

This Week At St. Andrew's



Parable of the Pastor

Happy New Year!!

What is on your horizon this year – spiritually, emotionally, mentally, physically? What plans have you made? What are your greatest hopes for 2023? What are your prayers for yourself, your family, and your church family this year? The picture below is a sunrise picture of the horizon over the Victoria Golf Club that I took earlier this week. The beauty of the sunrise reminded me of Psalm 5:3, “In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.” As we begin a new year, may we do so prayerfully and expectantly. May we enter this year knowing confidently that God hears our voice as we offer our requests.

For a New Beginning

By John O'Donohue

*In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.*

*For a long time it has watched your desire,
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,
Noticing how you willed yourself on,
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.*

*It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,
Wondered would you always live like this.*

*Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,
A path of plenitude opening before you.*

*Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life's desire.*

*Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.*

Blessings,
Pastor Mitch

Soup for the Inclusive Christians

As you may know I serve as the Presbyterian Chaplain (Spiritual Care Provider) at the University of Victoria Multifaith Centre on behalf of the Presbytery of Vancouver Island. One of our key programs is Inclusive Christians – Around the Table. This is an ecumenical communion service hosted by Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian and United chaplains on Wednesdays at 5:00pm. The simple service focuses on reading and reflecting on the gospel, prayer, song, silence and sharing bread and wine. While this service is centered on students, all are welcome. After worship everyone is invited to enjoy a meal. We usually have 20-30 participants.

I need help providing these meals. If you, or a group from your congregation, would like to help prepare a meal in the coming term, please be in touch with me as soon as possible. The dates I am responsible for are February 1, March 1, March 22 and April 5. The meal is simple – vegetarian/vegan soup or chili, bread & butter, and salad, fruit or veggies. I can give you all the details to help you in participating. Thank you for considering supporting students and Inclusive Christians on campus in this way.

Laura Kavanagh
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Bulletin Board

Congressional Budget Meeting: Please plan to attend this important meeting on Sunday, January 22 (following worship in the Sanctuary,) to approve the church budget for 2023. The proposed budget will be circulated prior to the meeting. While it is hoped that as many as possible will attend in person, provision will be made for those not able to attend to be included in the business of the meeting. Details will follow soon.

Open Church & Meditation Hour: : Open Church is from 12:00 - 1:00 pm, and Meditation Hour is 4:30 - 5:30 pm in the Sanctuary every Wednesday.

The Link Deadline: the February Link deadline will be January 29th, 2023. Send your contributions to thelink@shaw.ca.

Jam for Sale: Get some of Anne Lambie's homemade preserves for stocking stuffers! All proceeds go to St. Andrew's. \$5 for one jar, \$20 for 5 jars. Variety of flavours available. Contact the office to place your order!

In the Salon of Mme Brillon Concert: The Early Music Society presents In the Salon of Mme Brillon at St. Andrew's Church on January 7th at 8:00 pm. For tickets go to earlymusicsocietyoftheislands.ca

The Rabbie Burns Tea: Join us for an afternoon celebrating the Great Bard with tea and Scottish entertainment. St. Andrew's Kirk Hall, January 22 2023, door at 2:00, entrance by donation. Limited seating - please RSVP with the church office!

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church acknowledges and thanks the Lekwungen People – WSÁNEĆ, Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations – on whose traditional land we meet and worship.