**All Saints Anglican Church**

**6904 Lougheed Highway, Agassiz, B.C. V0M 1A0**

**Bulletin April 22– April 28, 2024**

 

**‘The ground we walk does not belong to us; for thousands of years it has been - and remains - the territory of the Stó:lō.’ We are grateful for their sharing.**

***Phone: 604-796-3553***

***Website:*** [***www.allsaints-agassiz.ca***](http://www.allsaints-agassiz.ca/)

[***https://www.facebook.com/groups/AllSaintsFamily***](https://www.facebool.com/groups/AllSaintsFamily)

 **OUR DOOR IS OPEN AND ALL ARE WELCOME**

 **April 21, 2024, Fifth Sunday** **of Easter**

 Priest in Charge: The Reverend Philip Barker

 Hosts: Graham Featherstone/Jennifer Pinlac

Intercessor: Graham Featherstone

Lay Administrator: Dorothy Cresswell

Announcer: Virginia Jennings

Organ/Piano: Francesca Froehlich

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Zoom service will still be available and a link sent out around 09:45 by Graham.  Email him at gfeatherstone2021@outlook.com if you don’t think you’re on his list.

**Vicar’s cell phone:**  Revd. Philip Barker. 778-867-2461

**Vicar’s Warden:** Ginny Jennings. 604-796-2206

**People’s Warden:**  Lynn Laughlin. 604-799-5131

**Parish email**:   revpb1950@gmail.com

Please contact either warden if you have an issue that needs to be brought to the attention of the Vicar - or contact the Vicar direct (see above for details).

**Wardens Pitch**

• On May 1st Book Club will be starting &quot; They Were Christians: The Inspiring Faith of Men and Women Who Changed the World & quot; by Cristóbal Krusen 2016. The paperback is $16.36 from Sheila or on Amazon. The meetings are on Wednesdays at 5.00 on Zoom. Please email Sheila at sjbarker0379@gmail.com to ask for an invite. Everyone is welcome.

• Bible Study with Karol is every Saturday morning 8:30-9:00 on Zoom.

• Prayer Requests can be given on a piece of paper to either of the Wardens or

the Vicar or entered in the Prayer Request Book on the lectern.

Alternatively, you can contact Anthea Lewis at antheamlewis@shaw.ca for Pray

First Prayer Circle, which is a confidential online prayer circle.

• Music Requests may be given to the Wardens or the Vicar.

• AA meets in the hall every Tuesday and Friday at noon.

• Games for adults every Thursday in the hall 10:00-12:00.

• Following Games there is a short Prayer Meeting in the church to which all

are invited. This is only for 15 minutes and is followed by – Morning Prayer (said)

each Thursday at 12:30.

• 2 Coffee Hosts are still needed. Please call Anthea or Lynn.

• 5th Sunday of each month will be a potluck lunch after the service.

• Garage Sale on May 25th, 9am—2pm in our hall. All donations can be left on the

stage with a sign indicating that they are for the sale.

**Ministerial Meandering**

*Rorschach*

It must be hard to have a surname that sounds as though you’re having trouble clearing your throat - *Rorschach* - ‘Bless you!’

But you all know old Hermann - he’s the guy who created the inkblot test in 1921. He was a Swiss Psychiatrist and Psychoanalyst who looked rather like Brad Pitt, and sadly died at the age of 37 of peritonitis, probably as a result of a ruptured appendix.

The inkblot test is the showing of a series of ten inkblots, which are individually symmetrical, to a subject, and asking him or her what they think of when they look at them. I won’t go into the science of interpretation of the results, but would mention in passing, that this idea was also used by Leonardo da Vinci and Botticelli.

The idea was used by Rorschach initially to try and discover if schizophrenics showed a particular tendency with the standard ten blots. It is probably unlikely that it worked, but it came to be used more for determining personality traits.

I am not going to go down that particularly treacherous road, but only say that how we interpret things depends entirely on how we experience them.

For example, you have all heard that ‘one man’s meat is another man’s poison’. That means that while one person may experience a set of circumstances as blissful, another may feel them to be purgatory. This doesn’t stop with the menu choices - you enjoying your pickled eels, and me running to the bathroom at the sight of them. I remember many times in northern Norway each year with the Royal Marines; some were entirely in their element, and lived for the winter deployments - they were usually qualified Mountain Leaders. Others of us were tropical animals, whose brains froze at the mere thought of ice.

I have seen it happen in relationships too. Again, you have all heard the rhyme, ‘Jack Spratt could eat no fat, his wife could eat no lean - and so, between the two of them, they scraped the platter clean.’ That, of course, would be ideal situation, but life isn’t always like that. Oil and water don’t mix - however hard or often you whisk the mixture into an emulsion - it will always eventually separate into its component parts. That’s why the truism that ‘Opposites attract - but similars marry’, remains valid.

Not so long ago I was at a concert, sitting next to a person who was thoroughly enjoying each piece that was being played. I was waiting for the end so I could go home. This was just such an interpretation of an inkblot by two different people sharing the exact same experience.

I have also been watching episodes of ‘The Chosen’, which I believe is a helpful interpretation of Jesus’ earthly life. But in the watching of it, I have been struck by how different members of Jesus’ early followers viewed his actions. Some would try to push him to this course of action; others to a different path. Or they would see his motives in different lights - even though he rarely, if ever, voiced them.

These too were ‘life-Rorschach’ tests, if you like.

So, just as it was difficult to determine motive or intent behind Jesus’ actions - before we had the wisdom of hindsight - so, also, it is dangerous and difficult to attribute too much to the way you or another looks at a pattern - be it of life or of art. Inkblots are like that.

Philip+

**Chuckle**

When I was young, I was afraid of the dark. Now when I see my Hydro bill I am afraid of the lights!!!

**Birthdays this Month**

Rev. Philip Barker the 1st, Dorothy Cresswell the 2nd, Lynn Laughlin& Anthea Lewis the 12th, Jennifer Pinlac the 15th, Sheila Barker the 19th, Kevin Moore the 23rd, Helene Atkinson the 27th.

**Sunday Cycle of Prayer**

St. Helen, Surrey The Revd Robin Celiz

St. Helen, Point Grey The Revd Liz Hamel (Priest-in-Charge

**Monthly Cycle of Prayer**

All Saints, Ladner The Revd Robin Ruder-Celiz

St. David, Delta The Revd Simbarashe Basvi

St; Mark, Ocean Park The Revd Stephen Laskey

Holy Trinity, White Rock The Revd Joseph Dirbas

 The Revd Paul Richards

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer**

Our Primate, Archbishop, Linda Nicolls. For National Indigenous Archbishop, Bishop Chris Harper of the Diocese of Saskatoon. The Right Reverend Sidney Black and for the Anglican Council of Indigenous People. We also pray for the Coordinator for Indigenous Justice, Kerry Baisley, Archbishop Lynn MacNaughton of British Columbia and Bishop John Stevens, the Diocese of New Westminster.

In our parish we pray for our priest, Philip, retired priests Mike and David. **Amen**

**Collect**

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Acts 8: 26-40** Fran Froehlich

**Reading:**

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+8+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-27204a)] eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
 so he did not open his mouth.In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
    Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

**Psalm 22: 24-30**

 For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one;
 he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.

From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;
 before those who fear you[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm22+&version=NIV#fen-NIV-14230f)] I will fulfill my vows.
The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the Lord will praise him—
 may your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord,
 and all the families of the nations will bow down before him,
for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations.

All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;
  all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—
  those who cannot keep themselves alive.
Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.

**1 John 4: 7-21** Pamela Evans

**Reading:**

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

**John 15: 1-8** Vicar Philip Barker

**Reading:**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.