



St. Hilda's By the Sea Parish Communiqué

26 MAR 2020

From Your Wardens

Hello St. Hilda's!

Hope you are adjusting to the first week of this altered reality! We especially hope that each of you is well, at peace, and finding ways to stay connected to each other with caring and humour.

Firstly, excellent news from Katherine and Karen... they, and their families, continue to be well, with no COVID-related symptoms. Unless something changes (and we would let you know if that happens), they are on target to end their self-isolation this Friday March 27, which consequently applies to all of us. We'll be 'free', well... free to stay home with socially-distanced outings! We give thanks, and wish them continuing good health.

Many of you were able to join in the Cathedral worship link last Sunday. However, some found it on overload and couldn't connect. Linking in earlier may help. Myself (Jill) and Janet had no problem linking in about 15-20 minutes before 10:30. After what must have been a grueling week, we were amazed that Archbishop Melissa could deliver such a caring and inspiring message. For those of you who didn't hear it, the theme was "The real voyage of discovery is not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes." This is definitely a time for seeing with new eyes, and being open to new life.

Whether you worshiped online, out in nature, or over a cup of tea in your living room, we hope you experienced a deep sense of Sabbath.

It has been heartwarming to receive your inquiries of how you can maintain your financial support at this time. Please see the Offering Options at end of communiqué to see what options are available. If you are looking for help with the electronic options, please contact Mike Starr or Janet McIntosh.

Fr. Ayoob and the Wardens have been rather busy this past week, and we appreciate your prayers and patience. Last week's Parish Council meeting had to be postponed as the church closed that day! Mike is already on it, and April 1st will be our first council meeting to be hosted on Zoom. There is much work to be done, so please also keep Parish Council, Trustees, and the Search Committee in your prayers.

This week the Wardens and Fr Ayoob met with Archdeacon Stephen Muir via Zoom to discuss 'Next Steps' in the parish search for a new rector. Our next meeting with

him is April 2. Please see the attached document, and we'd appreciate your attention to the related notice in the Announcement section. Your help is needed to move the process along to 'next steps'.

In the midst of the flurry of activity this week, Archbishop Melissa reached out to share this message with the parish, "St. Hilda's is at the top of my prayer list at the moment. Please know of my love for all of you."

With that encouragement, we move forward into the days to come, together in community. Please remember to keep in touch with each other, and maybe add a few more people to your regular contacts and prayers. In this way, we will strengthen our ties. Stay strong, and be of good courage! If you're not, please reach out to us. There are parishioners happy to provide emotional support.

Thanks to Ayoob, Bruce, Karen, Katherine, Stephanie, David, Carol's phone-tree team, and actually all of you! We welcome your feedback to the weekly e-Communique format. Please forward any suggestions you have to Fr Ayoob and the Wardens. To submit Announcements, Parish Family Sharing, etc, please email Karen at admin@sthilda.ca, by her deadline listed in the announcements.

Blessings, Carol, Mike, and Jill

Be surprised by joy,
be surprised by the little flower
that shows its beauty in the midst
of a barren desert,
and be surprised by the immense
healing power that keeps bursting
forth like springs of fresh water
from the depth of our pain."

-Henri Nouwen



Photo by Stephanie Moul

5th Sunday in Lent Sunday March 29

Lectionary Readings

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

2nd Reading: Romans 8:6-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Worship this Sunday

Follow this link to Christ Cathedral on Sunday at 10:30

<https://thecathedral.ca/worship/livestream/>

Message from Fr. Ayob

Dear Friends,

Today, I want to focus on the Psalm 130 and the Gospel of John 11:1-45. I see the main topic is: The word of God is Hope. No one likes to wait, and yet life is full of waiting. Waiting on the mail. Waiting on answers to our questions. Waiting on traffic lights. Waiting for the end of our work shift. Waiting in self-isolation for 14 days for COVID 19 symptoms results. Waiting for the disappearance of the pandemic and disease.

Psalm 130 is a psalm about waiting. It is one of the psalms of trust, and yet it almost begins as a psalm of trouble. The psalmist is crying out to the Lord from a place of deep pain and distress.

The Psalmist has a simple yet profound message for us today. Those who wait on the Lord wait in hope. We don't wait in desperation or despair – those who wait on the Lord wait in hope. This psalm intricately weaves the paradox of dread and sin with hope and trust through the promised forgiveness of Yahweh.

It's important to understand that God never promised us a life free from problems and challenges. Even people who love God are not immune to trouble.

Our part is to not hang on to problems, but to give them to Him – this shows true trust in Him. God wants to help us, but we have to let Him help us by releasing our trials to Him. God expects us to lift our eyes to Him, not to keep our eyes on our problems. When we continually look at our problems instead of at God, we feel overwhelmed and hopeless. To have hope during troubled times, we must focus on God, not our difficulties. When we realize that our help comes from the very Maker of the Universe, hope fills our heart and mind.

Jesus encouraged His disciples and followers several times "do not let your hearts be troubled." They have to put their trust in God, and trusting God is the key to having hope and peace in the midst of trials.

Life is hard – but God is good! We must not allow ourselves to lose hope during difficult times. Instead, when we trust in God, keeping our focus on Him and casting our problems on Him, we will have hope and peace regardless of our circumstances.

As we seek for relief and rescue from the current problem, we need hope in the midst of the global pandemic of COVID-19, that the death that has occurred across the world can be taken away.

In the story of the death of Lazarus, when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it

is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." John 11:4.

I have been asked if it is God's plan that we became ill. Who would ever wish illness on anyone, especially our loving God? I do believe, like no other experience, that the suffering, tragedy, and sorrow in our lives become the unimaginable gifts that lead us to a deeper relationship with God, others, and ourselves. This is how we experience God's boundless love, and the Paschal Mystery within our own lives: we fall down; we struggle; we rise up. We go on living with our loving God.

"Jesus wept." These two words clearly reveal Jesus' compassion for our pain and trouble. Although Jesus knows that he can bring Lazarus back to life, he feels deep compassion for those who love Lazarus and are suffering because of their loss of Lazarus.

What the readings are talking about here is waiting in hope. Hope is a powerful thing. Hope is a different bird than optimism. One theologian explains about optimism and hope:

"Optimism is no bad thing in itself. It is a kind of implicit confidence that things are going well in the present situation...Optimism is happy enough with the system. In contrast, genuine hope is always 'against hope.' It begins where optimism reaches the end of its tether. Hope stirs when the secure system shows signs of breaking down. Hope is at home in the world of the unpredictable where no human logic or expectation is in control. In this respect, it is never far from humility, for it acknowledges that in birth and in death human existence is never a realm of total control."

"Hope begins where optimism reaches the end of its tether."

It is something that stirs outside the system. It is a proclaimed promise that occurs when optimism has reached the end of its tether. It is the good news – the gospel that Jesus died but did not stay dead.

Let's pray like the Psalmist's words (130:5):

"I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope." Amen.

The Blessing

God, source of healing, cast the light of health and well-being on those who've been exposed to COVID-19, those who have contracted the disease now and in the future. Bless us, protect us and bring us speedily to full recovery.

Bless all who are ill with healing of body, healing of soul and healing of spirit, we ask in Jesus's name our healer and saviour!

Intercessions by Stephanie Moul

Holy One of hopefulness and calm, our community, our country, and our world is caught up with the unknowns and anxiety of this Coronavirus Pandemic. We think of all the victims who have already been impacted by the virus. Vulnerable people are deeply anxious that they will succumb. At risk individuals living alone are anxious. Families now separated and needing to keep a distance from their loved ones are impacted - may they be surrounded by love. May all the medical community caring for those ill, exhausted and vulnerable themselves, be resilient and assured of community support.

Holy One of Love, hear our prayer

We are grateful for technology that allows us to continue conversations together while maintaining the social isolation that is necessary. May our hearts be listening for those who specifically need our connection this day. We remember those who have no home to be in, those who

have no options for having enough food, heat, and safety. We remember those in foreign lands with no way to get home.

Holy One of Love, hear our prayer

We pray especially for the politicians and decision makers of the world. May compassion and hope be their guide as they make decisions. May they have clarity of purpose and communication and continuing collaboration as a global community. May all leaders of faith communities have clarity on how to be present to all those in their community, while they too practice social distancing.

Holy One of Love, hear our prayer

During this time when fear grips our world, let us choose to love. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us find ways to be the loving embrace of the Holy One to our neighbour. *Amen.*

Parish Prayer for the Fifth Sunday in Lent	
Anglican Communion	The focus of the Primates' Task Group's call for a period of prayer and repentance in the Anglican Communion.
Diocese & Partners	care+share Outreach Program in the Diocese of New Westminster Urban Aboriginal Ministries (UAM) The Rev Vivian Seegers ----- Holy Trinity Mission in Bantey (twinned with St. Hilda's) Companion Diocese: Bishop Brent Alawas, & the Clergy & People of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines BC Synod of the ELCIC, Bishop Gregory Mohr
Local Agencies	Community-based Victim Services
Parish Ministries	Wardens, Treasurer and Parish Council
Justice Umbrella	May our Ndandini friends be held in God's love
Prayer Requests	Gary Evans: in ICU COVID-19 (wife Ella is sister to Annie Webb) Fred Hibbard: comfort and peace Phil Hopkins: strength & peace while healing Karen, Jon & Joshua: comfort while grieving Janet McConnell Lorelei Reier: comfort & strength while undergoing treatment Sher & Morrie: comfort & encouragement Donna Walsh Wheeldon: heart disease investigation

Parish Family Sharing

Bruce has happy news from Terry Aleck...all is well with his heart! No blockage, and he is very relieved. Pain due to arthritis which is being treated .

Karen, Jon and Joshua thank you for all your prayers and thoughts during this difficult time for them. With her father's death during their self-isolation they were not able to travel to be with family. They hope to head out there in the next month or so.

Musical Musings

Hello friends at St. Hilda's! I am thinking of you and wishing you all good health as my family remains in self-isolation until Friday. So far, we are well and hope you are too.

I recorded a couple of my favourite pieces for you from my home studio. The first is the Prelude in C Major, from the First Book of the Well-Tempered Clavier by Johann Sebastian Bach. <https://youtu.be/5fLaR8gosaQ>

This is Bach's Birthday week so it is wonderful to listen to his music and celebrate the glorious musical offering he left to us. Bach would sign each of his pieces, "SDG", or Soli Deo Gloria, meaning to Glory to God Alone. You can explore more music by Bach on this website from the Netherlands Bach Society:

<https://www.bachvereniging.nl/en/about-allofbach>

The second piece is a beautiful arrangement of the Spiritual *Deep River* by American Composer Brad Nix. This is the last piece I played at St. Hilda's before the closure due to COVID-19 and it is a reminder to me of how we are all in this together. One river, one human family all suffering due to this virus that we are all susceptible to. I look forward to playing it for you again in person when we are reunited. <https://youtu.be/b7LccqyegkY>

Here are a couple of other links to some great music, done by choir and orchestra as separate members and mixed together. The technology serves to bring us together and remind us that we are not alone, but stronger when we work together.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3eXT6orbBVk>
(excerpt from Finale of Symphony No. 9 by Beethoven)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSPG186HvMg>
(Youth Choir singing Somewhere Over the Rainbow)

Blessings to all of you during this time and I hope you enjoy this music.

Love, Katherine

Daily Meditation Suggestion

Join us in a Parish Daily Meditation Practice. <http://www.sthilda.ca/blog/daily-meditation-practice>

or

<https://www.facebook.com/sthilda/videos/196670258444148/>

Interim Questionnaire - Feedback

As St Hilda's continues with the interim process, the Diocese has asked us to consider some questions, the answers to which will indicate whether we are ready as a Parish to proceed to the next step, which is creating a Parish Profile. Parish Council and the Search Committee have reflected on the past few years of Parish life, especially on those occasions when we have come together to have conversations or to discuss our visions for the Parish. We have answered the questions to the best of our abilities and created the attached draft. Now we want to hear your opinions. Please read the attached PDF with our questions and our responses, then let us know if we have captured the spirit of St Hilda's. Did we leave out important considerations? Are there other, better examples of how we live together as a community?

If you have any feedback, please call or send it to Mike or Carol, (see phone numbers or emails listed at the end of this newsletter).

Announcements

Breaking Good News from Diocese

From Archbishop Melissa Skelton: "it's with great pride and gratitude that I announce that Diocesan Council aided by an adjunct working group, on March 25 approved a substantial financial assistance package to help parishes navigate their way forward over the next two months and beyond." To view the full letter please see link:

<https://www.vancouver.anglican.ca/news/diocesan-council-approves-financial-assistance-for-parishes>

We welcome with deep gratitude this generous assistance. Parish Council and Trustees will review the impact of this on our financial picture for this year.

Office Update: Karen is finished her self-isolation Friday March 27 and will be back working in the office next week from Tues - Thurs. Please note that the office will still be closed to the public, but you can reach her by phone or email. If you have any announcement or "parish family sharing" for the communiqué, please get them to her by Wednesday morning.

Offering Options

Thank you for your continuing financial support at this time. May you be blessed in your giving. There are 3 options:

- 1) If at all possible, we encourage you to start using the pre-authorized giving option. You can fill out a pre-authorized donation form (PAD), available on the St Hilda's website <http://www.sthilda.ca/pages/giving> , or ask Karen to email you a form.
- 2) If you prefer donating by cheque, please place the completed cheque in your numbered donation envelope, and either drop it through the mail slot outside the office door, or mail it to St Hilda's at **Box 302, Sechelt, BC, V0N 3A0**. For security reasons, absolutely **NO CASH** can be accepted at this time
- 3) If you would like to give online, go to Giving on St. Hilda's website and click on the "Donate Online" button. It will redirect you to a secure page where you can make your donation through Canada Helps. Note that Canada Helps takes 3.75% of one-time donations / 3.5% of monthly donations for their administration fee.

If you need any help with the electronic options, please contact Mike Starr or Janet McIntosh and they will be happy to help you.



St. Hilda's Anglican Church PO Box 302 Sechelt, BC V0N 3A0

Phone: 604.885.5019 Email: admin@sthilda.ca Website: www.sthilda.ca

Interim Priest-in-charge	The Rev Ayooob Adwar	rector@sthilda.ca	765-7085
Deacon	The Ven Bruce Morris		740-6408
Music Director	Katherine Hume	khpiano@telus.net	885-2069
Bishop's Warden	Carol Eades	eadescarol@gmail.com	886-9646
People's Warden.....	Mike Starr	starmj@me.com	961-9256
Associate Warden	Jill Halliwell	jcwellspring@gmail.com	885-1994
Envelope Secretary	Maggie Scott	maggiescott76@gmail.com	885-3312
Office Administrator	Karen Weatherington	admin@sthilda.ca	885-5019

Visit us at www.sthilda.ca or facebook.com/sthilda