

The Anglican Parish of Holy Cross

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Happenings around Holy Cross ~ April 2020

From the Rector's Desk: The Rev. Dr. Kyle Norman

This morning, as I woke up and entered into another day of work, I received an email asking me to attend a diocesan meeting via Zoom – an online video conferencing platform. At one point, as emails flew back and forth regarding the appropriate time to meet virtually, I had to respond that “I am unavailable at 9:00 AM as I will be recording a worship service.” Recording a worship service? As technologically savvy as I might be, I would never have considered that such phrases would become standard lexicon for my ministry here at Holy Cross. I am sure that you have found yourself engaging in life in an altogether new way, a way previously unconsidered.

Things have changed rapidly over the last weeks, and they will continue to change rapidly. Every time I think that I have a grasp on “the new normal”, as Dr. Hinshaw calls it, “normal” seems to change. Each day brings new regulations about how we as a community are to live our lives in light of this pandemic.

Despite whatever “normal” we may find ourselves in, I wish to remind us all that all that *ministry continues, and the Church lives*. I have found myself repeating these two phrases consistently every since we have had to suspend our services. Yes, gathering in large groups has suspended, yet ministry continues. I encourage everyone to not give in to an undue fear of the other. Sadly, we can easily hear the language of social distancing, or isolation, and begin to feel that we cannot be in physical proximity to anyone, at any time. While there are limitations on gatherings, I do wish to encourage you to reach out to others as you are able, and as you are comfortable. Carmen, Larry, and I are always available for a visit. You are more than able to journey to the church, and have a time of prayer here – or even come just to have a change of scenery in your life. Additionally, Doug and members of the choir are looking at ways to continue offering Holy Cross’ wonderful musical ministry to us. Carmen continues to lead Youth Alpha. We will acknowledge Holy Week. Easter will be celebrated. *Ministry continues*.

The continuing ministry of the church is based on the fundamental reality of the church as an organic body, a body that lives and breathes through its members. *The Church lives*; it lives because the body of Christ is expressed in you and me, in our hopes and in our prayers, and mostly in our unabashed willingness to live as the church in these crazy times. We are held together by Jesus Christ – and although we are separated physically we are united spiritually. The challenge we face is not to our identity as a church, but to our expression of what truly constitutes our fellowship. How do we express to the community around us that the church continues in prayer and fellowship? How can we embody a sense of hope – a hope that does not disappoint us for God has poured his love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us (Romans 5:5).

One of the things that comforts me at this time is the understanding that, while this may be new for my life, the church has had to face turbulent times throughout its history. From violent persecutions to plagues, from world wars to great depressions, the church has had to adjust to the complexities of their given situations. Hindsight is 2020 they say. And when we look back at the history of the church, we can see two remarkable truths: *ministry continued, and the Church lived*. Let us hold onto this promise, and more importantly, share this promise with others. Amen.

Curate's Corner: The Rev. Dr. Carmen Maier

In my morning prayer breviary, Psalm 33 was the reading just days after COVID-19 was declared a pandemic. I found such reassurance and refocus in it that I would like to share with you some reflections based on this Psalm. I quote it here from the old Athanasian Grail Psalter, which I find wonderfully poetic in its translation:

"Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.
O sing him a song that is new,
play loudly, with all your skill."

The Psalmist tells us to praise the Lord, and to do so with all our skill! But, we might object, in a time like this? Yes, especially in a time like this. Why? Because "praise is fitting for loyal hearts." Let's try it, and see if in some way, we might find praise a fitting exercise. True, we may have to "sing him a song that is new." And sometimes we may have to sing a dirge instead. But perhaps, mysteriously, praise will arise in our hearts also. How? Let's read on:

"For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love."

When God gave his people a way of life through his word, he did not promise that things would be easy, but rather, that they would be blessed. Jesus lived a very blessed life. He also lived a life of continual service, doing that which was "just and right". There is a limit to how much we can control outcomes. We do everything in our power to help and accompany each other. But God, whose presence can be felt and known beyond our own reach, can penetrate fear, isolation, pain. Often he will use our hands and feet. Always he will use our prayers. Let us be in prayer for our world, and may God fill the earth with his love.

We invite you to participate in the following events at Holy Cross while maintaining a 2-metre space between individuals. Hand sanitizer will be available and hand washing upon arrival and departure is encouraged. Contact the office if you would like us to light a candle on your behalf.

Self-guided Stations of the Cross: During Holy Week, March 6 to 10, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Prayer Vigil: On Mandy Thursday and Good Friday, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Palm Crosses: One palm cross will be mailed to each household on the parish list, so watch your mailbox for this. Please contact the office if you would like additional crosses.

Please submit articles for the **May newsletter** by April 15. **Check out our website:** www.holycrosscalgary.org. We are also on Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter.

Going to the hospital? Please identify your religion as Anglican as this places your name on the Anglican list at Spiritual Care Services. Please let the church office know if you are in hospital; if you do not inform the office or the clergy, we will not know that either you or your loved one is in the hospital. While most in-hospital pastoral visits have been suspended, however, there is always an opportunity for a pastoral phone call.

Book Club: "Finding Chika" by Mitch Albom

Bestselling author Mitch Albom returns to nonfiction for the first time in a decade in this memoir that celebrates Chika, a young Haitian orphan whose short life forever changed his heart and taught him the true meaning of family. It is the story of a little girl, an earthquake and the making of a family. Chika was 3 days old before the earthquake hit and spent her infancy in extreme poverty. Her mother died and she was admitted to the Have Faith Haiti Orphanage, which is supported by Mitch and his wife. Mitch shares his deep love and devotion to Chika and his struggle with grief and letting her go. Mitch Albom was a nationally syndicated sports columnist, until he wrote "Tuesdays with Morrie". Members of book club gave this book a two thumbs up review. We had a very good and interesting discussion, with each member contributing on many of the issues (subjects) in the book. Book club highly recommends this book to both genders and it will be in our church library shortly. Submitted by Sandi

My Apologies: I wish to apologise for any upset caused by the change in our prayer list that occurred several weeks ago. I had previously attempted to communicate that people's names would be listed for only four week, in order to encourage more conversation regarding whom we are praying for. Unfortunately, that message was not communicated effectively enough, and many were shocked to see a reduced prayer list. I thank everyone who lovingly and politely came to me expressing their concern over the change. In light of those conversations, we have returned names to our prayer list for ongoing prayer. In the future, any change in how we manage the prayer list will be communicated more efficiently. Blessings to you all. Rev. Kyle.

Covid-19: If you wish to come to the church for private prayer, you may do so between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday. As usual, the door is kept locked - please ring the doorbell for access. Hand sanitizer is available.

During the time that services are suspended, a modified version of the bulletin will be posted on the website each week. If you would like to borrow an NRSV version of the Bible, BAS or BCP, please contact the office and we will arrange to get one to you. As well, Rev. Kyle is pleased to bring a Sunday school lesson and colouring sheet to your home for your children. We look forward to the children's pictures decorating the interior of the church once services resume.

Continue to check our website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel. If you have not done so already, please subscribe to the Holy Cross YouTube Channel by pasting into your browser the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX6qS3yqFBeRtz2JS3A8rIA> and click on "Subscribe", then click on the bell symbol and select "All" so that you will be notified when new services are posted.

TEXT HOLY CROSS! We ask EVERYONE connected to Holy Cross to text "HolyCross" to 587-600-9072. Providentially, Holy Cross has been testing a text-based ministry platform called "Text.in.Church." This service - free for all users - allows you to receive reminders, inspirational messages, and announcements as a text-message on your phone. This will be the easiest and fastest way for you to remain informed as we deal with the Covid-19 crisis.

Isolation: How are you and your family coping with social distancing and self isolation? Please email to the office a photo of how you are keeping boredom at bay and the children busy and, with your permission, we will share them on Facebook and the website. Need something to read? Our in-house library is open with a wide range of books available for loan.



ONLINE MINISTRY AT HOLY CROSS ANGLICAN CHURCH

Sunday: Morning Prayer

Monday: Kid's Talk!

Wednesday: Morning Prayer

Friday: Spiritual Practices

All on-line ministry will be posted on
YouTube and Facebook at 10:30am the same day.
Please visit www.holycrosscalgary.org
for more details.

Use the following vocabulary list to find the words hidden in the puzzle - they may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. The words are about Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and the most important day in the Christian calendar, Easter.

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|-------------|---------|--------------|
| CROSS | LAMB | RESURRECTION |
| DONKEY | MARY | ROOSTER |
| FORGIVENESS | NAILS | SAVIOUR |
| FRIDAY | PALMS | SHROUD |
| GARDENER | PASSION | SINS |
| GOD | PETER | SUPPER |
| JERUSALEM | PILATE | TOMB |

O	U	E	S	O	M	E	E	S	P	V	S	E	S
E	R	N	A	S	E	A	R	E	Y	I	R	V	J
U	P	E	V	E	O	S	T	J	N	S	E	C	A
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M	O	D	O	S	R	A	G	S	E	R	U	R	O
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L	S	N	R	Y	T	A	S	P	E	O	R	O	G
A	S	K	M	D	O	G	O	P	D	S	E	P	I
S	A	E	V	O	M	I	R	E	R	T	C	A	V
U	P	Y	L	G	B	T	C	R	A	E	T	L	E
R	N	A	A	E	V	E	U	C	G	R	I	M	N
E	S	M	M	D	N	A	I	L	S	M	O	S	E
J	R	N	B	G	Y	A	D	I	R	F	N	E	S
S	R	D	U	O	R	H	S	M	D	I	T	N	S