC
Michael Murray has asked for favourite hymns. Inundate him: michaelmurrayorgan@gmail.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD MINISTRY FOOD & CLOTHING DRIVE
Click here for: Food and Clothing Drive Update
Please donate: You can donate at St Philip's again: Monday – Friday from 9:00 – 4:00
This week, donations are down; however, in recent months the number of people accessing various food programmes has increased. Our Food and Clothing Drive can make a strong contribution. Please give generously to this ongoing need as we support busy shelters.
Please drop off your donations of food, hygiene sundries and clothing to the donation bins on the porch, ***while accepting responsibility for your own safety if exterior work is ongoing***.
Clothing for men: rain jackets and pants, t-shirts, sweatshirts, lightweight long-sleeved shirts, jeans, underwear and socks. **Food**: easy-open cans of meat or fish, soft cereal bars (no granola), protein bars, meal replacement drinks like Ensure or Boost, fruit cups, juice boxes and bottled water. **Hygiene sundries:** unopened toothpaste, brushes, shampoo, hygiene products, etc.

Volunteers needed: Can you help with delivering food for about 2 hours every 2-4 weeks? email ministrymcu@gmail.com.

GARDENERS
Volunteer gardeners may return! Connect with Pat Brandon: caretaker@stpdunbar.com
Avoid building work areas in case of repairs or painting work: the major roofing work is done.

SHARE THE PEACE
Stuart wants to share with the world the faces of St Philip's. Young or old, record a short video (5 seconds or so) of you sharing the peace: "Peace be with you". Express your personality to share the peace with us and with the world! Send your short clip to: Revhallam@hotmail.co.uk
Watch Sunday's Website Worship to see the peace shared by people you know (even a baby...)

OUR REFUGEE FAMILY
Catch up with the latest news and some photos of a special day here: Refugee Family moves forward. Onward! Sedra, the eldest daughter, has just started working on the weekends with her mother, Lama, at Livia Café on Commercial Drive.

PRAYER LIST AND LIFE'S MILESTONES
Please send your prayer requests and milestones to Beth so we can celebrate with you in spirit, in prayer or with a phone call. manager@stpdunbar.com or 604-224-3238 ext 301

LAWN SIGN CAMPAIGN
Elly & Sophia Noetzel, Duncan & Euan Wilson, and Graeme & Norah Mix formed a team who are creating a lawn sign campaign to stand up as a church community against racial injustice. Once the signs are available, you will be invited to choose ones for your property. Stay tuned…

LIVE-STREAMING
As St Philip's website worship and music concerts reach people at home or far away, we want to capture this potential for the future. With improved capabilities, we will be able to bring worship and events to people who cannot attend in person, and to groups of over 50.

NEW ROOF
Click here for roofing news and to see project photos, or walk by to take a look.
We owe deep gratitude to the donors of the Capital Campaign funds that make this possible.

RECYCLE, AND SUPPORT ST PHILIP'S
From juice boxes to gin bottles, **Return-It** will take all your recycling. You can credit St Philip's Church for your donation of recycling to our Express recycling account number 604-224-3238, which is our phone number. Try the Vancouver West Return-It Depot at 1253 W. 75th Ave for ease of drop-off. Go to https://www.return-it.ca for all the information you need.

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES
Enjoy a take-out meal, a haircut, or visit a local shop. Livelihoods depend on our patronage.

GRATITUDE CONFETTI
Let's throw gratitude confetti on people who give of themselves to support and protect us.

Staying Close While We're Apart,
Stuart Hallam (Rector), Debbie Matheson, Brian Mix, Diana Bragg, and Suzi Noetzel (Wardens)