

St. Mark's Chronicles

SEPTEMBER 2021



Perusing the Psalms

Thanks to Gwen Valliere and her group

Psalm 24, a psalm of ascent, was written when David brought the ark of the covenant back into Jerusalem. It could just as easily describe Solomon's temple, and God taking up his presence in it. It could also describe Jesus Christ's entrance into the souls of each of us, that we may now be his temple.

So now that we see that this is not just about one (or two) historical events, but also applies directly to us, what does the psalmist teach us?

We learn that we should marvel at what God has created: "The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it" paints a comprehensive picture. There is nothing we can admire, use, or enjoy that has not been created by God.

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Comments from the Clergy

By The Rev'd Canon Lynne Thackwray



The comments from the clergy will be short this month because - it is in the middle of August, there are more questions than answers to many things including the pandemic, the 2022 Beijing Olympics, democracy in the country south of us, disasters in Haiti, whether the Jays actually have a chance of making it to the playoffs, and whether or not the liberals will get back in with another minority government!

We are back worshipping in person and it is wonderful to see those who feel comfortable coming to church. For those still undecided and worshipping at home, the protocols are all in place and in my opinion, we are very safe.

Peter hopefully is enjoying a wonderful holiday and is able to totally relax. He will be back in the pulpit on Sunday August 29th.

Work has started in the sanctuary to replace the carpet and hopefully will be finished by Sunday the 22nd.

Hope you are all well and enjoying the summer and anticipating our new normal in September. Look forward to seeing more of you then.

Blessings,

Lynne

Poems for the Journey

By Chelan Harkin, in poetry book "Susceptible to Light"

The worst thing we ever did
was put God in the sky
out of reach.

pulling the divinity
from the leaf,
sifting out the holy from our bones
insisting God isn't bursting
bedazzlement
though everything we've made
a hard commitment to see as ordinary
stripping the sacred from everywhere
to put in a cloud man elsewhere,
prying closeness from your heart.

The worst thing we ever did
was take the dance and the song
out of prayer
made it sit up straight
and cross its legs
removed it of rejoicing
wiped clean its hip sway,
its questions
its ecstatic yowl,
its tears.

The worst thing we ever did is
pretend
God isn't the easiest thing
in this Universe
available to every soul
in every breath.

Looking Back at Yesterday

2000: The parish had said good-bye to Paul Taylor and awaiting the arrival of Archdeacon Peter Moore as the interim priest. The quick brick on the tower and church building was being repaired. The Celtic Prayer Cell was now available for private prayer and meditation 24/7.

2003: The parish pews were being repaired - sanded, stained and book racks enlarged, thanks to Bert Van Der Pas. Parishioners were invited to dedicate one of these restored pews in memory of family or a loved one with a donation of \$250, which would go towards other restoration projects. Doreen White was named as a recipient of the Order of Niagara.

Trivia Quiz

The Virgin Mary's feast day was August 15. How much do you know about her?

- 1** What are the purported names of Mary's parents?
 - a Joseph & Elizabeth
 - b Benjamin & Hildegard
 - c Joachim & Anne
 - d Aaron & Sara

- 2** What is the name of Mary's cousin?
 - a Sara
 - b Elizabeth
 - c Martha
 - d Rachael

- 3** Mary gave birth to Jesus in Bethlehem but she was only visiting there. In what city did she herself live?
 - a Jerusalem
 - b Cana
 - c Magdala
 - d Nazareth

- 4** What was the name of the archangel who visited Mary?
 - a Michael
 - b Hosea
 - c Malachi
 - d Gabriel

- 5** What was Mary's reply to the Archangel when he greeted her to announce the birth of the Son of God?
 - a "Be it done to me according to your word"
 - b "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."
 - c "I don't want to"
 - d "No, thanks. I'll take a pass"

- 6** The prayer "Hail Mary" is one of the most loved Marian prayers. The portion of the response which says, "Holy Mary, Mother of God" was based on the words of which character in the bible.
 - a Elizabeth
 - b Joseph
 - c The archangel
 - d Herod

Perusing the Psalms

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Once we realize how marvelous God is, we wonder who has the right to stand before Him, and we are told that this is a matter not of our actions, but of our heart: "Those who have clean hands and pure hearts". If we seek to improve ourselves, we should focus on our hearts, embracing truth and integrity.

And then comes the triumphant moment when the gates are flung wide so that the Lord may enter. We noticed that there seems to be no consideration that the Lord might choose not to enter; the only thing needed was the opening of the gates. This reminded us of Revelation 3:20 "I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you..."

Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.

A Note from the Primate

By The Most Rev'd Linda Nicholls

Attitudes of racism are still easily seen in Canada. Let us commit our Church as a whole and in our local communities to the work of dismantling colonialism, racism and hatred wherever it is revealed journey in reconciliation with Indigenous peoples continues, as we seek to decolonize the ways in which we have shared the gospel and denied recognition to the presence of the Creator in Indigenous communities and worship.

We seek to listen and to work with Indigenous leaders and to fulfill the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Archbishop Mark MacDonald, Melanie Delva, Indigenous bishops and leaders in the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples are our companions. The hard work of dismantling our assumptions about privilege and continuing colonialism is ours to do as we also advocate with the government and hold it accountable for its promises.

The Anglican Church of Canada is committed to dismantling: racism; acts of hatred; and culturally and religiously motivated hate, in all their forms. This includes Islamophobia, which is again on the rise. In January 2020, together with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, we signed on to A Common Word Between Us and You.

This letter initiated ongoing dialogue between Christians and Muslims around the world through studying our shared scriptures, deepening relationships and seeking understanding. We start with respect for one another in our common humanity and in our relationship with God. This work breaks down misunderstandings, builds relationships that move us from strangers to friends and enriches us both.

This is the work we *must* engage to counter the threads of hatred being woven by others.

God grant us eyes to see the truth and courage to act.

Linda, our Primate

The Quiet Corner

Give Me your Help Lord

*Give me Your help, Lord, to live this one day...
One knot to unravel, one problem to weigh,
One path to discover and choose the right turn,
One worry to conquer, one lesson to learn...
One moment of gladness to overcome pain,
One glimpse of the sunlight, one touch of the rain.*

*No one can see what is coming tomorrow
Nor tell if its hours will bring laughter or sorrow
So I'll turn to Your love and with perfect trust say,
"Give me Your help, Lord, to live this one day."*

Some Humour

From Genesis: "And God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the earth."

Then he made the earth round and He laughed and laughed and laughed!

Have You Ever Wondered?

What are the hangings on the altar called and why do they constantly change colours?

The cloth hanging on the altar is called a frontal. The frontal is changed to correspond to the church season and/or special days. The white frontal is used throughout the Sundays of Easter and Christmas to mark the celebratory nature of those weeks. It is also used for baptisms, wedding, and funerals. The purple frontal is used during the season of Lent. The red frontal is used on Pentecost Sunday and Saints days and ordinations to remind us of the "flame" of the spirit coming among us and to reflect the martyrdom of the saints. The green frontal is used during the Season of Pentecost and will be used from then until November. We also use purple for Advent but lately some churches have changed that colour to blue to focus more on the anticipation of the birth of Christ rather than on penitence. The other hangings in the church including the banners hanging from the wall at the side of the church and the hanging at the pulpit and the markers in the Bible and Missal on the altar are changed to correspond with the colour of the frontal. The members of the Altar Guild are responsible for changing the hangings in the sanctuary.

Some More Humour

Ms. Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories.

She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent.

"The Flight to Egypt," was his reply.

Pointing at each figure, Ms. Terri said,

"That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus.

But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh, that's Pontius - the pilot!"

Book Review

The Skin We're In, by Desmond Cole



Desmond Cole is an award-winning journalist, radio host, and activist in Toronto. His writing has appeared in the Toronto Star, Toronto Life, The Walrus, NOW Magazine, Ethnic Aisle, Torontoist, BuzzFeed, and the Ottawa Citizen. *The Skin We're In* is Cole's first book

I was motivated to read this book when I saw that our diocese had put together an anti-racism working group. There has already been an anti-racism training for both clergy and lay people working in the diocese. Too often we think of ourselves as better than our neighbors to the south when it comes to racial equality. This book is not an easy read. It "punctures the bubble of Canadian smugness and naive assumptions of a postracial nation." Cole chronicles just one year - 2017 - in the struggle against racism in this country. In his journey from journalist to activist, he invites his readers into the mind of a man who has an unwavering determination to combat injustice. You won't be the same person when you have finished reading this book.

Recipe of the Month

Healthy Apple Pie Granola Bar

2 cups rolled oats
 ½ cup unsweetened coconut shredded
 ½ cup pecans, chopped
 1/3 cup honey
 1 tsp vanilla
 1/3 cup dates
 1 tbsp cinnamon
 ½ tsp nutmeg
 1 cup dried apples, chopped

Preheat oven to 350. Bake the oats, coconut, and pecans for about 10 min. until golden brown, Blend dates in a food processor until they reach a paste-like consistency. Over medium heat, combine coconut oil, honey and vanilla and gradually stir in dates. Mix all ingredients together in a bowl until well combined. Press the mixture into a 13x9 pan, and cover. Refrigerate for 2 hrs or until firm. Remove from fridge and cut into 20 bars.



Join Us In-Person or Online

St. Mark's has reopened for in-person worship, with services at 8:30 and 10:00 AM every Sunday.

Our services continued to be available online on YouTube at 10:00 AM every Sunday.

Information regarding fall Thursday services, Bible Study, and Sunday School programming will be announced in early September.

Connect With Us

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Answers to Trivia Quiz

Answers to the Virgin Mary Trivia Quiz, found on page 3.

- 1 c
- 2 b
- 3 d
- 4 d
- 5 a
- 6 a

