



PARABLE OF THE PASTOR

Today someone emailed me a devotional from <https://presbycan.ca> from Ken Stright, Halifax, NS, a regular contributor for Presbycan devotionals. In looking at other devotionals Ken has written, I found the one that spoke to me ... today ... for exactly what I have been feeling...

1 Kings 19:11b-13 – After the wind an earthquake ... and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ... Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" (NRSV)

The Bible seems to be written for the culture in which we live rather than one thousands of years ago. It is hard for me to imagine a non-industrial society being so noisy as to overwhelm the senses, but maybe it was. I do know that when noise and clamour and chaos assault me in the here and now, I find that Scripture has a comforting word for me. Take my experience at the pool last summer as an example of being overwhelmed. My grandson was in the provincial swimming finals in a number of events that stretched throughout a long and noisy day. I was simply exhausted as the day wound down, and the moments before leaving seemed endless. I couldn't wait to get home and sit on our seawall and watch the waves lap against the shore and listen to the stillness (yes, even the stillness has a unique sound if you can and will listen for it). There is a voice that often only prophets can discern amidst the noise of the world outside.

What does that voice say to you? I actually heard it this morning and it somehow came with my name attached:

Kenn, do not look forward in fear to the changes of life; rather, look to them with full hope that as they arise, God, whose very own you are, will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will carry you in His arms. Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same understanding God who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day. He will either shield you from

suffering or will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations. – St. Francis de Sales

Peace returned after that long and exciting day! I really did enjoy watching my grandson, and yes, I made as much noise as anyone else and maybe just a bit more than most as I cheered him on. And yes, he won a number of his events and set personal best times. And yes, the stillness beside the seawall and the personal prayer brought me the equilibrium that I so desperately needed. If I were asked, like God asked Elijah, "What are you doing here?", I would answer that I was listening to the voice in the stillness.

How do we sit still and hear God? Stillness is when we step away from the busyness of life and connect with God. It's when we slow down for a few minutes and listen — truly listen — for God's voice. Stillness is how we stay focused on God's vision for our lives and listen for His direction and guidance.

Today, try the prayer of St. Francis de Sales, and you, too, may be able to hear the voice in the stillness.

Prayer: God, help me to know why I am here in this place, at this time, seeking Your purpose and plan. Amen.


May you indeed hear God's voice in your own stillness.

Easter Blessings.
Mitch

LECTIONARY READINGS

APRIL 14

Acts 3:12–19;
Psalm 4;
1 John 3:1–7;
Luke 24:36b–48



THE ART OF TRANSITIONAL LEADERSHIP: HELP AND HOPE FOR INTERIM MODERATORS

Over 80% of officially vacant pastoral charges in the PCC won't be calling a minister. Are you serving as interim moderator for one of them? Are you wondering where and how to lead them? If so, this conference is for you.



WHEN: April 15-18, 2024



WHERE: The Queen of
the Apostles Renewal
Centre - Mississauga, ON

Registration: limited to 30 people

NEW EXTENDED DATE FOR REGISTRATION: February 29, 2024

Registration Fee: \$750. To encourage participation from all presbyteries, MCV will cover travel costs.

Facilitators: Mitch Coggin, Paul Kang, Tim Purvis

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT LIZ BREWER AT: LBREWER@PRESBYTERIAN.CA

UPCOMING SEMINAR

Mitch will be teaching at St. Mary's of the Apostles in Mississauga, ON Monday, April 15 - Thursday, April 18. We will be hosting 25 Ministers of Word and Sacrament who currently serve as an Interim Moderator.

This training has been created and funded by the Ministry and Church Vocations of

The Presbyterian Church in Canada and led by the Rev. Tim Purvis, Associate Secretary,

It is an honour to participate with this teaching team and to assist in building new ministry capacities within The Presbyterian Church in Canada for effective interim and transitional ministry.



J.S. BACH ASCENSION CANTATA BWV 128

VICTORIA CANTATA ENSEMBLE

Sunday, 28 April, 2:00 PM

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

Douglas and Broughton

\$10 cash at the door

Deanna Sills - mezzo soprano

Adam Dyjach - tenor

Kyron Basu - bass

David Barss - trumpet

Robert Jan Dukarm - organ

Generous Sponsors:

Scott Loughton - DFH Real Estate Ltd.

Norgaard Kratofil Professional Group

Velletta Pedersen Christie, Lawyers

Nick Anderson - RBC Dominion Securities



ACTIVITY GROUP

EVERY THURSDAY in the Lecture Room from 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM. Drop in for tea & treats, socializing, and activities! Young or old, everyone is welcome to join in!



UPCOMING WEBINAR

Forest fires, floods, droughts, severe storms, deforestation, pollution. Across Canada, people face the terrible impacts of ecological destruction and climate crises. No matter how different people are impacted by environmental destruction or the climate crisis, these experiences can cause high levels of anxiety for everyone. What are faithful responses to eco-anxiety?

Join the Rev. Dr. Pamela McCarroll on Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 1:00-2:30PM as we consider how we can intentionally cultivate habits of hope while facing the climate crisis.

Date: Thursday, April 25, 2024
Time: 1:00-2:30PM (EDT)

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Pamela McCarroll is Vice Principal and Jane and Geoffrey Chair of Practical Theology at Emmanuel College. She is an ordained minister in the PCC, registered with the CRPO and recognized by CASC. Her primary research focus includes climate trauma, eco-anxiety and re-imagining theology through earth-centered practices.

This event is organized by The Presbyterian Church in Canada and in support of the work of the faith-based climate-justice coalition For the Love of Creation.

The webinar will be recorded. You can register below to attend or receive the recording.

<https://presbyterian.ca/2024/03/12/upcoming-webinar-climate-change-eco-anxiety-and-habits-of-hope/>



CAMP VIP 2024

Camp Vancouver Island Presbytery is a program of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. For a registration form, or for more information about this year's camps, please visit <https://vipresbytery.net/>

LITTLE QUALICUM FALLS PROVINCIAL PARK

June 10 - 14

Please book your own campsite through BC Parks near sites U50 - U51. A senior rate is available if applicable! A \$25 donation towards the program and for supplies is appreciated!

BC PARKS: <https://camping.bcparks.ca>.

GOLDSTREAM PROVINCIAL PARK

July 4 - 8

WEEKEND RATE: \$140 (2 adults 2 children)
DAY RATE: \$40 (2 adults 2 children)
ADDITIONAL CHILDREN UNDER 16: \$2 (per night)
ADDITIONAL CHILDREN OVER 16: \$5 (per night)
E-TRANSFER: campvipa975@gmail.com
CONTACT: andrewmccowan@hotmail.com

RATHREVOR PROVINCIAL PARK

August 5 - 12

Book early! Limited site availability!
WEEKEND RATE: \$250 (2 adults 2 children)
DAY RATE: \$40 (2 adults 2 children)
ADDITIONAL CHILDREN UNDER 16: \$2 (per night)
ADDITIONAL CHILDREN OVER 16: \$5 (per night)
E-TRANSFER: campvipa975@gmail.com
CONTACT: andrewmccowan@hotmail.com

ST. ANDREW'S CALENDAR

OPEN CHURCH
WED. AT 12:00 PM

MEDITATION HOUR
WED. AT 4:30 PM

ACTIVITY GROUP
THU. AT 10:30 AM

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN. AT 10:30 AM

SUNDAY CLASSICAL MUSIC SERIES	SANCTUARY April 7 Wednesday 2:00 pm	Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach, The Victoria Foundation, and The University of Victoria's Music Department. Everyone is welcome to enjoy an afternoon of classical music! Free parking Sundays at 745 Broughton library parkade and admission is by donation!
SUNDAY NIGHT DINNER	KNOX CHURCH April 14, Sunday 5:00-7:30 pm	We are thinking of making some delicious Indian food! Plan to be part of this community experience in the lovely Knox kitchen and lounge on the second Sunday of each month. Bring a friend.
UPLIFT 2024	REGISTER April 15 - May 31	Register here: https://presbyterian.ca/canadian-ministries/lift-2024/
SESSION MEETING	SANCTUARY April 16 Tuesday 7:00 pm	Online and in person! Reports are due April 12th!
UVIC BRASS QUINTET	SANCTUARY April 17 Sunday 12:30 pm	Presented by St. Andrew's Music Outreach, The Victoria Foundation, and The University of Victoria's Music Department. Everyone is welcome to enjoy an afternoon of classical music! Admission is by donation!
BLOOM	SANCTUARY April 27 Saturday 7:00 pm	Presented by Ensemble Laude. For more information and tickets please go here: https://ensemblelaude.org/about/current-season/
VCE CONCERT	SANCTUARY April 28 Sunday 7:00 pm	Presented by the Victoria Cantata Ensemble. Tickets are \$10 at the door.
THE LINK	DEADLINE April 28 Sunday	Please send your submission to theLink@shaw.ca .
TEA FOR TUTU	KIRK HALL May 7, 8, 9 2:00 pm	Ballet Victoria presents highlights of 'Swan Lake' followed by light refreshments. To reserve your free seat tea4tutu@balletvictoria.ca or call 250-380-6063

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