

2017 ARCHIVAL EVENTS

JANUARY 7, 2018: EPIPHANY SUNDAY

"The grandest form of delusion is misconstruing the obvious. Persons with an open, inquisitive, and intuitive mind can detect hidden clues that aggressive, narrow-minded, and impatient rationalists fail to perceive." - Kilroy J. Oldster

DECEMBER 31, 2017: ♫ Here We Go A Wassailing ♫

DECEMBER 24, 2017: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - THE CANDLE OF LOVE

DECEMBER 17, 2017: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - THE CANDLE OF JOY.

Lessons and Carols were the focus of service on Sunday morning. The worship folder is attached as a file on the Worship Ministry Page.

DECEMBER 10, 2017: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This morning the Candles of Hope and Peace were lit. The Service was presided over by the Faith Quest children and Youth. Details can be gathered by checking out the Worship Ministry Page.

DECEMBER 3, 2017: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This morning we lit the candle of Hope on this first Sunday of Advent. From the worship folder:

"Memory awakens Hope - Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to humanity. Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope... It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."

Prior to the service, we sang carols. The candlelighting ceremony included the lighting of the advent candle as well as the candle for our value of the month, "SUSPENSE." Our guest speaker was Cathy Rigby from the POST Program of the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocate Centre. One of our hymns was entitled "Advent's Hope" with words written by Rev. Peggy. Music ministry was offered by the Sanctuary Choir with Brent directing and Garrett on the piano.

NOVEMBER 12, 2017

Sunday morning marked our Remembrance Service with the laying of the wreath by Vern McKeague, Last Post and Reveille by trumpeter, Pam Breuer, and music ministry by the Chamber Choir. Betsy Wollner and Rev. Peggy, through reflection and readings, reminded us of the sacrifices made and the need for peace in our world. The Arise dance troupe offered a

prayerful response to "T'iru Nebri." Thank you, Emily Martin, Maryn Bjorndahl, Jessalyn Britton and Pam Breuer, for sharing in our service.

NOVEMBER 5, 2017

COMPASSION, the Value of the Month, was the theme of the service Sunday morning. The Sanctuary Choir selections enhanced the service. Rev. Peggy picked up on Alison's Faith Chat story last Sunday and challenged us "to fill our invisible buckets" with acts of compassion. She reminded us of the work being done by Karen Armstrong and Charter for Compassion.

OCTOBER 22, 2017"

"Deep within you is everything that is perfect, ready to radiate through you and out into the world. It will cure all sorrow and pain and fear and loss because it will heal the mind that thought these things were real, and suffered out of its allegiance to them." - Chrys Moelter-Gray

"The God you are looking for is within."

"REFLECTING THE ESSENCE OF GOD" was the theme of this morning's service. The Angel Voices offered an anthem, Traces, set to music by Garrett Krause and their A cappella rendition of Ubi Caritas by O. Gjeilo was incredible. Rev. Peggy shared her answers to the big questions like "How can we honour our divine nature? and "Why did God create us? and "Are we worthy of God?" Jesus taught that God was within us. God is not separate but part of us, a devine presence. We are called to reflect God's presence in our lives. We are on a journey of becoming better and better images of God. True freedom is being what we are meant to be. Namaste.

OCTOBER 15, 2017

Rev. Peggy McDonagh presided over the service today while Rev. Kelley assisted Alison Demeter with Faith Quest. This being World Food Sunday, Rev. Peggy reminded us of the struggle faced by so many in today's world to meet simple basic needs. It is impossible to consider world food shortages without recognizing the future of migration. Climate change and conflict with subsequent displacement of peoples has reached record highs (26 million yearly). Almost a billion people are on the move as they seek better lives. Most of those people are in the 15-34 years age range. Rev. Peggy reminded us of how Jesus dealt with the issues of poverty but in his time, the poor were tied to the land and migration was not allowed.

Jesus calls us to provide fair sharing of the earth, food and security. The Calgary Food Policy Council is trying to eradicate hunger in Calgary by 2030. We are reminded to eat mindfully, not be wasteful and to reduce our environmental footprint. Rev. Peggy challenged us to share what we have and experience dependence and gratitude.

"God, take my hands, take my life, ordinary as wheat or cornmeal, daily as bread- my stumbling generosity, my simple actions and find them good enough to help prepare the least for all the world's people."

OCTOBER 8, 2017

Rev. Kelley Warner presided over a joyous and gratitude-filled service Sunday morning. The Chamber Choir offered their ministry of song led by Brent with Garrett on the Piano and Claire Sharp on violin. With a focus on "Giving Thanks on Dark Days", the readings were Psalm 100, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 and Luke 17:11-19. The Seeds of Meditation included:

"It takes a lot of courage to have an 'attitude of gratitude' in dark times. But once you have it, it empowers you." - Joshua Tongol

"A kind gesture can reach a wound only compassion can heal." - Steve Maraboli

"IF the whole world was strewn with kind people like you, reasons for violence and anarchy would be very few. If everyone tried hard to be responsible and kind, an eye for an eye wouldn't make the world blind." - WishesMessages.com

OCTOBER 1, 2017

World Communion was celebrated and reflected upon at SDUC on Sunday. One of the readings shared by Bonnae McTavish was a quote from Matthew Fox , "The Eucharist is about the universe loving us unconditionally still one more time and giving itself to us in the most intimate way (as food and drink). Interconnectivity is the heart of the Eucharistic experience: God and humanity coming together, God and flesh, the flesh of wheat, wine, sunshine, soil, water, human ingenuity, stars, supernovas, galaxies, storms, fireballs- every Eucharist has a 15-billion-year sacred story that renders it holy."

SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

Rev. Peggy developed a theme of eagerness as the act of energizing the Spirit within. She explored how eagerness impacts her own life and challenged us to be mindful of how eagerness can make a difference in our lives.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

Rev. Kelley presided over Sunday morning's service as we launched into the month of September. The Value of the Month is "Eagerness" and it is with eagerness that we approach the coming calendar of activities and opportunities at St. David's. Her reflection, "God Calls Us," reminded us that we are all part of the ministry at St. David's.

Special music for this concluding summer service was provided by Carsten Rubeling on his trombone.

AUGUST 27, 2017

Rev. Peggy's theme Sunday morning was "Being God's Glow." As usual, Rev. Peggy's creativity gave us words to the hymn following her reflection.

"Travelling companions, friends on the journey.

Sharing our kindness, our grace to increase.

Truth gives our faith its courage and wisdom,
shaping our world with the light we release."

Our guest musician was baritone, Graham Fast.

You can follow the service as a file attachment by clicking on the Ministries/Worship page.

AUGUST 20, 2017

With Rev.Peggy presiding, we were invited to "Be Still and Know." Reinhard Sunnus was our guest musician.

"Our worship service was crafted around the contemplative worship style of reflection and meditation. Worship offered an opportunity to be silent and center on the Creator, Shaper and Sustainer of life, through prayers, readings, silence, soft music and repetitive words. Silence is an important aspect of this particular practice. Silence is about holding oneself in the present moment and letting Christ spirit, through the Holy Spirit, pray in and through us. We were invited to share in the contemplative spirit and let ourselves be embraced, renewed and refreshed."

JULY 30, AUGUST 6

We welcome back from Brazil our Rev. Kelley Warner. Her service this week reflected on her trip South. Special music this week (August 6) was provided by Garrett Krause, guest organist, and Scott Blair, recorder.

JULY 23, 2017

ACTS Ministry presided over the worship service this morning. Worshippers were greeted by members of the July Sacred Service team and by the "new" ACTS banner, designed and donated by Dave Layton. Our Adult Spiritual Development Minister Wayne Holst led us through prayers and reflection. Along with members of the ACTS ministry, Bonnae McTavish, Jock McTavish, Joan Gray, Brenda Wallace and Marlene Holst, we explored the theme of "Awakening Compassion."

Our guest musician, Lindsay Johnson, offered her talent with the French Horn and joined Brent on the harpsichord with "Largo for Horn and Piano."

JULY 16, 2017

Rev. Deb Stockdale presided over the service this morning. Harpist, Gianetta Baril was our guest soloist and John Wilkes shared "Words of hope and joy from Isaiah 55: 10-13 to his people in exile.

Anne Lamott wrote,"I think joy and sweetness and affection are a spiritual path. We're here to know God, to love and serve God and to be blown away by the beauty and miracle of nature.

You just have to get rid of so much baggage to be light enough to dance, to sing, to play. You don't have time to carry grudges, you don't have time to cling to the need to be right."

Rev. Deb reminded us of the feeling of joy and relief we recently experienced by the rain following the heat wave of the previous week. "God's word is like rain, bringing us back to life."

JULY 9, 2017

Jesus' Parables came to life this morning as Alison and her faithful band of disciples reenacted the familiar story of Jesus and his ministry. With Garrett on the piano and Alison on guitar, we sang a host of familiar country tunes. Kerry, Eileen and Brian joined Alison in telling the stories and singing the songs. Of course, the July Sacred Service team and the PSALT team looked after the amenities. Thank you to all participants.

JULY 2, 2017

The readings this morning (read by Shirley Elder) retold two somewhat difficult Bible stories: Abraham's story of obedience as he prepared his son Isaac for sacrifice and Jesus' reminder of discipleship that demanded extreme loyalty of those who would follow him. Rev. Kelley's Reflection asked, "What are We Willing to Sacrifice?"

JUNE 18, 2017

The service this morning honoured the Indigenous Peoples of Canada. Clarence Wolfleg Jr. raised his voice in song and, along with his talented drumming, he opened and closed the service. Singer and composer Dorothy Walker shared her music with us as did Chantal Chagnon, her mother, Cheryle Chagnon-Greyeyes, and son, Brandon. Chantal lent her insights to us in the "Teaching" component of the service.

JUNE 11, 2017

The Kairos Blanket Exercise, involving many readers and participants, was the focus of Sunday morning's worship service. The congregation circling the blankets and the Aboriginal artifacts were invited to imagine our land as it existed prior to the arrival of the Europeans and the subsequent consequences over time as our land was populated with newcomers. Click on the following link for further information. [Kairos Blanket Exercise](#)

JUNE 4, 2017

This morning Clare Beers and her Men's Chorus provided their ministry of song. Their first anthem, "Faith is Like a Child" featured Bob Betty on the clarinet and their rendition was arranged by Garret Krause who, along with Colleen Charter, accompanies our choirs on a regular basis. Rev. Peggy's reflection reminded us that "I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together," and received applause from the congregation upon conclusion.

MAY 28, 2017

Our service this morning was followed by our annual spring barbecue. There was lots of great food and even greater conversation and comraderie.

MAY 14, 2017

Music Sunday morning featured the Chamber Choir who shared with us as anthems selections prepared for the Organ Recital last Sunday evening. Our organ, installed 30 years ago, is just coming into its own and, of course, our choirs add so much to the worship services at St. David's. As well, Sunday morning we had a guest pianist, Emily Howarth, who shared her musical talent with us.

MAY 7, 2017

Presiding over Sunday morning's service were the people and staff of St. David's and they did an amazing job of leading us in worship. The Ministry of Families team, led by Alison Demeter, along with the Faith Quest children and youth (and Rev. Peggy) walked us through "God's Garden." Little ones dressed as lambs and stars, sprouts and flowers invited us to share in the wonders of God's creation. With song and script the little and not so little voices offered us a wonderful finale to their year of study devoted to spiritual practices. Thank you, team.

APRIL 30, 2017

We were pleased to welcome performers from Hillhurst United's Coming Out In Faith event. We had 3 special guests who shared their personal stories about how faith has intersected with their sexuality and gender identity. Special music was offered by Dean Lauderdale.

APRIL 23, 2017

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE was St. David's 'Giving Sunday" with a luncheon following the service. An all family mailing outlined our Salt-Seasoning and Light-Bearing Stewardship Program for the current financial year. If you didn't receive yours, contact the office at 403 284-2276.

ORGAN 102 - second in a series- followed service this morning. A group of people were given a behind-the-scene tour of the organ! Mark May 7 on your calendar -- we will be celebrating the gift of organ music at St. David's.

Next Sunday, April 30, our guests will be a three member team from Hillhurst. A light lunch will be served after service prior to the Chameleon Drama Groups' presentation of "The Dragon Factor."

APRIL 16, 2017

The church was filled to overflowing this morning as we came together for our Easter Sunday Celebration. The combined choirs, the "Arise" Dancers, the string, percussion and keyboard instruments, readings and reflection followed by delicious hot cross buns made this service one to be remembered during the coming church year.

APRIL 9, 2017

Waving palm branches enhanced the Palm Sunday Service as did the troupe of young and old in costume who passed out branches, shared in the meaningful service and prepared us for Easter.

MARCH 26, 2017

Spring break for many of the schools in Calgary is underway. Youth Faith Quest were busy painting their room while the folks upstairs were greeted with their brown paper baggies arranged alphabetically by first names on lines complete with little clothes pegs. Each bag contained the gratitude slips that were completed two Sundays ago and during the welcoming session at the beginning of service, we were invited to share a "Gratitude" with another person and to remember and live that gratitude for the week.

MARCH 19, 2017

The brown paper bags were waiting for congregants at the entrance to the sanctuary and a great deal of visiting happened as each person sought out his or her bag. With members of Sally's Sacred Service Team on hand, greeting folks as they arrived, it was an amazing community to behold. Each bag holds three slips of paper upon which are written personal gratitudes.

The covenanting ceremony with Nooshin Esmaeili, Trent Burke and Abby Hunter McLaren, all of whom serve in the Ministry of Families, involved the Faith Quest children, Alison Demeter and Peggy McDonagh. Cake, commemorating the occasion, was served after service in the T.M. room, suitably decorated with balloons and streamers!!

A welcome guest, Gayda Errett, is visiting from Ontario. She is recipient of a prestigious award for her contributions to Children's Dance here in Calgary.

MARCH 12, 2017

Mysterious brown paper baggies peeked the interest of congregants as they entered the church Sunday morning. Inside, we discovered little slips of paper inviting us to jot down on each something for which we are grateful. (This launches our Salt and Light stewardship program which calls upon us to deliberately and intentionally acknowledge how fortunate we are.) Later in the service we were asked to draw a gratitude slip from another's set and to live with that gratitude through the coming week. Mine will be gratitude for the bounties of nature all around us.

Music this morning featured the Chamber Choir with Brittany Rae, Jo Galinis-Ursel, Ruth Cross and Eric Nyland.

MARCH 5, 2017

The little children gathered downstairs on the big rug after a delicious luncheon for a session of Children's Yoga led by Kirsten Wallace while the adults gathered in the sanctuary with Sara Glessing as they "Embody Spirituality."

FEBRUARY 26, 2017

Bring your yoga mat and comfortable clothing to worship next Sunday morning and take part in the "Embodied Spirituality" program offered by Pastoral Care.

FEBRUARY 19, 2017

This is a short week for SDUC with Monday being Family Day. The occasion was reflected at church Sunday as our families with little ones were off campus, enjoying the day. ACTS Book Study, Monday night, is on as is the rehearsal for Angel Voices. Qigong is available to us on Wednesday morning with Janice Rider, ACTS Bible Study with Wayne Holst is Thursday morning's highlight and Saturday offers an intensive Pastoral Care First Aid Course. After Service on Sunday morning, you can find out all about the Heather and Bill Chubb-Way upcoming trek to Guatemala with their stoves or you can head out toward Cochrane for the ACTS Annual Lenten Retreat at Mt. St. Francis that starts at 11:30 with a delicious and silent lunch.

FEBRUARY 12, 2017

The upcoming week provides opportunities to join the Prayer Shawl Knitting Group on Monday afternoon, Feb. 13, or to take part in the Qigong program Wednesday a.m. at 9:30, or attend the WEST MY FRIEND concert on Saturday night at 7 p.m. Standing invitations to join ACTS for Book study on Monday evenings at 7:00 and/or Bible study on Thursday a.m. at 9:30.

FEBRUARY 5, 2017

Ryan Anderson from MECG (Metro Alliance for the Common Good) was our special guest this morning. Information on this recently-formed Community organization can be found under January News.

DECEMBER 25, 2016:

Rev. Kelley led the service on Sunday morning as we gathered to celebrate Christmas Day while our turkeys were cooking at home awaiting family feasts. Special thanks to Diane Trew for her beautiful singing, to Mike Trew for his readings, Brent for his musical leadership, to Tauren Wood for offering his "sound and light" expertise and to David Layton, who prepared his inaugural powerpoint as projectionist. December's Sacred Service team, led by Heather Chubbway, shovelled walks, prepared the sanctuary, welcomed and ushered. Heather and Bill locked up after exchanging December's value of the month, for January's -- Encouragement. Rev. Deb Stockdale will be leading the service on New Year's Day.

DECEMBER 18, 2016:

A tradition begun in the late nineteenth century was honoured during the service Sunday morning with the sanctuary choir leading us in song and lessons. Communion was incorporated into the nine lessons.

DECEMBER 11, 2016.

Family Ministry presented their White Gift Sunday service, complete with a Christmas Pageant, Mrs. Fletcher's "Christmas, She Wrote" and congregational carol singing. As well, the talents of our youth and children was presented through dance, piano recitals and an organ postlude. Thank you for your participation. Special thanks go to Alison Demeter for her creativity and organizational skills.