“When the Fairy Tale Ends”... I hope you think this is a bit of a provocative entry into this week’s reflection and I hope it touches you in some way, whether through memories of childhood, adulthood or in your work and/or home environment. The memories that I might invoke may not be totally pleasant ones but the object today is to encourage a little putting to rest of some of the memories of our past that may still haunt us — and moving beyond the “fairy tale”. We all grew up with “fairy tales” – bedtime stories that entertained, entranced, and let our imaginations fly free...some however also terrified and disturbed us because let’s face it “fairy tales” are not always warm fuzzy bedtime stories for children.

Fairy tales in their original form were written as morality tales. They were meant to teach a lesson and to promote the ideas that evil, vanity, greed, envy and lust ultimately lead to an unpleasant ending. Some fairy tales started out as oral stories, passed down from generation to generation as a warning to little children to be good...or else! At some point writers like the Grimm brothers and Hans Christian Anderson wrote down their own versions and these are some of the tales we know today. Even the beloved Disney versions, while watered down to remove some of the more disturbing elements, still have a darker side. Beauty and the Beast is beloved by children all over the world and we all know the Disney version of this
romantic fairy tale. One of the notable changes from the original story to the Disney version is that the Beast punishes Beauty’s sisters because they weren’t as good or as virtuous as she was and turned them into stones that adorn the front of the castle. He did this so that the sisters can then spend all time gazing on their sister’s happiness and prosperity. So much for forgiveness!

What about Cinderella…one of my personal favourites. In the Grimm brothers version Cinderella is not helped by the rotund, cheerful, fairy godmother – but by a white dove who brings her the dress and slippers. Fast forwarding to the trying on of the glass slipper by the step sisters the original version has a very disturbing element. The stepmother encourages the first sister to cut off her toes so that she will fit into the shoe but as she is riding with the prince the white dove tells him to look at her foot which is bleeding. The second sister cuts off her heel but meets the same problem as the second sister – in other words “blood will out” (taking a little literary licence here!). The one I always found disturbing as a child was Snow White…I felt the darkness in that tale and I’ve never liked it in spite of the Disney version. The original version has the evil queen invited to the wedding…so we might think forgiveness here…wrong…it’s a trap. When she arrives she is given a pair of iron shoes that are burning hot and she is forced to dance until she falls over dead. Makes the Disney ending of her falling off a cliff seem kind of tame. And let’s not forget the Little Mermaid which tells of pain in having the use of legs and feet and turning into sea foam in the end.

And what about the Lion King with the wonderful Elton John song that I love…did you know that the story is based on Shakespeare’s Hamlet? In the Disney version there are wonderful comical and entrancing characters and a happy ending…in Hamlet everyone dies, Hamlet, the uncle, the others plotting to kill Hamlet and the queen. The carnage in the tragedy is intense and complete – not a Disney ending for sure. Personally I prefer the Disney version of these fairy tales and the originals would have given my children nightmares for weeks! I also don’t believe that telling stories to encourage kindness, that goodness triumphs over evil, and that vanity is not an attractive attribute should be met with violence and dark and disturbing elements. To me it truly defeats the purpose of the tale, told to children, to encourage, inspire, and bring out their best while throwing in some elements of “what not to do” – in letting them drift into a world of imagination where they can be whoever and whatever they want and every story has a happy ending.
Now we know that every story does not have a happy ending…that “fairy tales” even in real life do not always have a happily ever after. I have even heard the Bible referred to as a collection of “fairy tales”…gasp! As a Christian what I love about the Bible and the Christian faith, is that it is historical, Israel really existed, Jesus actually lived and the Bible is His-story. These truths are historically undeniable. Read the testimony in the book of second Peter. The life of Jesus is more documented than that of any other human being that ever lived. I can’t help but marvel at the unbelief that would turn this book, so rich in history, so full of knowledge and insight, so much the guide book of our faith – into a collection of “fairy tales”. But I digress…let’s spend a little time looking at the “fairy tales” in our own lives and how the promised “happily ever after”, that we didn’t always receive, can also be a gateway into something even more wonderful. Sometimes life seems to be full of disappointments rather than fairy tale endings. I personally think a fairy tale ending is very limiting and confining – it’s like we say, “well that’s that – everyone got what they wanted and sailed off into the sunset to live happily ever after”. Well now that’s nice…but where is the challenge, the growth, the awakening in an ending like that. It is so often through the suffering in our lives that we realize our potential – that we face up to what is holding us back – that we step outside our comfort zones and dare to move in new and life giving directions.

Like many of you I had the “fairy tale” wedding…the promised happily ever after – and like some of you the fairy tale ended in a hurtful and unpredictable way and the “fairy tale” that started with so much hope, love and promise spiralled down into a darker ending. It takes strength, courage and above all faith to rise beyond the “fairy tale”, into a new story that has substance, growth and above all “life”. Our life stories are not “fairy tales” – sure they may have some “fairy tale” elements, and that’s just fine, in fact it can be wonderful – but I for one don’t want to stay in the “fairy tale” I want to write my own story and move away from what held me back into what gives me “life”. Sometimes it’s through our downfalls, our misfortunes, even our mistakes that we achieve our greatest victories.

How many of us live out our lives in our imaginations? Living out our lives spinning “fairy tales” rather than stepping out and writing our own stories, by taking a chance, trusting in God and in ourselves, trusting that we can indeed be the authors of our own stories and not just live in our imaginations. Like the darker
side of some of our well known “fairy tales” our lives too have a darker side. Pain and sorrow live side by side with health (in body and in mind) and happiness – through our lives, most of us, will experience both. But ask yourself, honestly, would you want to live a “fairy tale” existence? Life is a series of ups and downs – highs and lows – joys and sorrows … that’s what makes it, and us, REAL. When we accept that, when we let life, and life’s experiences touch us, challenge us, change us – we are moving “beyond the fairy tale” – we are truly living “life” in all its varied hues and forms.

I am often hindered by “wishing and wanting” change in my life to actually doing something to achieve it. I want to be in better shape…eat healthier…get more exercise…reduce stress…feel and look more “youthful” (I’m allowed a little vanity here) – and none of that is going to happen if I immerse myself in the “fairy tale” and refuse to step out into reality. I have recently started an early morning exercise routine – I’ve dusted off my yoga mat, resurrected my weights, cranked up the 70’s music – and challenged my resisting body into a healthier me. Instead of sitting on the couch and imagining myself 20 or 30 pounds lighter I am actually doing something to make that happen – and I feel so much better for it. We all know that “life is short” or that “life is what you make it” – every time my feet slip on the ladder of life I find that when I begin the climb again I am stronger and wiser. And for me, my faith is stronger – my love of God is greater – and my gratitude and thankfulness is always increasing. The bible has a fair bit to say about “fairy tales” 1 Timothy 1:4; Colossians 2:8;1 Timothy 4:7; Galatians 4:3; 2 Corinthians 4:4-16; Acts 4:20-37 - are but few examples – I’m sure you know of others. I love this quote: “Jesus is the underlying reality to which all stories point, breaking into our world.” – Tim Keller

Most good fairy tales find their truth and resonate to the degree that they reflect the greatest story ever told. There is something in the heart of humanity that is searching for redemption. We understand evil, in that it exists, and we know where and how we should turn to combat evil in our lives and in the lives of others. Below are a couple of paragraphs from J.R.R. Tolken on Fairy Tales.

“Probably every writer making a secondary world, a fantasy, every sub-creator, wishes in some measure to be a real maker, or hopes that he is drawing on reality: hopes that the peculiar quality of this secondary world (if not all the details) are derived
from Reality, or are flowing into it. If he indeed achieves a quality that can fairly be described by the dictionary definition: “inner consistency of reality,” it is difficult to conceive how this can be, if the work does not in some way partake of reality. The peculiar quality of the “joy” in successful Fantasy can thus be explained as a sudden glimpse of the underlying reality or truth. It is not only a “consolation” for the sorrow of this world, but a satisfaction, and an answer to that question, “Is it true?” The answer to this question that I gave at first was (quite rightly): “If you have built your little world well, yes: it is true in that world.” That is enough for the artist (or the artist part of the artist). But in the “eucatastrophe” we see in a brief vision that the answer may be greater — it may be a far-off gleam or echo of evangelium in the real world. The use of this word gives a hint of my epilogue. It is a serious and dangerous matter. It is presumptuous of me to touch upon such a theme; but if by grace what I say has in any respect any validity, it is, of course, only one facet of a truth incalculably rich: finite only because the capacity of Man for whom this was done is finite. I would venture to say that approaching the Christian Story from this direction, it has long been my feeling (a joyous feeling) that God redeemed the corrupt making-creatures, men, in a way fitting to this aspect, as to others, of their strange nature. The Gospels contain a fairy-story, or a story of a larger kind which embraces all the essence of fairy-stories. They contain many marvels—peculiarly artistic, beautiful, and moving: “mythical” in their perfect, self-contained significance; and among the marvels is the greatest and most complete conceivable eucatastrophe. But this story has entered History and the primary world; the desire and aspiration of sub-creation has been raised to the fulfillment of Creation. The Birth of Christ is the eucatastrophe of Man’s history. The Resurrection is the eucatastrophe of the story of the Incarnation. This story begins and ends in joy. It has pre-eminently the “inner consistency of reality.” There is no tale ever told that men would rather find was true, and none which so many sceptical men have accepted as true on its own merits. For the Art of it has the supremely convincing tone of Primary Art, that is, of Creation. To reject it leads either to sadness or to wrath. Every fairy tale we tell has at its root a core element of the ultimate story but the thing which makes the gospel so compelling is that it like a fairy tale sounds too good to be true but unlike a fairy tale is true.
“It is not difficult to imagine the peculiar excitement and joy that one would feel, if any specially beautiful fairy-story were found to be “primarily” true, its narrative to be history, without thereby necessarily losing the mythical or allegorical significance that it had possessed. It is not difficult, for one is not called upon to try and conceive anything of a quality unknown. The joy would have exactly the same quality, if not the same degree, as the joy which the “turn” in a fairy-story gives: such joy has the very taste of primary truth. (Otherwise its name would not be joy.) It looks forward (or backward: the direction in this regard is unimportant) to the Great Eucatastrophe. The Christian joy, the Gloria, is of the same kind; but it is preeminently (infinitely, if our capacity were not finite) high and joyous. But this story is supreme; and it is true. Art has been verified. God is the Lord, of angels, and of men—and of elves. Legend and History have met and fused.”

So let’s look beyond the fairy tale in our lives, in our world, our church, and in our new parish of Immanuel. Together let’s write the tale that can inspire and bring the light of truth, hope, joy and peace into the lives of all that read it beyond this generation – let us strive to live “beyond the fairy tale” bringing about an beginning rather than an ending but never losing sight of that fact that if you believe, truly believe, all things really are possible with God.

Well now isn’t this exciting for our Parish…thank you to Laura French and family for highlighting this important ministry in the life of our community.

Newly-formed Anglican church to focus on youth and diversity
“We’ve spent a lot of time researching, looking at best practices, looking for ideas, but really thinking about how we do it, so that it’s engaging for everybody.”
Author of the article: Gillian Francis
Publishing date: May 25, 2021
(picture) Laura French, right, a volunteer with Immanuel Anglican Church, stands with her children Sandrine, Eleanor, James and Cynthia in front of the former St. Luke’s Anglican Church on Argyle Road. St. Luke’s was one of five parishes that
When one door closes another opens, and this motto certainly holds true for Immanuel Anglican Church.
The newly-formed Regina church is an amalgamation of five former Anglican parishes — St. Luke’s, St. James, St. Matthew, St. Phillip and All Saints Anglican — that opted to merge into one after years of declining attendance.
Immanuel Anglican will begin in-person worship for the first time this June and has created a new program designed to boost interest amongst younger and more culturally diverse demographics.
“We’ve spent a lot of time researching, looking at best practices, looking for ideas, but really thinking about how we do it, so that it’s engaging for everybody, whether you’re six or 66,” said Laura French, a volunteer parishioner who is helping create a youth-friendly service.
The decision to merge was put into motion at the start of the pandemic, but the proposal had been discussed since 2018. The plan was devised as a more effective way to share resources and labour as the number of church-goers steadily declined.
Immanuel Anglican, which will operate out of the former All Saints Anglican church at 142 Massey Rd. until a permanent location is found, will offer two, in-person services starting June 6. St. Luke’s is still being used for extra space and video services while the other three buildings are vacant and in various stages of being put up for sale.
Pandemic requirements, as directed by the Saskatchewan Health Authority will remain in place, limiting churches to 30 per
cent capacity or 150 socially-distanced people. Those that prefer not to attend, can watch the services online through a live-stream on YouTube or through Facebook.

French said the revamped church is moving away from a traditional Sunday school model for youth by providing them with a more active and engaging service in addition to standard worship.

“If you go to Sunday school...then you didn’t have the same experiences of actually being with everybody and being in the worship as a full participant,” she explained, adding that failing to engage youth often encourages them to give up on church when they are older.

French attended All Saints Anglican prior to the merge and she has been following along with Immanuel Anglican’s online services throughout the pandemic. She said her children have been much more engaged with the youth-friendly service, particularly her oldest daughter Cynthia.

“She’s got her headphones on; we’re singing along to the computer screen. Everyone’s muted, except for the person who’s leading the singing, but you can sing at home. It’s fun.”

Laura French’s oldest daughter Cynthia is enjoying church services more now that she’s actively able to participate. One of her drawings, pictured here, shows churchgoers singing at a service.

Cheryl Toth, Archdeacon for the Diocese of Qu’Appelle said Immanuel Anglican is working towards making its programs more appealing to people of varying ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds. The plan is to run events out of the Living Spirit Centre in Regina, which operates out of Eastside United Church and functions as a meeting place for Lutheran, United and Anglican denominations, where they can discuss spiritual topics and grow to understand their differences.

Toth said clergy have been attending inter-cultural workshops, and they’ve focused on building reconciliatory relationships with indigenous peoples. They’ve been listening to what youth have to say and making adjustments to be more inclusive.

“Encouraging people who are younger to be able to make decisions that effect them in the parish and be involved in that,” she said.

She explained that many young individuals prefer to express their religious devotion through nature rather than through a service, and Immanuel Anglican plans to introduce programs that promote earth stewardship and encourage youth to get outdoors through activities like gardening.

Thank you to Margi Hollingshead for sharing this opportunity that others may also be interested in.

“I’m attaching this info from Queen’s House in Saskatoon re an exciting program that is geared for we elders. I’m thinking it
might be of interest to others at Immanuel. I’ve signed up for the 2day intro and hope to be part of the ongoing group Margi 


This looks really interesting and I for one will check it out.

**A few other things to take note of…**

**Spring Bible Study on Women of the Hebrew Scriptures is now full!**

*We have some wonderful women sharing in these rich and challenging stories of the Hebrew women who walked before us and to whom we are linked in so many ways. Thank you all for sharing your gifts and your insight - you make every Thursday night an adventure and a joy!*

*Here is the Zoom link which will remain the same throughout the study:*

Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88064422281?pwd=ZWRLbjE3Ym9YdUVwV0c2aVFnRkVTQT09
Meeting ID: 880 6442 2281
Passcode: 621581

**Seniors Coffee Zoom Meeting**
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81151849728?pwd=UHZVZWt0V0U0dUoxOUw1UGM5VndvQT09
Meeting ID: 811 5184 9728
Passcode: 946753

**OUR NEXT GATHERING WILL BE MAY 28, AT 3 P.M.**

*We are called “Seniors Coffee” but don’t let that fool you - we like to be called “Friday Fun and Fellowship” - we are a welcoming bunch - sharing our stories and praying with and for each other. No agenda - unless you count lots of laughter an agenda. Come and check us out!*

**Friday Night Evening Prayer of the BCP Service of Compline**

This quiet and reflective prayer service is led by me, Rev. Winna and Father Michael Bruce with the grateful assistance of our ZOOM host, Laura French
Compline Zoom Meeting  
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89324033051?pwd=QUxCQjBoQW9xdkIuEWWIVZlVk5dz09
Meeting ID: 893 2403 3051  
Passcode: 701044  
*Compline is a lovely way to end your day and your week. Please consider joining us…*

Starting in June the clergy will be offering TWO morning worship services...one at 9:30 a.m. which will be a “new” service with the praise band...and one at 11 a.m. which will be a “traditional” service with the organ. We welcome you to join us in one...or two...live streamed services every Sunday or catch us later when it’s a more convenient time for you. We will let you know when we will be back to “in person” worship but we will still be continuing live streaming services. As always we give grateful thanks to the generous gifts that Father Michael has shared in order to make these live stream services possible. Ministry takes on many forms and Michael’s ministry to us is making it possible for us to worship together in these challenging times.

**BCP Morning Prayer**

> When you call out to me and come to me in prayer, I will hear your prayers. When you seek me in prayer and worship, you will find me available to you. If you seek me with all your heart and soul, I will make myself available to you,' says the Lord” (Jeremiah 29:12-14).

Grace, peace and joy to you all, in the beauty of this Springtime and in the new growth surrounding us. Beginning Tuesday, June 1 at 7:30 a.m. I want to offer you a chance to renew and refresh each morning, by experiencing the ancient disciplines of spiritual formation before you start your day. A call to morning prayer has been a part of our tradition in Anglican worship for many, many years. Please join me, Rev. Winna, as together we start our day in prayer, reflection and conversation in the peace of a new day. Below is the Zoom link which will remain the same every Tuesday.

Join Zoom Meeting  
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82975870900?pwd=Q2M4S1NSWmlkSkkszQXNwaFdGZTVXdz09
Meeting ID: 829 7587 0900  
Passcode: 647817
We, the clergy of Immanuel, hold you all in prayer daily… and we invite you to pray along with us. If you have a specific prayer request please let us know so that together, in community, we can lift your prayers to the Lord. I invite you to send your prayer requests to our Office Manager, Mojgan Shirazi, at officemanager@immanuelanglicanregina.ca Mojgan is keeping a list for us that will be updated regularly. These are some of the prayer requests that I have had this week…

We pray for healing mercies for: Claude (Saul), Sheila F. (Tom), Theo, T.J., Trina, Wayne, Linda & Lloyd (and family), Bob G., Jessica K., Jackie, Lori, Pat L. (Dennis), Keith, Corrine, Declain, Allan, Marion, Greta, Pat, Pat B., Phillip, Beth, Gwen R. and family, Jeremy S. and his mother Joan, Thereza, George, Joanne Shurvin-Martin and family, Allison and family, Greta B., Charlize. We remember in our prayers all those who have passed in the peace of Christ - especially Richard and remembering all those who we hold in our hearts….

We pray for Bishop Rob and Lorraine, as they continue this new journey into retirement and relocation with family and friends in the UK. We pray for comfort and strength in the days, weeks and months ahead and may God’s peace surround them. We pray for Dean Mike and Archdeacon Catherine and the staff of the Synod Office. For our parish of Immanuel - for our wardens Mae Boa and Richard Simpson and our new Vestry. We pray for the members of Diocesan Council meeting this Saturday.

Please uphold in prayer Deacon Alexander Campbell, his wife Muriel, and their family. Alex will be ordained Priest on June 12th. The ordination service will be live streamed and the time will be confirmed shortly.

We pray for our partners at Living Spirit Centre: Pastor Stewart Miller (Bread of Life), Rev. Russell Mitchell Walker (Eastside United), Vicar Patti Sherk (Bread of Life) and the administrative assistants: Cheryl Conly (Bread of Life) and Becca Dziaduck (Eastside United).
Shared in Friday Coffee Time...

STRAWBERRY SALE

at

BROADWAY UNITED CHURCH

105 BROADWAY AVENUE.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2021

8:30AM to 11:45AM

PRESALE TICKETS ONLY email

broadwayunited@accesscomm.ca

306 352 1526 or 306 757 1149

$30 full flat (no half flats offered this year)

e-transfer accepted or drop a cheque off in the church mailbox.

Please indicate a pickup time (every half hour, starting at 8:30am) number of flat(s) and contact information.

Deadline for ordering May 29, 2021

Thank you to Janet Craig (St. Paul’s Cathedral) for sharing this week's chuckles...

Why Go to Church?
One Sunday morning, a mother went in to wake her son and tell him it was time to get ready for church, to which he replied, "I'm not going.

Why not? she asked. I'll give you two good reasons," he said. "(1), they don't like me, and (2), I don't like them.

His mother replied, "I'll give you two good reasons why you SHOULD go to church: (1) You're 59 years old, and (2) you're the pastor!"

The Picnic
A Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic Priest met at the town's annual 4th of July picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter.
This baked ham is really delicious," the priest teased the rabbi. You really ought to try it. I know it's against your religion, but I can't understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden! You don't know what you're missing. You just haven't lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?"
The rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin, and said, "At your wedding."

The Usher
An elderly woman walked into the local country church. The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps. Where would you like to sit? he asked politely. The front row, please, she answered. You really don't want to do that, the usher said. The pastor is really boring. Do you happen to know who I am? the woman inquired. No, he said. I'm the pastor's mother, she replied indignantly. Do you know who I am? he asked. No, she said. Good, he answered.

Show and Tell
A kindergarten teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment. Each student was instructed to bring in an object that represented their religion to share with the class. The first student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David." The second student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary." The third student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Tommy. I am Methodist, and this is a casserole."

The Best Way To Pray
A priest, a minister and a guru sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby. Kneeling is definitely the best way to pray, the priest said. No," said the minister. I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven. You're both wrong," the guru said. The most effective prayer position is lying down on the floor." The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Hey, fellas," he interrupted. "The best prayin' I ever did was when I was hangin' upside down from a telephone pole."
The Twenty and the One

A well-worn one-dollar bill and a similarly distressed twenty-dollar bill arrived at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation.

The twenty-dollar bill reminisced about its travels all over the country.

I've had a pretty good life," the twenty proclaimed. "Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest restaurants in New York, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean."

"Wow!" said the one-dollar bill. "You've really had an exciting life!"

"So, tell me," says the twenty, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?"

The one dollar bill replies, "Oh, I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Lutheran Church..."

The twenty-dollar bill interrupts, "What's a church?"

Goat for Dinner

The young couple invited their elderly pastor for Sunday dinner.
While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their son what they were having.

Goat," the little boy replied.

Goat?" replied the startled man of the cloth, "Are you sure about that?"

"Yep," said the youngster. "I heard Dad say to Mom, 'Today is just as good as any to have the old goat for dinner.'"

Lord, keep Your arm around my shoulder and Your hand over my mouth

Here are your readings for this week...

Trinity Sunday

Collect

Father, we praise you: through your Word and Holy Spirit you created all things. You reveal your salvation in all the world by sending to us Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Through your Holy Spirit you give us a share in your life and love. Fill us with the vision of your glory, that we may always serve and praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah. In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance...
above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.” The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!” Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” Isaiah 6.1–8

Psalm

Refrain Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. R The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour. R The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; he makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox. R The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, “Glory!” R The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore. The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. R Psalm 29

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live ac- cording to the flesh — for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ — if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Romans 8.12–17

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the
Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we
know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no
one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of
God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can
see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”
Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having
grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s
womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no
one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water
and Spirit. What is born of

the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not
be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.'
The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it,
but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it
is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to
him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you
a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?
Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to
what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I
have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how
can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has
ascended into heaven except the one who descended from
heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent
in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that
whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so
loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who
believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the
world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

John 3:1–17

This Sunday is Rev. Nancy Yee’s last Sunday with us.
Nancy’s gifts and ministry will be missed - she has
contributed much to our life together in community - both
as the Interim Priest for the former St. Philip and St. James
and as a part of the Ministerial of Immanuel Parish. As
many of you know Nancy’s and Tim’s home is in Saskatoon
and by accepting a position in the Diocese of Qu'Appelle
she made the commitment and the personal sacrifice to be
away from her home and her family for the majority of the
week. During the winter the commute could often be
treacherous and Covid has not made her journey any
easier. We have been blessed in having Nancy as one of
the clergy in this Archdeaconry and in our Diocese and we
wish her all God’s blessings in this next phase of her
ministry - wherever God is calling her to serve. Thank you
Nancy! Our gratitude, love and prayers travel with you.
Well done good and faithful servant.
The Members of the Ministerial and Their Primary Areas of Responsibility…

Father Michael Bruce (Fellowship, Prayer and Contemplation, Digital Ministries - Team Leader of the Ministerial and Regional Dean)
fr.MBruce@gmail.com
306-591-1124   DAYS OFF: SATURDAY AND MONDAY

Rev. Winna Martin (Seniors Ministry, Singles (Divorced, Widowed, Singles of all ages), Pastoral Care
martinwinna@gmail.com
306-536-4308 (cell) or 306-525-1575 (landline)   DAYS OFF: SATURDAY AND MONDAY

Canon Susan Page, Deacon (Pastoral Care, Ecumenism)
306-537-3946 (cell) spage@sasktel.net

Deacon Alexander (Alex) Campbell (Indigenous Ministry, Truth and Reconciliation *Calls to Action)
alex.campbell@hotmail.com

*Until May 30, 2021  Rev. Nancy Yee (Family Ministry, Mission, Christian Education) yeen@sasktel.net

ON LEAVE**Pastor Zsofi Schmiedge

---

I hope you are enjoying Around the Cross. As editor I am always delighted to receive your articles, information, pictures, etc. - anything you would like to share. I do however reserve the right to “edit” as appropriate or to not publish anything that I deem inappropriate. Remember this is YOUR Epistle so please send me whatever you think our readers may enjoy - we would love to hear from you!

God’s richest blessings….Winna+