

St. Paul's Post

EASTER
2018

St. Paul's Anglican Church
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Go into the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.

Mark 16: 15

The gospel according to Mark is shortest and likely earliest of the stories of the life and witness of Jesus. The writer is a person of few words and of those, mostly nouns and verbs. If it were a movie, Mark's gospel would be an action story with very little window dressing. There is a sense of urgency in getting the message out, though the writer leaves much to the imagination and faith of the reader. It is also the only gospel that has three possible endings. The first is like a cliff hanger. The women find the young man / angel in the empty tomb who tells them that Jesus has been raised from the dead. He instructs them to go and tell the others, but they say nothing to anyone for they are terrified.

Then there is the shorter ending of Mark that suggests the women do tell Peter and those around him. Afterwards, Jesus sends them out to spread the good news. And finally, there is a longer ending which attempts to calm our fears by speaking of multiple resurrection appearances and Jesus' mandate to *Go into the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.*

It's a perfect gospel for St. Paul's at this time in our history. It feels a bit like we have been through a death and are now into rebirth. And while people are a little anxious about the future, there are all sorts of hope-filled, resurrection possibilities for this parish. And they all include Jesus going ahead of us. We may not know exactly what the future holds but we do know that we can trust the resurrected Christ to lead the way. Empowered by the grace and Spirit of God, our task is to proclaim



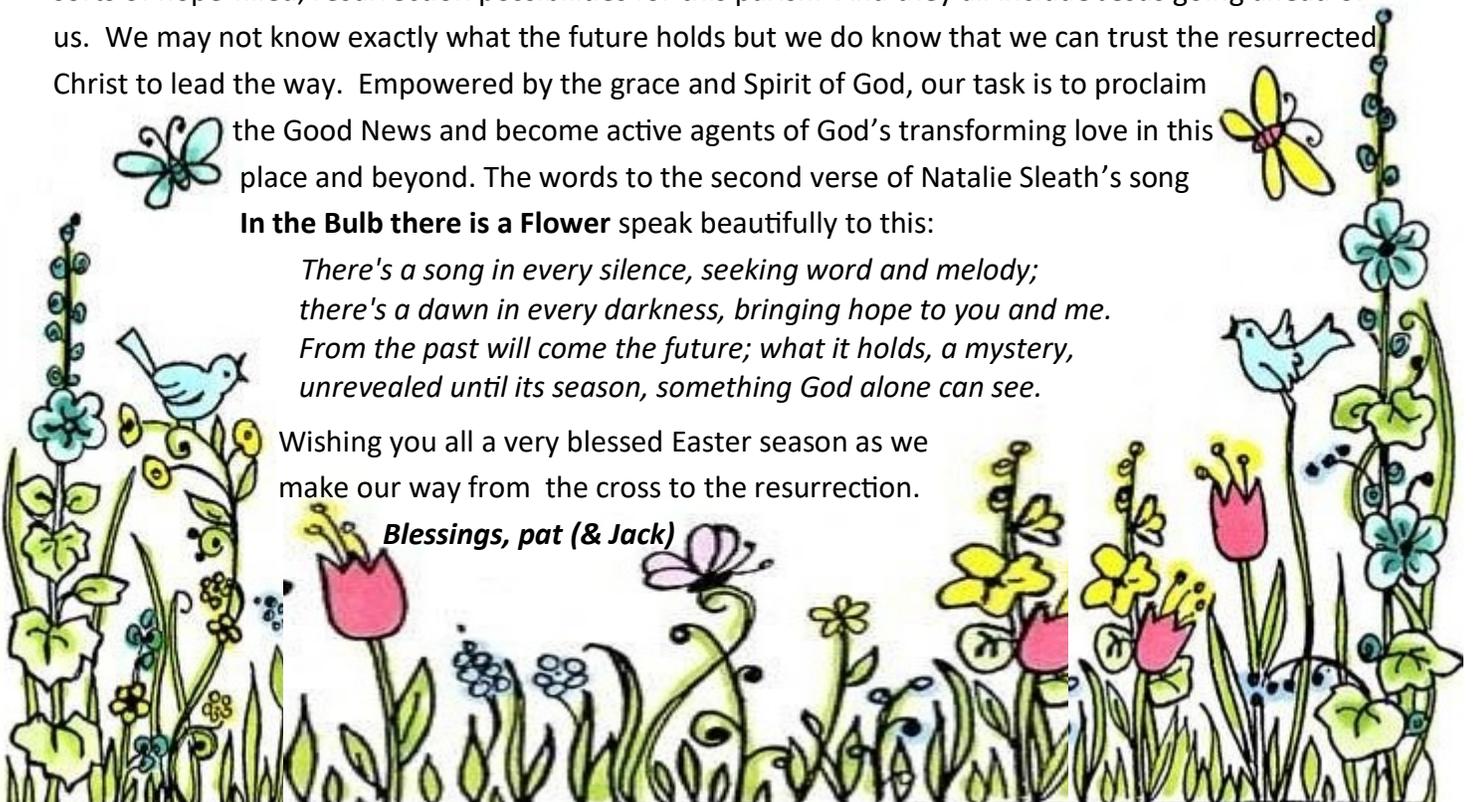
the Good News and become active agents of God's transforming love in this place and beyond. The words to the second verse of Natalie Sleath's song

In the Bulb there is a Flower speak beautifully to this:

*There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

Wishing you all a very blessed Easter season as we make our way from the cross to the resurrection.

Blessings, pat (& Jack)



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An Invitation...

“Go into the world and proclaim the Good News to the whole creation”!

What a wonderful thought. Now you may ask yourself first what is the Good News? And second, how does one set about to proclaim it? These are but two of the multitude of questions that will be explored in Education for Ministry—EFM for short.

Verna Dozier says in her book *The Dream of God* that the story is not easy to comprehend. She goes on to suggest that much activity has to go into knowing it – hearing, reading, marking, learning and inwardly digesting it.

For 10 plus years I have walked with folks as they explore the most fundamental questions of life. Those who choose to walk this path are changed. We will be starting a new EFM group in the fall of 2018. If you would like to be a part of this group, please let me know soon. Registration for the new group will close in July.

David McCreery

Psalm to Virgin Spring *by Edward Hays* from *Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim*

Drawn upward by some hidden power,
life is cracking the crust of the earth
and bursting forth from limb and stem.

Your aroma, O Life-giver,
Is upon the springtime wind,
and I feel its power
stirring deep within me.

Green is your color, O God,
the green of new life
that lovingly transfigures earth's dreariness,
long held prisoner
by the icy web of winter's cold.

Green up my heart with hope,
in your perpetual promise of life.
Send forth from my soul
new shoots, fresh buds
eager to grow in your divine image.

May this year's visit of virgin Spring
make my heart a virgin once again
intoxicated with wild love for you,
whom I discover in all things
and in everyone.

Submitted by Michael Mavis



ALL IS CREATION

Opinion Piece by Chris Cavan

Member of the Centre for Creative Living's Writing Circle at St. Paul's

Seen from outer space, our blue planet looks like an embryo. Vulnerable. Fragile. If we place any faith in science and are contemplative at all, collectively we must feel that our status quo continuation as a burgeoning presence on this planet may be limited.

"And ye shall have dominion..." The concept of *environmental stewardship* originates with the first of the creation stories, in which God gives humans dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the animals of the land (Gen 1:1–2:4).

Traditionally, Christians have distorted the mandate to "exercise dominion" to mean that creation was made for human beings and that we have a right to dominate and exploit creation for our own wants and needs. This has led to incalculable abuses of nature. The very meaning of the word "dominion" and its interpretation is currently debated by biblical scholars and people of faith.

When we look at our blue planet from space we could be complacent about water and its abundance. We are 7 billion humans and counting. We are consuming, polluting, wasting and destroying the water of our precious home like never before. Seven

billion people, many of whom just want more, more, more. More power to them and for them is required on a daily basis – despite the cost to Mother Earth. This is unsustainable.

If we could only learn from the demise of so many other civilizations and species on Earth. Our trembling blue orb's creatures may be on the brink of a human-manufactured Armageddon, a full scale collapse that neither God nor armies of angels nor saints can save us from. We can do this to ourselves with or without weapons of mass

destruction, although parts of the Earth are burning with that hatred.

Over 99% of all species that ever existed on our planet are now extinct. Think about that. Meditate on it. Pray for us sinners who always want more and can't or won't accept that our prayers for limitless things and experiences MUST be answered if God is good! Abundance, after all, was our birth promise in this world, wasn't it? Without any regard for our stewardship responsibilities to our ecosystem, more will surely be less.

How disastrous for the human age that people would rather hide behind screens of oblivion than accept the glaring truth that ALL of creation is equal and interdependently woven in a fragile web! When a link breaks our tenuous positions for sustainability become threatened.

Our rivers' tears carry nuclear waste and every other lethal chemical known to HUMANITY. The precious and abundant water on our planet is becoming unpotable, hazardous and unavailable. We seek pleasure and distraction rather than shouldering the responsibility to work for change. We must let our leaders know that we care about the integrity of our water resources. Projects like Pickering and Darlington and

the proposed mega-dump for radioactive and other deadly wastes at Chalk River could well be the next Fukushimas or Chernobyls.

"And ye shall have dominion..." If Jesus's tears over what has been done in his name were fresh water, perhaps Creation COULD be truly saved in this world and not the next.



A heri grontapu di Gado meki bun doro, dóro!

This year, the World Day of Prayer (WDoP) program was written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Suriname and based on Genesis 1:1-31, All God's creation is very good! Observance of World Day of Prayer began in 1952 and continues today.

The year's WDoP ecumenical service on March 2, was hosted St Paul's with the participation of seven Almonte churches. As attendees entered the church, they noticed the nave table, decorated with the Surinamese flag colours: red, white, yellow and green. A framed copy of the Surinamese WDoP poster, designed by Surinamese artist Alice Pomstra-Elmont, depicts hands symbolically receiving the divine gift of creation.

Where is Suriname? It is a republic in north-eastern South America, bordered by Guyana, French Guiana and Brazil. Tropical rainforest covers 90% of this country; the climate is warm and humid. With this in mind, a basket of palms, a container with tropical flowers, including heliconia and a small pot of geraniums were placed on our table. Dutch is the official language; the common language is Sranan, a creole languages that originated with the slaves.

In the 15th century, Europeans arrived, looking for gold. When the gold rush ended unsuccessfully, indigenous people supplemented by Africans were enslaved to work sugar, coffee and tobacco plantations. The Netherlands acquired Suriname from Britain in 1667. Slavery was officially abolished in 1863 but continued in other forms well into the 20th century. Suriname attained independence in 1975.

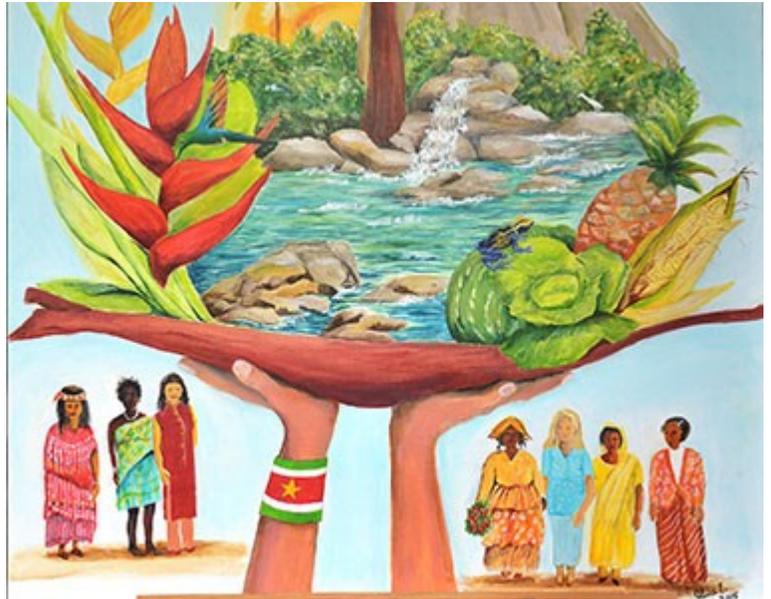
Religions are Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Javanism, Judaism and traditional religions. The World Bank ranks Suriname 17th richest in natural resources.

About 15% of Suriname is ecologically protected and the Central Suriname Nature Reserve is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A more sustainable system of forestry developed in Suriname has been copied by larger nations such as Brazil and Venezuela.

Gold mining is a major environmental problem. Mine tailings containing mercury pour into the rivers, poisoning fish and the people who eat them, another chapter in the world-wide problem of mercury contamination, also experienced in our own country!

All who attended our WDoP service learned from and enjoyed the event, which included hymn-singing led by St Paul's musicians and fellowship time over refreshments, where we chatted with friends and neighbours.

In 2019, the Almonte Baptist Church will host this annual event.



Lynda Bennett, WDoP Coordinator 2018



We have wonderful property at St Paul's and we have room to host a bee hive program which would help the declining honeybee population.

The company is called "Gees Bees" and they provide fully managed beehive rentals. They handle all of the work so that we can experience bee-keeping and enjoy the charm of a hive while we promote bee colony health, as well as the pollination of local crops

We will also be provided with 24 500g jars of honey with which we can defray the cost of hosting the hive.

Imagine that! pure hyper-local honey from our own property.

This proposal is being presented to Parish Council for approval.

How exciting to share our property and care for creation !

Karen Masson

Editor's Note: The hive will be located away from high-traffic areas, likely on the river bank. Signage will be erected.

Hold on to what is good

Hold on to what is good
even if it is
a handful of earth.
Hold on to what you believe
even if it is
a tree which stands by itself.
Hold on to what you must do
even if it is
a long way from here.
Hold on to life even when
it is easier letting go.
Hold on to my hand even when
I have gone away from you.

- nancy wood - 1974

From

www.worldprayers.org/archive/prayers/celebrations/

Submitted by Sue Evans

ALL IS CREATION

"No more playing on the beach, Ben!"

"You have to drink only bottled water at the cottage, Benjamin!"

My grandchild's eyes brim over -

Our beloved River has become a radioactive waste dump.

"The River is sick, Ben."

His large eyes look up at me.

"Can't you kiss it better for me, Granny?"

Chris Cavan

For more information about the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories' proposal to locate a massive radioactive waste dump at Chalk River, Ontario on the shore of the Ottawa River please read this brief article:

Ten Things Canadians Need to Know About the Chalk River "Near Surface Disposal Facility" http://www.ccnr.org/10_Things.pdf

Lament

Simple my flute
that someone not knowing
made
from wood with lingering scent
of roses

That another not knowing
played
and then left in a drawer
dormant for years
waiting
to fill the air with sweet, clear
mellow tone
because, at least,
it wanted playing.

And because I needed to play it
and wanted to
for myself,
for my breath
to blow hope firmly, strongly
through the heart of a rosewood tree

And because now knowing
to send my grief-filled gratitude
echoing among the hills
that gave it up
and where few grow now

I do play it
in faith
whether anyone is listening or not.

*Sue Evans
February 2018*



Oh One

Oh One in whom we live
Oh One in whom we move
Oh One in whom we have our being
Have mercy on us for being oblivious
Have mercy on us for being distracted
Have mercy on us for being unfaithful

Oh One who created us
Oh One who calls us your
children
Oh One who weeps for
your children
Have mercy on us for
forgetting you
Have mercy on us for
forgetting your love
Have mercy on us for forgetting to love your children



Oh One who created our world
Oh One who created the universe
Oh One who created us to be stewards of your creation
Have mercy on us for our selfishness
Have mercy on us for our greedy consumption
Have mercy on us for our careless pollution

Oh One in whom we live and move and have our being
Give us grace to live conscious of your presence
Oh One who is our Abba, who created us your children
Give us grace to be filled with your love for us and your
children
Oh One who is our creator, and who has given us
stewardship
Give us grace to amend our lives, that your kingdom
may come.
Amen and Amen.

Dan Berg

Living Peacefully on Earth

Richard Rohr, *Center for Action and Contemplation*

Friday, March 9, 2018

To live non-violently—both toward humans and nature—requires that we recognize God’s image in each living thing. We cannot be violent toward someone or something when we see the divine in them. My friend and nonviolent activist John Dear recently published a new book, They Will Inherit the Earth, from which I’d like to share today.

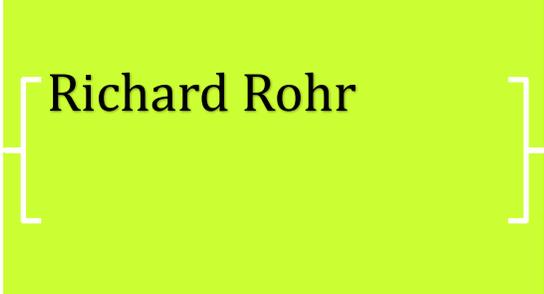
“Over the decades, I have witnessed the destruction we humans have done to Mother Earth and her creatures. I’ve read about catastrophic climate change and experienced the changes—the droughts, the strange weather, the extreme fires and tornadoes and rainfall. . . . I grieve for Mother Earth and the creatures who die because of our systemic greed, violence, and destructive habits. But I never made or felt the connection between my vision of nonviolence and the ongoing destruction of Mother Earth. Until now. . . .

“Blessed are the meek,” Jesus says in the Beatitudes. Thomas Merton wrote that “meekness” is the biblical word for nonviolence. “Blessed are the nonviolent,” Jesus is saying. . . . “They will inherit the earth.” . . .

A life of nonviolence leads to oneness with creation and her creatures.

A life of violence, of course, leads to an abrupt discord with creation. In a time of permanent warfare, nuclear weapons, and catastrophic climate change, the message couldn’t be clearer. The God of peace, the nonviolent Jesus, and his Holy Spirit call us to practice nonviolence. In that way, we’ll renounce and stop our environmental destruction, tend our Garden of Eden together, and restore creation to its rightful peace. In the process, we will discover peace with one another and all the creatures. . . .

This is the journey we are all called to live, to make the connection between active nonviolence and oneness with creation, so that we all might dwell peacefully in this paradise. . . . I [see] not just the vision of peace and nonviolence, but the vision of a new creation, where we all live as one in peace with one another, Mother Earth and her glorious creatures. It’s that vision of peace, nonviolence, and the new creation, the vision of the promised land before us, the practice of proactive nonviolence, that offers a way out of environmental destruction, as well as permanent war, corporate greed, systemic racism, and extreme poverty. All we have to do is open our eyes to the reality of creation before us, to be present to it, to take it in and honor it, and welcome its gift of peace—and do so within the boundaries of nonviolence. In that present moment of peace, a new creation is offered to us once again.



Richard Rohr

Is an American Franciscan friar ordained to the priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church in 1970. He heads the Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He often refers to his position as being on the "edge of the inside", as a prophetic place from which to challenge and encourage the Church.

He is the author of a daily meditation, that you can receive either by email or through Facebook. See the Center for Action and Contemplation web site for details: cac.org



HOLY WEEK and EASTER

Please join us...

Holy week is designed to walk us through the foundational story of our faith. It is a pilgrimage from palms and hosannas to the resurrection by way of the cross. We hope you can join us as we journey with our Lord.

On **Palm Sunday**, we remember Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem for Passover.

On **Maundy Thursday**, we enter into the story of the Passover meal (the basis of the Last Supper). Then we move upstairs for the Maundy Thursday Liturgy that includes foot washing (in John's gospel, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples on the night before his death). And we recall the institution of the Last Supper as we celebrate the Eucharist. At the end of the Eucharist we strip the altar and remove all the decorative pieces in the church. Finally, we spend an hour in prayer as we stay awake with our Lord on the night of his arrest.

On **Good Friday**: we begin by retelling the story of the crucifixion with the Liturgy of the Passion. We go to the cross through readings, prayer and music. Then we join in the ecumenical Walk of the Cross, visiting several local churches. This year the walk begins at St. Paul's and ends at Almonte Baptist church.

On **Easter Day** we gather outside around a fire at 6:30 a.m and carry the new light / fire into the church. This is a brief service of readings, prayers and singing – then downstairs to a light breakfast. Services

Schedule of Services

March 25 Palm / Passion Sunday

There will be a palm procession at the beginning of the 10:30 am service.

March 28 Holy Wednesday

A simple mid week Lenten service at 11 am at St. Paul's.

March 29 Maundy Thursday

5:30 pm ~ Seder Meal ~ *Sign up sheets for the Seder meal are at the back of the church.*

7:00 pm ~ Foot washing, Institution of the Last Supper, stripping of the altar

8:00 pm ~ 30 minutes of candle light / silent prayer

8:30 pm ~ Compline

March 30 Good Friday

11:00 am ~ Celebration of the Passion of our Lord

Noon ~ The Walk of the Cross – begins at St. Paul's Anglican Church

Please see Pat if you are able to volunteer as a reader or to assist in carrying the Cross

April 01 Easter Day

6:30 am ~ Sunrise service followed by a light breakfast

8:30 and 10:30 am services as usual

There will be an **Easter Egg Hunt** after the 10:30 a.m. service