**All Saints Anglican Church**

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

**Bulletin January 27, 2025 – February 2, 2025**

 

**‘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**

 **February 2, 2025, The Presentation of the Lord**

 Priest in Charge: The Reverend Philip Barker

 Hosts: Graham Featherstone/Jennifer Pinlac

 Intercessor: Lynn Laughlin

 Lay Administrator: Dorothy Cresswell

 Announcer: Virginia Jennings

 Organ/Piano: Francesca Froehlich

**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**

* Book Club Wednesdays 5-6 pm on ZOOM. Our current book is “I Dared to Call Him Father” by Bilquis Sheik, a Muslim woman who converts to Christianity. Please email Sheila at sjbarker0379@gmail.com to receive information about the book club. All are 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.
* Every Thursday in the hall 10:00-12:00 we have a social time with coffee, games if you like or just talk. Following 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.
* 5th Sunday of each month will be a potluck lunch after the service.
* March 2, 2025 – “Pancake Tuesday” after service
* March 5, 2025 – Ash Wednesday short service at 10:00
* March 8, 2025 – Saturday service for Hilary from 1-3

**Ministerial Meandering**

*Grey to gold*

Very occasionally a thought comes to me - and I have to sit down to enjoy the rare moment. Just such an occasion visited me this week. I had some medical news that I really wasn’t expecting, and surprised me, if I’m honest. Never having had a symptom from my heart throughout my life, I was sent for a cardiac angiogram - ‘just to check it’s all right’.

‘Waste of time,’ I thought, and then I thought perhaps it wasn’t.

Why anyone would want to do angiograms on perfectly healthy people was beyond me. But then I thought back to the time when I had been in practice as a vascular surgeon; then I had agreed with my urological colleague to refer to me any men over 60 with high blood pressure who he had sent for abdominal ultrasound. For his purposes, he wanted to look at their kidneys; I was interested in their abdominal aorta - to see if it was aneurysmal (dilated). These men would be equally without symptoms from their dilated aneurysms, but they were sitting - some of them - on time bombs, which could quite literally go ‘Bang!’ - and then they would be in deep trouble.

So I had a bit of shock when I found that my angiogram was not as pristine as I would have hoped.

It led me to wonder about relying too much on my future plans. It made me completely reevaluate my life in the light of that light being potentially switched off at any moment, without any warning. It made me look at what I had - not what I might have wanted. It made me look at things which previously had looked rather dull and grey, and see them as gifts of enormous worth. It made me think. Carefully. With a little effort I could be a mental alchemist. I could turn all that was grey in my life into gold!

In case you think I’m about to drop dead in my pew like the predecessor to the Vicar of Dibley, please don’t. Of course, I cannot guarantee that won’t happen, but I promise not to embarrass you all if I can help it. I’m sure this will all turn out to be a storm in a teacup, but the ‘urgent’ cardiology appointment that is being requested, I am told is likely to be ‘at least 3 months’. Don’t we all love the Canadian medical system!

My thoughts for this week are to make the most of every day, and try and be a nicer person - heaven knows, there’s room for plenty of that!

Part of my wider thoughts are that I wish more people would live that way - without having to have a stupid diagnosis to give them the wake-up call.

Philip+

**Chuckle**

Burglarize – What a crook sees through!

**Birthdays this Month**

Pat Misener – 2nd, David Gould - 8th, Wendy Pearson - 16th, Bonnie Maitland – 26th.

**Sunday Cycle of Prayer: We Pray for the Clergy and Congregation of:**

St. Paul, Vancouver and All Saints, Ladner

**Monthly Cycle of Prayer: We Pray for:**

The Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada

**Collect**

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings**

**Malachi 3: 1-4** Jennifer Pinlac

 “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

**Psalm 84**

How lovely is your dwelling place,
    Lord Almighty!

My soul yearns, even faints,
    for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh cry out
    for the living God.
Even the sparrow has found a home,
    and the swallow a nest for herself,
    where she may have her young—
a place near your altar,
    Lord Almighty, my King and my God.
Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
    they are ever praising you.

Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
    whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.
As they pass through the Valley of Baka,
    they make it a place of springs;
    the autumn rains also cover it with pools.
They go from strength to strength,
    till each appears before God in Zion.

Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty;
    listen to me, God of Jacob.
Look on our shield, O God;
    look with favor on your anointed one.

 Better is one day in your courts
    than a thousand elsewhere;
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
    than dwell in the tents of the wicked.
For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
    the Lord bestows favor and honor;
no good thing does he withhold
    from those whose walk is blameless.

Lord Almighty,
    blessed is the one who trusts in you.

**Hebrews 2: 14-18** Karole Henrotte

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

**Luke 2: 22-40** Vicar Philip Barker

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
    you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

For my eyes have seen your salvation,
    which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
    and the glory of your people Israel.”

The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the childgrew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.