

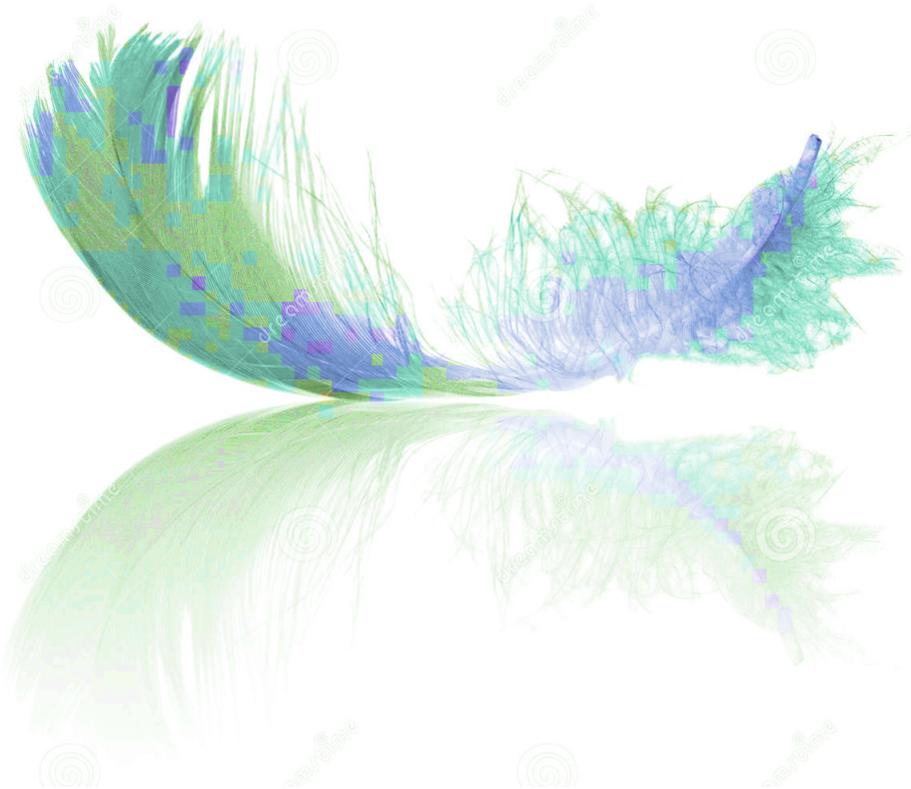
Campbell River “Inspirer”

May 2020

Special Interests

Psalm 91

Lectionary for May 2020



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Two weeks have flown by since our last newsletter. There is much news to share. I also want to take this opportunity to share some of my thoughts that I hope will be an encouragement for you.

Lately, I have been praying the Liturgy of the Hours, where the Bible words from Psalm 91 continually strike me as significant for our church. Notably, I contemplate, “God will protect you with his pinions; you’ll find refuge under his wings,” which seems relevant to our current situation. Being under the pinions or flight feathers of God’s outer wings, I imagine being in God’s jet stream traveling by day and in the night knowing the safety of God’s love. Protected and drawn along with God in the flow of time, our souls remain protected, sheltered, safe, secure, and hidden from the storms around us.

Although such a flight feels light as a feather in the eyes of my heart, how might this place under God’s wings function on a practical level as we adjust to COVID 19 and even post-COVID 19?

First, the Psalmist writes that God’s faithfulness is the protective shield. Sometimes I ponder whether our pre-COVID worlds actually endangered our true callings as children of God – close to the source of joy, hope, and love. We felt so secure in the world around us. The sociologist and author, Brené Brown, had some different thoughts on the world as it was just six weeks ago. She is critical about our trust in normalcy writing, “Crazy-busy is a great armor, it’s a great way for numbing. What a lot of us do is that we stay so busy, and so out in front of our life, that the truth of how we’re feeling and what we really need can’t catch up with us.”

Perhaps now is a good time to do a personal crazy-busy checkup to find out whether we really have been able to slow down and face ourselves as we really are – in need of grace – under the wings of our Most High Creator. Did this time help us understand what it means to rest in God’s faithfulness? Do you feel empowered to let what you have learned about slowing down into the approaching new “normal”?

Psalm 91

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

They say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence.

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

If you say, “The Lord is my refuge,” and you make the Most High your dwelling,

no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.

(TNIV Bible Version)



Lectionary for May 2020

May 3

Acts 2:42–47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19–25
John 10:1–10

May 10

Acts 7:55–60
Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16
1 Peter 2:2–10
John 14:1–14

May 17

Acts 17:22–31
Psalm 66:8–20
1 Peter 3:13–22
John 14:15–21

May 24

Acts 1:6–14
Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35
1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11
John 17:1–11

Pentecost Sunday May 31

Acts 2:1–21
Numbers 11:24–30
Psalm 104:24–34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b–13
John 20:19–23 or
John 7:37–39

Second, there is still time to ponder and consider returning to wherever we were before our current isolation. Now might be a good time to check our temperature and make sure our compass is set to keep us under the pinions in the jet-stream of God's love. Can we trust God enough not to be afraid to see through the eyes of our hearts as we move forward? Should everything go back to normal, or are there lessons, images, and metaphors we can take with us from our time in front of the mirror of our souls that might help us know and remember God is faithful?

Finally, have we developed the discernment to differentiate between our own armor of crazy-busy and resting in the eternal perspective? Do we believe the promise "Because you've made the Lord my refuge, the Most High, your place of residence – no evil will happen to you; no disease will come close to your tent"? Are we ready to move on into a new "normal" living in the Most High's shelter, camping in the Almighty's shade?

These are just some of the questions I continue to think about before the world reopens and tries to swallow me back into its busy numbness.

Stay healthy, stay safe, and please stay in touch,

Dr. Rebecca



Chatter from the Chair

Council

Mary-Lou Vanstone (Chair)

Heather Miller (Secretary & co Chair)

Bill Huxham (Treasurer)

Rudy van Dyk (M&P, Maintenance)

Carmen Ann Menegozzo (Worship)

Logan Ronhovde, Lee Rumley, and Brenda Geddert (Members at large)

Since my last communication with you, council has not met, however, we have been working on an important issue, and I want to take this opportunity to tell you about what we have been doing.

There have been many conversations over many years regarding the mold/air quality in our church building. These conversations have taken place in the congregation, at council, at coffee after church, at Relmagine, at congregational meetings and with building renters to name a few. I wondered if Region, who holds our deed, would have some help for us either financially or with resources to investigate whether there is a testable air quality problem. If testing could produce numbers, that would tell us definitively either yes there is an air quality problem or no there is not. It would support us in planning moving forward once Covid 19 passes. If Region had support for us in this process, it would be of great help.

To begin, I spoke with Rev. Gail Miller, Regional Minister Pastoral Relations & Community of Faith Support, on April 16. Gail did not have the information as to whether or not there was any kind of support but was willing to investigate on our behalf. She requested an email setting out the things we had discussed on the phone. Before I did that, I had telephone conversations with every council member, and with their blessing, sent the requested email on April 17 at 4:33. While I did that, Heather and Stu contacted a local testing business for information about costs and processes of testing.

On April 17 at 5:15 pm, I received an answer from Gail Miller:

While Pacific Mountain Regional Council legally holds the title to the Campbell River United Church property, we hold it only for the purpose of redevelopment. The Community of Faith remains as the beneficial owner and is responsible for all the costs incurred for the property.

This means that the cost to test the air quality of the church needs to be funded by CR United.

The situation you have described makes it clear that the congregation must undertake an air quality test of the building. Pacific Mountain Regional Council advises that this air quality test be undertaken as soon as possible, and requests that the results be shared with me as your Regional Minister.

On April 18, Heather and Stu sent out the results of their inquiries with Tsolum and Tsable Environmental:

A preliminary inspection visit with air sampling would cost approximately \$600 depending on the number of samples required.

They recommend that we do a visual inspection first, with photo evidence, if needed, to see:

- if there is any standing water, flowing water, or persistent high humidity... There will almost certainly be mold.
- if the water present is due to back up perimeter drains... it is highly likely that the mold is of a dangerous variety
- all drains would need to be working properly before any remediation could be undertaken
- if mold is visible on any surface (i.e. carpets, fabrics, wood) ... there is a mold problem

Their testing would show that yes there is mold, or no there is not, and might show what kind of mold it is.

After their testing is completed, then you would need to localize and remove all mold. The walls would be opened up in all spaces where mold is present, right back to stud or more if required. All contaminated materials would be removed and then resampling done until it is all clear.

A cost estimate for this would of course be much higher and would depend on a much more detailed evaluation by the company that was hired to do the remediation.

The summary of looking up the WCB regulations is:

- no mold is good mold
- any water leaks or standing water shall be removed from any workplace
- only acceptable is a very small amount of low risk mold such as is found on windowsills after dampness
- there is zero tolerance for any amount of more dangerous mold in any workplace

Gail Miller had told me she would send out resources for other testing companies but later reported it would take too long and suggested we look locally or further south on the Island.

I asked Stu Miller if he would do the second inquiry with another company, and he agreed. At this time, we are waiting for the results of that investigation.

Whether or not we test is no longer a question as Region, through Gail, has told us we must do the testing, pay for it, and report the testing results to Region through Gail. Not what I was hoping would come of my inquiry but an action we must now undertake.

Blessings,
Mary-Lou Vanstone
Council Chair

ReImagine Update

The ground beneath our feet seems to have shifted, as if our world is now forever changed. This unsettling, foreign existence can be profoundly uncomfortable. It also provides new perspectives for seeing possibilities, embracing innovation, and deepening our connection to each other and the Spirit.

Please consider joining the ReImagine working group, as we embark anew to follow God's call to re-equip our

congregation and revitalize our community.

We will join via Zoom on [Wednesday, May 13 @ 3:30pm](#).

To join ReImagine, please email ReImagineCRU@gmail.com or call Logan at (250).202.3462.

For Your Calendar

“The Only Thing That Is Constant Is Change -” said Heraclitus (535-475 BC)

So, please check the events on our website <https://www.crunited.ca/> for the happenings regularly.

Our weekly events on Zoom are:

- Minister's Office Hours (Wed-Fri, 11:00-12:00)
- Coffee and Conversation (Tue 14:00-15:30)
- Bible Study (Thu, 14:00-15:30)
- Sunday Worship Service (10:00-11:00)

Special Days

May 10: Mother's Day: bring a picture of your mom to the Zoom Worship Service.

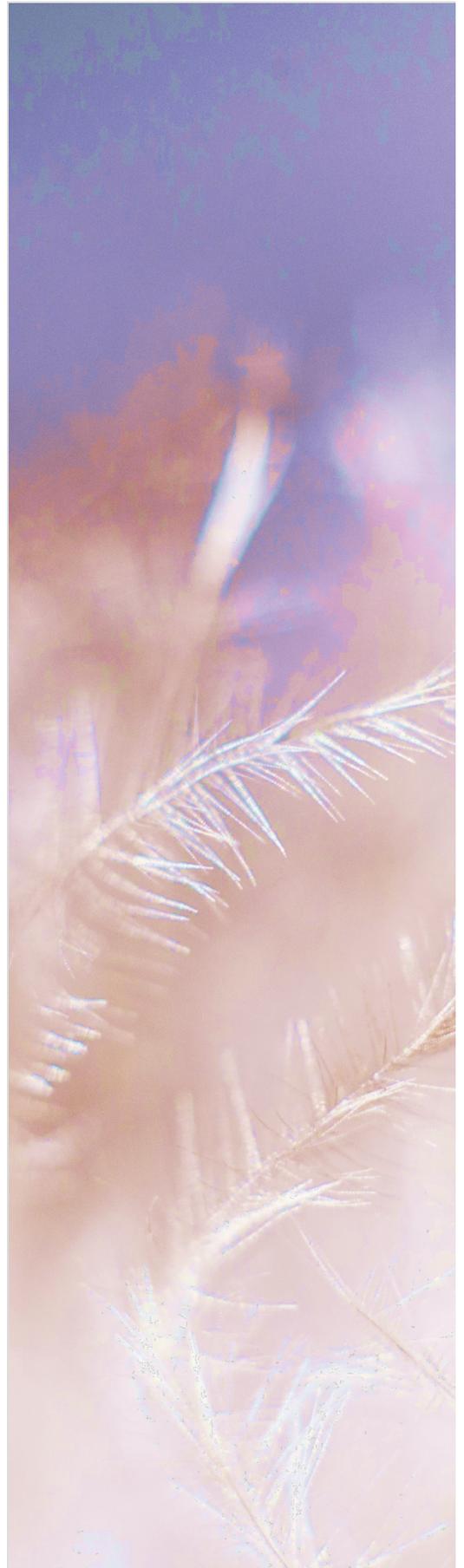
May 15, 16:30: Agape Zoom meeting with light snacks.

May 24: Pajama Bathrobe Sunday, wear your PJs, bed caps, bathrobe to the Zoom Worship Service.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

May 13: Geraldine Boyle

May 18: Gaye and Doug MacDonald



Ministry and Personnel

It is with a bit of sadness that we have agreed with Sharon's request for a lay-off. Sharon decided she wanted to take advantage of the present church closure and take some time off while her normal

workload has been significantly reduced. We will miss Sharon, her pleasant personality and easy laugh. However, she has assured us she will be back when things return to "normal".

We all look forward to that time and will be glad to welcome her back.

Rudy van Dyk
M&P



Stewardship

I have recently accepted the position of Church Treasurer to provide some assistance to Janis Bossenberry who has held this role for many years. I will try to fulfill it to the best of my abilities.

In these troubling times, we all need to be cautious of our expenses, but spending goes on as it does for our Church. As each month passes, we find ourselves in the need to raise more money. There are numerous ways you can contribute to the Churches financial welfare.

1. Sign up for PAR where a set amount is provided to the church each month. Many people use this method as it is the most convenient and least time consuming.

2. For those people on PAR who wish to change their offering please contact.
3. Send us a cheque, you can either drop it off at the office by putting it in the mail slot or mail it to Campbell River United Church, 415 Pinecrest Rd., Campbell River, BC V9W 2S1.
4. I have a new email address:
CRUtreasurer@shaw.ca
5. You can email a bank transfer to this email address, and I will deposit it in the bank for you.
6. For those who wish to make an offering using their credit card, the church has an account

with CanadaHelps.org. They promptly send us funds they collect on our behalf. I noticed the recent Vancouver Island Fund raising concert used initially the Nanaimo Foundation and they use CanadaHelps.org.

Church funding off by all envelope collections and loose offerings.

Your consideration of this request would be appreciated.

Blessings

Bill Huxham
Treasurer