



the Parish of St. Dunstan

On the traditional lands of the Sto:lo Nation

September 15, 2019

Holy Cross Sunday



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Welcome!

This is a diverse & safe congregation for people wherever they are on their journey with Christ. We are an inclusive church which means we celebrate women in leadership, children at the Eucharist & welcome LGBTQ+ people to participate fully in the community.

W O R S H I P

This is the Fall of Feasts. For the next few months we will focus on our priorities as Christians & learn how to celebrate them.

For Children

The **Nursery** is staffed & open for children ages 0 to 4.

Sunday School is available for children ages 5 to 12.

Activity bags are available in the entry near the colouring table.

All our volunteers & staff have a criminal record check.

Taking Communion

Everyone is welcome to receive bread & wine as a sign of our commitment to Christ & Christ's commitment to us.

There are **gluten-free wafers** for those who need it & **juice** for those who prefer.

Prayers for healing with the anointing of oil is offered beneath the cross during Communion. Please **light a candle** as a sign of your prayers.

Today's Scripture

Introductions to the Lessons by Bill Bennett

Numbers 21: The serpents or desert 'seraphim' bring havoc to complaining, hungry Hebrews. Moses creates a bronze serpent as an antidote, a symbol still used in the pharmaceutical industry.

I Corinthians 1: Human reason & wisdom are meaningless in the face of God's wisdom which undergirds the crucifixion & resurrection of Jesus.

John 3: John refers to today's Old Testament reading. But it is Christ lifted up on the cross that is salvation for all, despite people's rejection of him.

Sermon Notes

Today's Christian Priority: the Cross.

We have talked a lot about the cross recently! Yesterday was the Feast of the Holy Cross and so we decided to transfer it today as part of our Fall of Feasts.

I wonder what the cross looks like to you?

The primary way the early church envisioned the cross was:

The gifts the cross gives us includes

✠

✠

✠

4 ways the cross guides our lives as discerned in John 3

1.

2.

3.

4.

The liturgy is taken from the Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada. Hymns numbers are indicated after the hymn title & found in the blue Common Praise hymn book. The readings are taken from the Revised Common Lectionary. The entire service is projected on the wall.

Gathering the Community

the Greeting, Announcements & the Collect for Purity

Come All You People

Holy Ground

Praise, My Soul, 381

the Prayer of the Day

Proclaiming the Word

The Book of Numbers (21:4b-9)

Psalm 98

Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (1:18-24)

We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died, 200

the Gospel according to John (3:13-17) & the Sermon

the Nicene Creed, the Prayers of the People, the Confession & Absolution

the Peace & the Offering

Worship the Lord

Holy Communion

All are welcome to receive bread & wine (or juice) at Communion.

We Hold the Death of the Lord, 68

Jesus You Fill Our Hearts

Bread of Life

Sending the Community

the Blessing

Lift High the Cross, 602

Coffee & refreshments are served in the hall following the service.

Please visit the Welcome Table in the hall or the Information Table in the entry if you have any questions.

OUTREACH

Monday

Fraser River Counselling at St. Dunstan's

Low cost counselling is provided by supervised counselling students from Trinity Western University. For more information, please connect with an intake worker at 604-513-2113.

Tuesday

Aldergrove Food Bank Soup Kitchen

The Parish of St. Dunstan's has committed to cooking & serving soup on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month. Please connect with Ann Embra at 604-534-9292 or ann_embra@telus.net to learn how you can get involved.

ESL

Classes are at 7pm. All are welcome. For more information please connect the church office.

Thursday

Thursday Community Meal

Each Thursday at 4:30pm.

Want to help create this amazing meal? Please sign up on the poster at the entrance to the Worship Space. For more information on what volunteering involves, please connect with Laura Wallace at 604-856-6463, 604-807-3524 or laura_w@telus.net

Stewardship

*Have you considered signing up for **pre-authorised debit (PAD)**? It is easy & a good way to support the church even when you cannot be present for a service. Please connect with David or one of the other parish leaders for more information.*



PWRDF

The Primate's World Relief
and Development Fund

For more information, please visit PWRDF.ORG. There you can read all about the good work it does, current areas of need & how you can participate.

COMMUNITY CARE

Reconciliation	<i>The priest is available to hear confession by appointment.</i>
Listening Prayer	<i>Prayer for those in crisis or need. For more information please connect with Katherine Murray at katherine.murray22@gmail.com.</i>
Spiritual Direction	<i>Trained Spiritual Directors are available. To arrange please email StDunstansCentre@gmail.com</i>
Ride Sharing	<i>If you need a ride, or can offer one, please let someone at the Information Booth know.</i>
Visiting	<i>If you need a visit, please call the office to arrange. If you would like to become a pastoral visitor, please connect with the priest.</i>
Prayer Chain	<i>If you wish someone to be remembered in our Prayer Chain Ministry, please email the office.</i>

Men's Coffee

Wednesdays at 9am

Men's Breakfast

the 2nd Sunday of the month in the hall

Women's Coffee & Crafts

Fridays at 10am

Women's Breakfast

the 2nd Sunday of the month at McDonald's

Spiritual Companions Groups

These small groups are starting up again this fall. Come to an information session on Sunday, September 15th after church to learn how you can sign up and connect with a great group of people. These groups use a Group Spiritual Direction model which will be taught at the information session. All are welcome to sign-up!

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Children

Besides our **Sunday School** program, we host a **Messy Church** every 3rd Friday of each month (September to May) at 4:30pm. Messy Church includes stories, crafts, dinner & Holy Communion. It is planned with the whole family in mind. All are welcome. Please connect with Carol Tindall at 604-866-6125 for more information & how to volunteer.



ST DUNSTAN'S CENTRE FOR
SPIRITUAL
RENEWAL

The Centre for Spiritual Renewal is the name we give to our Adult Christian Formation programs at St. Dunstan's. Please pick up the most recent program guide & check our website regularly for more information on coming events.

Centering Prayer

Wednesdays at 6:30pm, Fridays at 11:30am
20 minutes of silence & connection with God.

Study Group


Wednesday at 7pm
A drop-in series of studies meant to inspire your faith. This group is a great way to meet members and ask important questions.

September *How to Read the Bible*
October *the Foundational Stories of our Hope*
November *the Women around Jesus*
December *How to Pray*

Lectio & Labyrinth

Fridays, from Noon to 1pm
A chance to practice our journeying & listening together. Indoor labyrinth practices are available.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Events marked with  are through the Centre for Spiritual Renewal.

Salmon Feast

*Saturday, September 14th from 6 to 7:30pm
Bring a salad or desert to share*

The “Shack” Movie Night



*Saturday, September 14th from 7:30 to 9pm
Popcorn supplied Donations welcome*

Spiritual Companions



*Sunday, September 15th from 11:30am to 1pm
Facilitated by Lorie Martin and Rev. David Taylor
No sign-up required Bring a lunch*

Spiritual Practice Series



*Sunday, September 15th from 7 to 8:30pm
Opening to Scripture-Lectio Divina with Rev. Sharon Smith
More information can be found in the Centre for Spiritual
Renewal program*

Messy Church

Friday, September 20th from 4:30 to 6:30pm

Parish Retreat Morning



*Saturday, September 21st from 9am to 12pm
Listening Prayer with Katherine Murray
More information can be found in the Centre for Spiritual
Renewal program*

Healing Prayer Teams

Saturday, September 21st from 12 to 4pm

Interfaith Labyrinth Walk



*Sunday, September 22nd from 2 to 3pm
More information can be found in the Centre for Spiritual
Renewal program*

Sung Evening Prayer



*Sunday, September 22nd from 7:30 to 8:30pm
“Opening to our Hearts-Posture of Receptivity to Grace”*

WEEKLY PRAYER

The following is a resource to help you connect with Sunday's theme & continue your prayers through the week. This can be done on your own or in the family group. This liturgy is based on Home Prayers found in the Book of Alternative Services (p. 687). **If you do not have a prayer book, please take & keep one for your use.**

The Christian Priority of **the cross** has been important from the first days of the early church. While it wasn't represented in art for almost a thousand years (because of its gruesomeness), it was part of the theological reflection of Jesus' followers. On the cross Jesus carried the Love of God to the most difficult places of human existence: betrayal of friends, injustice of political & economic systems, suffering & even death. Because Jesus, the Son of God, went to the cross, crosses no longer have the power of death over life. Suddenly we are given the power of life over death. We all carry crosses of internal fears & doubts. What is your cross this week?

1. The Preparation

A candle is lit as someone prays,

*All Loving God, Jesus was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself, may we who follow him have grace to take up our own. **Amen.***

2. The Reading & Reflection

Read the passage from Scripture then reflect using the wonder questions as your guide. This guide uses the New Revised Standard Version.

Our readings this week follow the first part of Matthew's Gospel. Matthew is a Gospel famous for the Sermon on the Mount. This week we will move to this sermon by way of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, his initiation into public ministry & the calling of his first followers. Some say that the Gospels are passion stories (stories about Jesus' death on the cross) with an extended introduction. While this may not be entirely accurate, it is true that the gospel is always moving toward the death & resurrection of Jesus & it is with the understanding of his death & resurrection that we are able to make sense of his life & ministry.

OUR INTERNAL STRUGGLE IS LIKE THE CROSS – MATTHEW 4:1-11

Notes on the reading:

- Ancient Christians used the idea of the devil to describe the source of our appetites & distractions.
- Jesus & the devil have an epic Scripture battle – Scripture can be used to harm & to heal.
- Jesus refuses to give into the temptation to seek out his own comfort, fame & power.

I wonder what internal doubts & fears you are facing this week.

I wonder what sort of angels have come to wait on you in your desert time.

Monday

THE CROSS IS BOTH AN END ✨ A BEGINNING – MATTHEW 4:12-17

Notes on the reading:

- John the Baptist's ministry ended with his death at the hands of Herod.
- Jesus begins his ministry at the end of John's ministry. John is Jesus' example of ministry.
- Matthew uses popular Hebrew prophesies of the messiah (the Saviour of the world) to "prove" Jesus is the one everyone was expecting. This particular prophecy from Isaiah (9:1-2) picks up themes of the early church that saw Jesus as the bringer of light ✨ enlightenment – the true interpreter of the ancient Law of Moses.
- Jesus' first sermon is about repentance (v. 17) – that is, a re-assessing of the direction one's life is going.

I wonder who is your example of someone living God's way.

I wonder how Jesus brings enlightenment to your life.

I wonder how your own cross has been a source of re-assessing your life's direction.

THE CROSS IS A COMMISSIONING INTO THE WAY OF JESUS – MATTHEW 4:18-12

Notes on the reading:

- Matthew is clear that Jesus is the one who notices his first disciples (v. 18). God sees us before we see God.
- Jesus uses the skills of his followers for different (life giving) purposes. His followers never stop being who they were.
- Notice in what way the first followers responded to Jesus: Immediately (vv. 20 ✨ 22).
- There is a detachment made by Jesus' followers when they follow him. Their new lives are marked by their past, but not determined by it.

I wonder if you have ever felt called by God.

I wonder if it is fair of God to call us to a difficult life of carrying a cross.

I wonder how your present life has been shaped by your past.

THERE IS HAPPINESS IN CROSSES – MATTHEW 5:1-10

Notes on the reading:

- This is the beginning of the great Sermon on the Mount.
- Notice how Jesus sees the crowds yet still focusses his attention on his followers (v. 1).
- The Greek work we translate to mean, Blessed, has the connotation of Happy ✨ even Lucky.
- The great reversals Jesus makes in these verses are intended to confound ✨ be provocative for those living the comfortable life.

I wonder if you feel like a follower of Jesus or just someone on the crowd.

I wonder if you feel happy or lucky in your life's circumstances.

I wonder which great reversal is your favourite, or reflects your hope the most.

I wonder how your cross (internal struggles) can be turned into sources of joy ✨ life.

THE CROSS IS AN ANCIENT LEGACY OF LIFE FOR THE WORLD – MATTHEW 5:11-16

Notes on the reading:

- Most prophets and people of God have suffered their own internal and external crosses (v. 12). One sign that a person is close to God is that they suffer (consider Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Joseph, Moses, Susannah, the Maccabees).
- We take our place in this lineage of cross-bearers who are both salt (v. 13) & light (v. 14) in this world.

I wonder if you have experienced persecution for something you believed.

I wonder if you know anyone who has suffered at the hands of a community.

I wonder what flavours you bring to the world.

I wonder how you participate in the enlightenment of the world begun by Christ.

3. Prayers & the Lord's Prayer

Choose a litany from the Book of Alternative Services (beginning on page 110).

The liturgy concludes with the Lord's Prayer.

the Fall of Feasts continues...

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22TH – THE PRIORITY OF RECONCILIATION

Orange Shirt Sunday with Guest Preacher **Melanie Delva**, the Animator for Reconciliation in the Anglican Church of Canada.

Readings: Luke 16:1-13

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH – THE PRIORITY OF ENVISIONING GOD

St. Michael & All Angels with Guest Preacher **Jeffery Stanley**, the Suicide Prevention Worker for the Anglican Church of Canada.

Readings: Genesis 28:10-17, Revelation to John 12:7-12, John 1:47-51

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH – THE PRIORITY OF CREATION

St. Francis (transferred from the 4th). **Bring your pets, pictures of pets & stuffies to this service for a special blessing of the animals.**

Readings: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4, 2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13TH – THE PRIORITY OF GRATITUDE

The Feast of Harvest Thanksgiving. Please bring an item for the **Aldergrove Food Bank!**

Readings: Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Philippians 4:4-9, John 6:25-35



The Parish of St. Dunstan

3025-264th Street, Aldergrove, B.C. V4W 2W4

604-856-5393 st.dunstans@telus.net

ST-DUNSTANS.CA



The Parish of St. Dunstan, Aldergrove



Office hours

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 8:30 – 12:00 pm

Wardens

Theresa Tancock 604-614-7145
Lois Curtis 778-347-0817

Music Director

Carol Tindall 604-856-4695

Archbishop

the Most Reverend Melissa Skelton
vancouver.anglican.ca

Priest

the Reverend David Taylor
778-987-0530 dmatthew.taylor@gmail.com