**All Saints Anglican Church, Agassiz**

**6904 Lougheed Highway, BC, V0M 1A0**

**Bulletin November 28 – December 4, 2022**



**‘The ground we walk does not belong to us; for thousands of years it has been - and remains - the territory of the Stó:lō.’ We are grateful for their sharing.**

***Phone: 604-796-3553***

***Website:*** [www.allsaints-agassiz.ca](http://www.allsaints-agassiz.ca/)

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/AllSaintsFamily](https://www.facebool.com/groups/AllSaintsFamily)

 **OUR DOOR IS OPEN AND ALL ARE WELCOME**

**December 4, 2022, Second Sunday of Advent**

 Priest-in-Charge: The Reverend Philip Barker

 Hosts: Graham Featherstone/Jennifer Pinlac

Intercessor: Valerie and David Hamilton

Lay Administrator: Dorothy Cresswell

Announcer: Virginia Jennings

Piano: Fran Froehlich

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Zoom service will still be available and a link sent out around 09:45 by Graham.  Email him at gfeatherstone@shaw.ca if you don’t think you’re on his list.

**Vicar’s cell phone:**  Rev’d Philip Barker. 778-867-2461

**Vicar’s Warden:** Ginny Jennings. 604-796-2206

**People’s Warden:**  Lynn Laughlin. 604-799-5131

**Parish email**:   [www.allsaints-agassiz.ca](http://www.allsaints-agassiz.ca/)

Please contact either warden if you have an issue that needs to be brought to the attention of the Vicar - or contact the Vicar direct (see above for details).

**WARDENS’ PITCH**

* **Bible Study** with Karol is every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. on Zoom.
* **Book Club**on Wednesdays at 4:30 pm on Zoom. “The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World” by the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu and others. Please tell Sheila if you would like to be added to the Zoom invitation list and please make sure you have a copy of the book
* **Evening Prayer**with Valerie is at 7:00 p.m. Sun, Wed, Fri on our webpage.
* **Prayer Requests**can be given on a piece of paper to either of the Wardens or the Vicar or entered in the Prayer Request Book on the piano in the church or you may contact Anthea Lewis at antheamlewis@shaw.ca for *Pray First Prayer Circle*, which is a confidential online prayer circle.
* **Music Requests**may be given to the Wardens or the Vicar.
* **AA**meets in the hall every Tuesday at noon.
* **Games for 55’s +**every Thursday in the hall 10:00-12:00.
* **Coffee Hosts** are still needed. We need 3 more people to complete our roster. Please contact Anthea or Lynn if you are willing to fill a spot.
* **5th Sunday**of each month will be a potluck lunch after the service.

**PLEASE NOTE:**If anyone has any inclusions for the Bulletin, please contact the Wardens.  Thank you.

 Looking for beautiful, unusual, high-quality Christmas gifts? Support our indigenous community and check out the Stó:lō Gift Shop at #19 - 7201 Vedder Road, Chilliwack. Open 9-4 Monday to Friday. 604-824-2670. Visit the website and maybe shop on-line at [www.stologiftshop.com](http://www.stologiftshop.com/)

**SUDANESE REFUGEE FAMILY**

The family of four being sponsored by churches in Agassiz will arrive on November 1st.  A home has been found for them and many essential items have been donated, but there is still a need for more funds.  Please speak to Sheila if you would like to contribute.

**Ministerial Meandering**

*Sensory remembrance*

Someone phoned me about ten minutes ago, and told me that their partner had just died. She was naturally distraught, and not making a whole lot of sense, so I just offered her the opportunity to come and talk in the vestry over a hot drink and cookie.

But just after I put the phone down, I was heating a cup of coffee for myself and thinking of when my mother and father had died, and what I missed most immediately about them. It wasn’t their conversation, their happy smiles, their stories, or the way they looked - it was that I thought, ‘I’ll never smell my Mum’s hair again; I’ll never feel her give me a hug any more; I’ll never hear her voice any more.’ It was the same with my Dad - although he didn’t have any hair left by the time he died, and he had long given up giving me hugs (sadly), as he didn’t see it as a ‘man thing’ - but he had his ‘Dad smell’, and I could hear his voice.

CS Lewis, in his book, ‘A Grief Observed’, relating to the death of his wife from breast cancer, opens with the words, ‘I never knew that grief was so *visceral’ (my italics)*. And he is right of course.

I wasn’t actually present at the moment of death for either of my parents, but I was for the death of my Great Dane, ‘Jake’, and I could not stop holding him - he died in my arms over a period of about fifteen minutes from crashing cardiac failure. I could not stop holding him, smelling him, stroking his velvety coat - and bawling my eyes out - until he had already become cold and was getting stiff. It took me and another man to lift him and bend him so that we could fit him into the back of my friend’s car.

The immediacy of personal loss is thus almost entirely sensory; the mental stuff comes later. In any moment that you have experienced yourself, or seen on movies, the person left hangs on to the body for dear life - as though their frantic hug could revive it in some way.

As time passes - even a few hours - we get less physical In our response, and of the families that come to view the bodies of their loved ones, perhaps one or two will ask if it’s OK to hold a hand, or lean over gently and kiss the forehead - but often the death mask is set by now, and the familiarity is already fading of the person they had held before.

Do not be surprised, then, when you lose someone dear to you, if you immediately think of how they smelt or how they felt to hold.

Remember Mary Magdalene’s reaction on seeing the Risen Christ was to try to instantly hold him; we know how she loved him. Remember, too, what Jesus’ said to his disciples when he appeared to them after his resurrection; ‘Here, feel me, touch me, feel the marks of the nails in my hands - put your hand into my side - be reassured, it is me!’

I do not believe for a moment that when we die we will not experience an entire cornucopia of amazing sensory stimuli as we enter the next world, which will call to mind so many people we have loved and lost…only to meet them again in glory.

Philip+

**Chuckles**

Going to Church doesn’t make you a Christian anymore than going to the garage makes you a car. Laurence J Peter.

**Birthdays This Month**

Fran Froehlich on the 19th, Carol Taylor the 25th and Ron Warren the 27th.

**Sunday Cycle of Prayer**

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East

The Primate: Archbishop Linda Nicholls and the staff of the Primate’s Office of the Anglican Church of Canada

**Monthly Cycle of Prayer**

Holy Trinity, Vancouver The Revd Karl Przywala

St. Philip, Vancouver The Revd Lorne Manweiler

St. Anselm, Vancouver The Revd Alexander Wilson

St. Helen, Point Grey The Revd Liz Hamel

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer**

Our Primate, Archbishop, Linda Nicolls. For National Indigenous Interim Bishop Sidney Black and for the Anglican Council of Indigenous People. We also pray for the Coordinator for Indigenous Justice, Kerry Baisley.

In our parish we pray for our priest, Philip; retired priests Mike, Jack, and Paul. **Amen**

**Collect**

Almighty God, who sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare your people to welcome the Messiah, inspire us, the ministers and stewards of your truth, to turn our disobedient hearts to you, that when the Christ shall come again to be our judge, we may stand with confidence before his glory; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Isaiah 11: 1 - 10** Karol Henrotte

**Reading:**

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
    the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
    the Spirit of counsel and of might,
    the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes or decide by what he hears with his ears;but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together,
 and the lion will eat straw like the ox.The infant will play near the cobra’s den,and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest.
They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia, from Hamath and from the islands of the Mediterranean.

 **Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.**

**Psalm 72 1-7, 18-19**

Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness.May he judge your people in righteousness your afflicted ones with justice.

May the mountains bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness.May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; may he crush the oppressor.May he endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.May he be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth.
In his days may the righteous flourish and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.

Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds.Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory.
Amen and Amen.

**Romans 15: 4-13** Sheila Barker

**Reading:**

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmedand, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;
    I will sing the praises of your name.”

Again, it says, “Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;
    let all the peoples extol him.”

And again, Isaiah says,

“The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

 **Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.**

**Matthew 3: 1-12**

**Reading:**

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judeaand saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

“A voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”