**All Saints Anglican Church**

**6904 Lougheed Highway, Agassiz, B.C. V0M 1A0**

 **Bulletin July 21, 2025 – July 27, 2025**

 

**‘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**

 **July 27, 2025, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

 Priest in Charge: The Reverend Philip Barker

 Hosts: Graham Featherstone/Jennifer Pinlac

 Intercessor: Graham Featherstone

 Lay Administrator: Dorothy Cresswell

 Announcer: Virginia Jennings

 Organ/Piano: Francesca Froehlich

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

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

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

**Parish email**:   revpb1950@gmail.com

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 morning 8:30-9:00 on Zoom.
* 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 lectern. Alternatively, you can 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 and Friday at noon.
* Every Thursday in the hall 10:00-12:00 we have a social time with coffee, games if you like or just talk. Following there is a short Prayer Meeting in the church to which all are invited. This is only for 15 minutes and is followed by – Morning Prayer (said) each Thursday at 12:30.
* 5th Sunday of each month will be a potluck lunch after the service.

**Ministerial Meandering**

*Ground Zero*

Physical and emotional catastrophes always challenge the spiritual aspect of our lives. The diagnosis of a terminal disease, impending blindness, a sudden stroke - all make us wonder about our mortality. Being the close relative of such a person, or going through the pain of separation, or divorce, fighting over custody of children, facing sudden unemployment - will also strain our spiritual reserves. Nearly always with the same one-word question; “Why?”

There are a lot of ‘pearls of wisdom’ in common parlance that have been created to help us both to understand such trials, and to help us get through them. From the simple Royal Marines dictum of ‘No pain - no gain’, through ‘Whatever doesn’t kill me makes me stronger,’ to ‘There is a reason for everything,’ which might be regarded as the ultimate cop-out.

There is no doubt, however, that both as a surgeon and as a priest, I have seen how disease and emotional trials have ultimately built spiritual strength in people. It doesn’t happen overnight, even though the psalm says, ‘Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning’ (Psalm 30).

I think of the resilience of some of the military veterans I have seen maimed by multiple amputations in war; it is not the case for all, and the suicide rate is still unacceptably high. But some have found a new purpose in life that they never would have had before their injuries.

I have seen those who have been faced with the sudden uncertainty of survival of members of their family in a car crash, and, instead of turning to the bottle, have turned to whatever they call their ‘Higher Power’, and find a faith that has only grown since.

I have seen those with chronic illness find themselves suddenly pain-free after counselling, where they have finally unburdened themselves of some festering emotional or spiritual sore.

It is wrong to think we can separate the physical body from the emotional and spiritual parts of our being. Science cannot answer all physical ailments. I don’t need to be a psychologist to know that many problems of the mind manifest themselves in physical symptoms, and spiritual distress can do likewise.

All healing comes with a sense of relief that permeates the entire being - and it is not just a cessation of pain. You only have to look at a drug addict or a drunk to know that. They can render themselves pain-free with a needle or a bottle in moments - but on their way back to consciousness, their nightmares begin again.

I believe that true healing comes from God, and involves the entirety of our being - body, mind, and spirit. But it is also important to remember that what God means by ‘healing’, is not necessarily what we might have had in mind.

Healing comes at a cost; we cannot win any race if we do not enter in the first place. Wrap yourself in cottonwool and hide behind your front door - and you will not engage with life at all. Life involves risk - and risk entrains the possibility of pain and suffering. But that pain and suffering enable those who have experienced and endured it to get alongside those who are currently suffering. No-one who is not an alcoholic can understand what another alcoholic suffers. No-one who has not been under the knife can understand post-operative pain and uncertainty. No-one who has not suffered family emotional trauma can truly empathize with those who are trying to navigate it. We can sympathize, but not empathize; and that is sometimes enough - if it is all we can do. Just sitting with someone in their darkness and holding their hand may be all that is required.

I think our job is to learn to recognize the spiritual pain of others - in whatever form it is being manifest - and offer to get alongside them in their ‘ground zero’.

Jesus even managed to do it for the thief crucified next to him - when he was at his own ‘ground zero.’ With such an example, don’t we owe it to our brothers and sisters to try, at least, to hold them in their pain?

Philip +

**Chuckle**

What did the duck say when she bought lipstick??? Put it on my bill.

**Birthdays this Month**

Cohen Hill, 5th. Mary Kirksey, 11th. Neko Veltman, 19th.

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We Pray for the Clergy and Congregation of:**

St. Alban, Richmond. The Archdeaconry of Burrard.

**Anglican Church of Canada Cycle of Prayer: We Pray for:**

The Bishop, clergy and the people of the Diocese of Edmonton. The dean, council and congregations of the East Central Area of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories.

**Collect**

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Readings**

Hosea 1: 2-10 Dorothy Cresswell

When the Lord began to speak through Hosea, the Lord said to him, “Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the Lord.” So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

Then the Lord said to Hosea, “Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel. In that day I will break Israel’s bow in the Valley of Jezreel.”

Gomer conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then the Lord said to Hosea, “Call her Lo-Ruhamah (which means “not loved”), for I will no longer show love to Israel, that I should at all forgive them. Yet I will show love to Judah; and I will save them—not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but I, the Lord their God, will save them.”

After she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, Gomer had another son. Then the Lord said, “Call him Lo-Ammi (which means “not my people”), for you are not my people, and I am not your God.

“Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called ‘children of the living God.

Psalm 85.

You, Lord, showed favor to your land;
    you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of your people
    and covered all their sins.
You set aside all your wrath
    and turned from your fierce anger.

Restore us again, God our Savior,
    and put away your displeasure toward us.
Will you be angry with us forever?
    Will you prolong your anger through all generations?
Will you not revive us again,
    that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us your unfailing love, Lord,
    and grant us your salvation.

I will listen to what God the Lord says;
    he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—
    but let them not turn to folly.
Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,
    that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together;
    righteousness and peace kiss each other.
Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,
    and righteousness looks down from heaven.
The Lord will indeed give what is good,
    and our land will yield its harvest.
 Righteousness goes before him
    and prepares the way for his steps.

Colossians 2: 6-15 Keith Fossey

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces[of this world rather than on Christ.

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self-ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised byChrist, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Luke 11: 1-13 Vicar Philip Barker

 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

He said to them, “When you pray, say:

“‘Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
    for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
And lead us not into temptation.’”

Then Jesus said to them, “Suppose you have a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have no food to offer him.’ And suppose the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give you the bread because of friendship, yet because of your shameless audacity he will surely get up and give you as much as you need.

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.  For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead. Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?  If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”