



Diocese of New Westminster

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

The Right Reverend John R. Stephens
Bishop

April 2022

Greetings for Vaisakhi

Dear friend,

It has been a challenge over the last two years to find ways to mark our most joyous and beloved festivals in a way that felt true to how we had been able to do so many times before. As new buds begin to open and show forth the glory of springtime, for a new year is dawning, along with all of the new possibilities that accompany the turning of the planet into light once more.

It is in this spirit of new beginnings that I offer you greetings on this joyous occasion of Vaisakhi. This year's celebrations may contain a few tears as well as laughter, as it seems that the pandemic will again limit the observances. But indeed, it is my understanding that Vaisakhi usually carries not only a sense of cheer, but also reverence and remembrance, so perhaps this mingling of emotions is already in keeping with the season.

May the parade hymns still live in your hearts, filling them with delight and pride. May fun, family, and food lift your spirits. May the time you spend together fill you with hope for the day when the parade can once again light up our streets with colour and gladness.

It would be so lovely to connect sometime soon to deepen our relationship. In the times we're living in, we all need friends and allies.

Faithfully,

The Right Revd John R. Stephens
Bishop

JRS:wls

