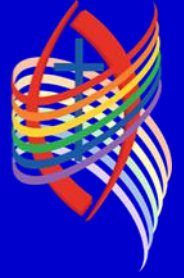




St. Andrew's United Church, North Bay

# Reaching Out



a weekly online newsletter for members and friends of the  
St. Andrews faith community, shared for the purpose of  
bringing peace, hope and comfort during these special times.

## May 24<sup>th</sup> - Ascension Sunday

### The Scripture Reading

#### LUKE 24: 44-53

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are wit-

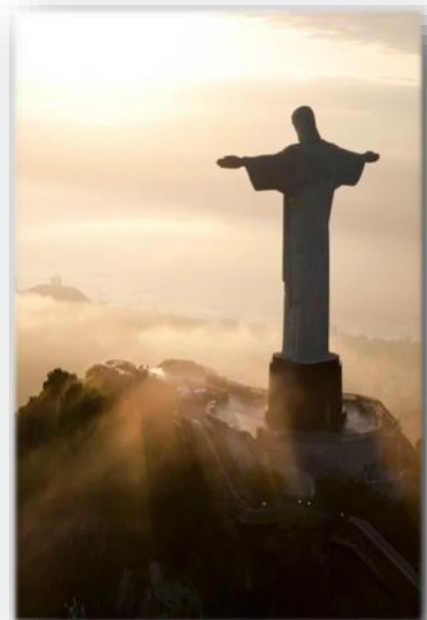
nesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

### The Ascension of Jesus

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

### A Prayer for Ascension Day (Voices United 191)

Mighty God, by your power  
You raised Jesus Christ to rule over us.  
We praise you that he puts down tyrannies  
That threaten to destroy us  
And unmask powers that claim our allegiance.  
We thank you that he alone commands our lives,  
And gives us freedom to love the world.  
Glory to you for the gift of his life!  
Glory to you for his saving death!  
Glory to you for Jesus Christ  
Who lives and reigns as our risen Lord. *Amen.*



## A Time for Wonder - Tracy Davis, DLM



This year when Lent began, we had expectations of how the season would go. We'd give up our chocolate or soft drinks or maybe even our daily Tim

Horton's run and spend a little bit more time reading our Bibles and praying. During Holy Week, we'd wave palms and shout "hosanna," wash one another's feet on Thursday, hear the story of Jesus dying on the cross on Friday, then gather together on Easter Sunday to celebrate the empty tomb and our risen Saviour.

However, Holy Week became really different really fast. Suddenly we had to give up more than soda; we sacrificed our routine and sense of normalcy to protect our neighbors. Adults have wrestled with technology while teens have struggled with balancing responsibility and escapism in their online habits. The loss of normalcy has brought uncertainty and loss. Canceled graduations, proms, sports meets, vacations and mission trips scratch only the surface for those whose families have also lost income or stability. What we have known as normal has died.

The season of Eastertide runs from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, observed on May 31 this year, and is typically a time of celebration. While there are still worthy celebrations this Eastertide, it may be more difficult knowing that even by the end of the

season life still may not be back to normal. So what do we do with our grief and our sadness during a season typically marked by celebration.

Easter is one of the most significant moments in the Christian faith. Jesus, fully divine and fully human, died a real death and was buried in a real tomb — but he didn't stay there for long. The good news of the gospel is this: God is more powerful than all things, even the ultimate physical distancing measure of death. The God we worship is all about making new things out of dust. This is good news for our future.

What if this could be a time of wonders for us? This doesn't mean we have to make a huge discovery or come up with some novel theory. Perhaps during this time we can make room for self-care and self-reflection that will be crucial for our faith development. Perhaps we can learn how to love others better during this time, or even begin a new hobby. Whatever we do during this unique time, it can be an opportunity to explore the good things God has planned for us. ✚



*photo right:* The flowers of the St. Andrew's gardens help nourish the local the bee population. Special thanks to **Lucy Emmott** (those are her shoes!) who tends to these plants and regularly reminds us how important pollinators are in helping to maintain our food security.

## ONLINE WORSHIP - THIS SUNDAY - A Couple of Options

This Sunday's service (**Ascension Sunday** - May 24, 2020) will be found on the **Trinity YouTube channel**. This *YouTube* video is recorded and can be watched at any time. To visit the channel, click on this link: [Trinity United Church YouTube Channel](#). The Sunday service (usually posted by Saturday evening) is a collaborative production by the Trinity United crew, with regular input from St. Andrew's and other united churches in the area.



Click **\*\*HERE\*\*** for a list of links to over 390 United Churches across Canada that are offering online worship services ... either streamed or recorded.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Greetings to all!

I would like to take the opportunity to reintroduce you to the Search Committee: Treanor Greer-Delarosbel (Chair); Mike Ivany (secretary), Jack Aiton, Natalie Wilson, Stuart Bailey and our Regional Council liaison, Karen Brophey.

The Search Committee as approved by Church Council and confirmed/approved by our congregation at our Annual General Meeting has begun our training with the goal to move forward to fulfill the approved motions to fill the full time Ministry Personnel position and the part time Congregational Designated Ministry positions.

The Search Committee was given the directive by our congregation at the Annual General Meeting to conduct an internal search within the current staffing for the full time Ministry Personnel Position in the first instance; and if unsuccessful to then conduct an external search.

Following a successful search for the full-time position; the Search Committee will then conduct an external search for the part time Congregational Designated Minister (CDM). As a reminder, the CDM position is a lay person from a community of faith who will work with the staff at St Andrew's supporting Christian Development and Volunteer Coordination.

Following our path forward,

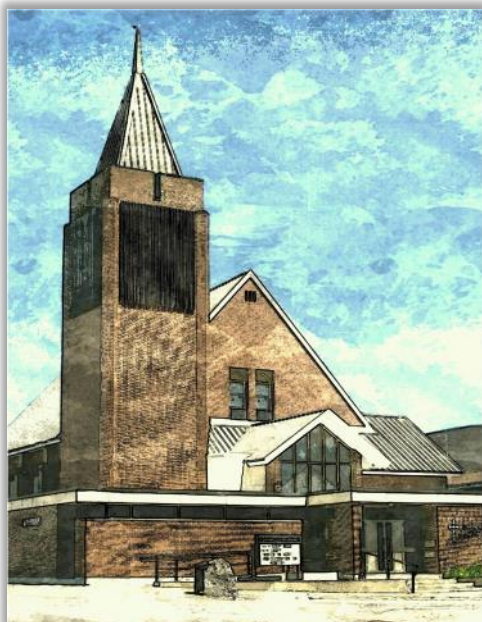
Treanor

May 21, 2020





## Joining PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance) is as easy as 1, 2, 3 ...



- 1:** Download and the PAR authorization form. Get the form by clicking [HERE](#). (.pdf format)
- 2:** Fill in the form. New PAR donors can use this form, as well as those who wish to increase/decrease their monthly giving.
- 3:** Mail the form to St. Andrew's (399 Cassells St., North Bay, P1B 3Z4 ) or take it into the Church Office on Wednesdays or Thursdays from 10 am until 2pm. Either way, the Office Administrator, Star McGregor will be able to complete the transition with you in person or by phone.

**Not on PAR?** Donations by cheque gratefully received at the Church on **Wednesday** or **Thursday** (from 10 am until 2 pm) - or by mail: St. Andrew's, 399 Cassells Street, North Bay, ON P1B 3Z4

... or you may also give via the “**Donate Now**” button located to the right, or on our website ( <https://standrews-northbay.ca/donate/> ) Please note choosing this option allows you to use a credit card however the tax receipt will come from *Canada Helps* **directly to you by e-mail** and there is a 3% admin fee.



## LOAVES & FISHES Foodbank Report

There is still a need at the foodbank for:

- **ziploc bags ( all sizes)**
- **canned food of any kind**

If you would like to make food donations to the foodbank, please know that the Church Office Administrator, Star, will be in the building on **Wednesdays** and **Thursdays from 10 am until 2 pm**. We will safely take your non-perishables .

Cash or cheque donation can also be made through Star - or donations may be mailed to St. Andrew's, or online donations can be made via the “Donate Now” option (see details above).



**“We will continue  
to do our best to  
help who we can  
when we can ”**

Star McGregor  
Food Bank Co-ordinator

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - offered by Glenn Tunnock



This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us gather together in prayer. Let us pray.

As we gather together virtually in these unusual times of an international pandemic, we are reminded of the virtual reality of God's presence around us and his message that we should take care of each other. Let us give thanks for the selfless devotion and dedication of so many that are there for us at every turn, those front liners who provide medical and home care services, those providing emergency services, those who work in retail and other commercial service providers, those who are constantly sanitizing before and after us, those who look after the homeless, those who deliver groceries, meals and medication, and those truckers who drive endless miles to bring us supplies, and so many other heroes, too many to count, that risk their health that we might stay safe from COVID-19. Bless them all, O Lord, in praise and thanksgiving for they suffer for doing what is right.

As we live through the pandemic our resolve to restore a level of normalcy is tested and while we may question why humanity has been faced with this universal crisis, we are finding new ways to communicate and reach out to each other. We are rediscovering life lessons in the care of our senior generations and those with specialized needs. We are relearning what really matters to us as we wade through job losses, financial and mental stresses, self-

isolation, yes what really matters is to love one another and to remember the golden rule of treating others as you want to be treated. We thank our Creator for the reminder that in the face of these trials, our faith and hope is restored through the collective deeds and actions of family, friends and many others believing that tomorrow will be a better day. We give thanks for all of those in the community who have acted and continue to act in the spirit of kindness, generosity and love knowing that we are all in this together.

Let us also pray today for the leaders of our municipalities, provinces and country as they work together to help us through the COVID crisis. Help them Lord to make the right decisions. Let us pray for and give thanks to the scientific community who have not only helped to establish new norms for public safety but who are working diligently to find a vaccine to protect us against the coronavirus.

Let us give thanks this day for the joy of spring and the nature that surrounds us, for the blossoms of an apple tree, the song of spring peepers, the vibrant green of new leaves, the clarion call of a nesting loon, yes these and many other signs of the spring season are a reminder of God's renewal of humankind's spirit.

And as we move forward today from this worship service let us do so knowing that within the sanctuary of our own hearts that God will walk beside us and will be there in virtual reality for us, now and for ever more.

Amen and Amen

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During his time with St. Andrew's, Glenn's contributions as a member of the congregation were much appreciated - especially his fine tenor voice. Glenn now calls St. Paul's United in Perth, Ontario his home church but he still finds time to visit here in North Bay. This prayer was part of St. Paul's May 17th online service. We thank Glenn for sharing it with us.