



St. Hilda's By the Sea Parish Communiqué

03 APR 2020

From Your Wardens

Hello once again Dear People of St Hilda's!

As we enter the third week of our new "normal" lifestyle, we hope this finds you continuing in good health and spirits. It certainly has taken some getting used to, but we feel that gradually many are getting into the swing of distant connecting. We have all been so very fortunate that to begin with, the weather was gorgeous and may that continue!

With mandatory isolation complete, Karen is back in the office, working in isolation from Ayoob, who is at times also in the office. The office remains closed to all but these two people. They can be contacted by phone or email as normal.

We thank many of you for the time you spent to read the Interim Questionnaire document and giving us some feedback. This has been very helpful as we move forwards in our Interim process. There will be more opportunities for your input when we prepare the draft Parish Profile. Please don't hesitate to contact Mike or Carol if you have comments. The contact info is in the commune body.

We are very thankful that, as mentioned last week, the Diocese is stepping up to help Parishes financially during this time. This does not, however, mean that the path ahead is going to be easy. Hopefully next week we will be able to give you a slightly clearer idea as to what lies ahead, following our Parish Council meeting.

Parish Council is having a Zoom meeting this week, which will be a new experience for several, but has certainly proved very helpful to us, the Wardens and Ayoob! A learning curve with success!

While on the topic of Zoom, this Sunday being Palm Sunday, Ayoob is planning a Zoom service! The details as to how to access this are in the body of the commune. We hope to "see" many of you in this new way of connecting!

We hope that you are keeping connected with fellow Parishioners – maybe even more than normal! We also want you to feel free to contact one of us if there is anything you need help with. Together and with God's strength and guidance we will get through this.

Sending you all Blessings this week,

Carol, Mike and Jill

Worship this Sunday on ZOOM!

For parishioners who have downloaded the Zoom app to their computer or mobile device, simply choose "Join" and type in the 9-digit Meeting ID.

Otherwise, click on the link under the words: "Join Zoom Meeting".

If you haven't "Zoomed" before, try joining 10 - 15 minutes before, and if you have difficulties, call someone who has done this before.

Topic: St Hilda's Sechelt Zoom Meeting
Time: April 5, 2020 10:00 AM Vancouver

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/582599734>

Meeting ID: 582 599 734

You'll have the best experience if you participate by video, but if you have a slow or no internet connection you can connect on your smart phone by One Tap Mobile, or on your mobile or land line by dialling one of the numbers below.

One tap mobile

+15873281099,,582599734# Canada

+16473744685,,582599734# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Palms Available at St. Hilda's

There will be fresh palm fronds available outside the main church doors for you to pick up on Saturday April 4 from 9am to 12 noon. You can hold them up at the beginning of the service on Sunday and Fr Ayoob will bless them. The remaining blessed palms will be available after the service April 5 from 11 am - 12 noon outside the church.



Message from Fr. Ayob

"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

Palm Sunday is the day in the church year when traditionally we mark the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem for the last week of his life.

So, let's admire Christ together on this Palm Sunday.

By planning for his own "triumphal entry," Jesus has proclaimed himself to be the king, and he does not rebuke his followers from shouting out their agreement in this.

The crowds praised God for Jesus's mighty works. He had healed leprosy with a touch; he had made the blind see and the deaf hear and the lame walk; he had commanded the unclean spirits and they obeyed him; he had stilled storms and walked on water and turned five loaves and two fish into a meal for thousands. So as he entered Jerusalem, they knew nothing could stop him. He could just speak and Pilate would perish; the Romans would be scattered. He was sovereign.

The words that the crowds shouted as Jesus rode into Jerusalem, "HOSANNA" give us a clue. The term Hosanna was originally two words that meant save us and we pray. It comes from Psalm 118 in the Jewish scripture and is a song of thanksgiving. And as such it was probably sung as an expression of confidence in the Lord, praising and thanking God for the help that was given in a time of distress.

Don't we in our time of need and distress, pray that God will save us from our suffering, our pain, our hardships? Don't we like the Jewish people on that day, hope for and believe in a mighty, all powerful God that can instantly make things better for us and for our world? Don't we expect our God to be in charge of all creation and have the ultimate authority to vanquish all evil and restore all righteousness at a moments notice?

The mercy of God is a sovereign mercy. "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." (Romans 9:15) But here is the point we see on Palm Sunday: this sovereign Christ saves over the hard-hearted, perishing people of Jerusalem as they fulfilled his plan. Jesus was serene in sorrow, and sorrowful in sovereignty.

And therefore his sovereign power is the more admirable and the more beautiful. It's the harmony of things that seem in tension that makes him glorious — "merciful and mighty." We admire power more when it is merciful power. And we admire mercy more when it is mighty mercy.

The global challenge like COVID-19 is not God's judgment, but a call to live differently — a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others.

Even though it is a challenge, my hope and prayer for us today is that the words of Palm Sunday will continue to ring in our hearts and our minds for salvation.

Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!



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! Amen.

A Prayer for this week

God of hills and valleys,
the newsreader said
we'll see a peak in mid-April,
just as we are set to celebrate
resurrection.

We enter this shadowy valley
with verses half-remembered
about your rod and your staff,
and our not fearing.
May the memory of your goodness
follow us in these days;
may your presence with us now
provide a constant comfort;
and may this darkened valley
light up with the dawn of an Easter
not bound by any chart or calendar.
Amen.

<https://www.corrymeela.org/news/180/prayers-for-community-in-a>

Musical Musings

Dear friends,

As we move deeper into the COVID-19 crisis, our family has been listening to the daily briefing from the Prime Minister. A term that keeps coming up is essential. What is essential, who are the essential workers, what are the essential supplies. It has made me reflect on what is essential in my work as a musician. If you play music at home and no one hears it, does it matter? Well, I think that music does matter without an audience or congregation. Sometimes, it is enough to play music for yourself. Enough to warm up your voice in the shower. Enough to listen to something online, played by a pianist on a balcony in Spain whom you may never meet.

There are other essentials too. Cooking, care of children, feeding your family, providing comfort, participating in our country's response to the crisis, checking on neighbours, calling relatives, learning new skills that are unfamiliar and maybe uncomfortable.

One focus we have had this week is a rapid transition to online delivery of music lessons. Previously, this was done only by certain teachers, for certain reasons such as they are touring musicians or the students are away, live remotely etc. Within a week, my entire profession has made this leap out of necessity. The students are making the leap too and they are eager and relieved to see us as they seek some normalcy and a constructive outlet for their pent-up emotions. Last year, piano was seen as either an elite sport or an old-fashioned pastime on the decline. This week, it is essential.

I'm looking forward to seeing you virtually through Zoom as we celebrate Palm Sunday. Let us be open to new ways of doing things.

Blessings,
Katherine

Holy Zoom Manners

As we get used to "zooming" in these strange COVID days, there are a few things we can all do to make our shared experience even better.

Please mute your microphone unless you want to speak. There will be "open speaker" times in our gathering when you will then unmute your microphone. On an iPad or mobile phone, the speaker is on a bar at the top of your screen; on a desktop/laptop, you can mute your audio by clicking the microphone icon on the ribbon at the bottom of the screen or by clicking Alt-A.

If you need to walk around during our time together, please turn off your video.

On an iPad or cell phone, the video icon is at the top of your screen, "stop video". On your desktop/laptop, turn off your video camera on the ribbon at the bottom of your screen.

You can watch in active speaker mode or gallery mode. Speaker mode will fill your screen with the person who is speaking, while Gallery will allow you to see up to nine people on your screen.

On an iPad/mobile phone, the control looks like a grid or a head and is in the upper left corner of the Zoom window. If you don't see it, tap your screen for it to appear. You can toggle back and forth between Active Speaker and Gallery Mode.

On a desktop/laptop, it is in the upper right corner, and you can toggle between the grid and single speaker. In gallery mode, you'll see a yellow border around the one who is speaking.

Come and enjoy visiting with each other in the ways that we can. Together we are church.

This article is from St. John's United Church website.

Announcements

Office Update: Please note that the office is closed to the public, but you can reach Karen by phone or email. If you have an announcement or "Parish Family Sharing" for the communique, please get them to her by Wednesday morning. Next week she will be in the office Tues-Thurs from 9 am - 12 noon.

From Amelia: I have a limited stock of mask and gloves only for those that really need it. They can contact me at 604-782-1351. Stay safe, Amelia

Prayer Shawl Ministry: The knitters and crocheters are still busy in isolation, so there are prayer shawls available. If you or someone you know is in need of extra comfort, especially at this time, please contact Janet Tufnall at 604-885-1994, or Corrinne Newman at 604-885-0944 and we will make sure one gets to you.

Parish Family Sharing

From Annie Webb: My brother-in-law Gary is out of ICU still on oxygen but doing well. Thank you Lord! Ella, my sister (his wife) is doing well - her temperature is back to normal and the cough is minimal. Thank you every one for your prayers and please continue.

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.

COMPOSED BY

RABBI DR. REUVEN P. BULKA & ARCHBISHOP TERENCE PRENDERGAST

O God,

We gather together separated by life-saving distancing, but united more than ever in spirit;

We know we are in a war against COVID - 19 together, and the more together we are, the better and stronger we will emerge:

We know the challenges are enormous, yet so are the opportunities;

That whether we are in isolation with loved ones, or alone, we will have abundance of time;

We commit to using that time to the max, to help those in greater need in whatever way we can;

We know we all have the opportunity, and time, to be life savers and life enhancers;

We give thanks for those who are on the front line taking care of those who are not well;

We give thanks for the researchers who are working at breakneck speed to find cure and vaccine;

We give thanks for our leaders, federal, provincial and local, for their dedication to all of us;

We give thanks for the providers of our daily needs who go to work in spite of the risk;

We give thanks for those who have ramped up their ability to produce life-saving supplies.

We pray for the well-being of all our life savers; For those who are not well, that they recover fully;

For those enduring difficulty, that they may overcome their challenges.

We pray that a cure and vaccine will soon be available,

And that we all - family, friends, all Canadians, the entire world may be healed in body and spirit.

We ask you, O God, to bless our leaders, our front line care givers, our life savers and life enhancers.

We ask you, O God, to bless Canada, to bless the world, to bless everyone.

Amen.

This was a prayer sent out to be prayed on March 31, but it is relevant for praying in the upcoming weeks.



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