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**St Paul's Anglican Church Almonte**



**For Sunday May 30 2021**

**Trinity Sunday**

God eternal.  
Three  
in one



See us on the [WWW](#) - [Facebook](#) - [YouTube](#)

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**Watch your Email In-box!**

A message from Rev. Jonathon about a diocesan initiative will arrive soon.

## Education for Ministry (EFM)

EFM is an exciting program of adult Christian education covering areas such as Biblical Studies, Church History, Theology, Spirituality, and Theological Reflection. The program takes place over four years of part-time studies. Typically, we meet at St. Paul's every second Sunday afternoon from September until June. Students complete reading assignments ahead of time and then meet as a group with mentors to discuss the readings and engage in guided theological reflections. Although EFM is considered a university level course, fortunately there are no written essays or exams!



St. Paul's has hosted our own EFM group for many years, although many of our participants have been from other parishes or other denominations. According to the rules set by EFM Canada, we are required to have a minimum number of participants in order to run an EFM group. Due to a number of factors we did not meet that minimum threshold and were not able to run the program this past year. However, we are hoping that as the situation with the pandemic improves and as we are able to meet again in person, that we will have enough interest to once again start an EFM group at St. Paul's this coming September.

If you are interested in learning more about this exciting program, please email Rev. Jonathon at: [jonathonkouri@hotmail.com](mailto:jonathonkouri@hotmail.com)

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### A Message from Rev. Jonathon The Jewish Origins of Pentecost

This past Sunday we celebrated Pentecost. It is widely recognized by Christians as a time to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the first disciples. (For a description of this event, see the New Testament Book of Acts, Chapter 2). Of course, Pentecost is also a time to celebrate the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives today.



What many Christians don't realize is that Pentecost had its origins in Judaism. In fact, throughout its history, Christianity often borrowed from the beliefs and practices of pre-Christian and non-Christian religions and cultures. This shouldn't be entirely surprising since Christianity emerged out of Judaism. Jesus and the first disciples were all Jewish. They read the Hebrew Scriptures, worshipped at the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem and in local synagogues, and observed Jewish customs.

The English word Pentecost (like many other Christian words) is based on the Greek word Pentekostos. This is roughly translated as "fifty" or "fiftieth". It is directly linked to, and

based on, the Jewish festival of Shavuot. With Israel being situated in a much milder Mediterranean climate, they were able to have two harvests every year - one in the spring and one in the fall. The spring harvest lasted for seven weeks beginning around the time of Passover, and included barley and wheat harvests.

There are many references to this festival in the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible. It is called the "Feast of Harvest" in Exodus 23:16 and "The Day of Firstfruits" in Numbers 28:26. This reflects the fact that like many other religious beliefs and practices, it developed gradually over time. Regardless of what it was called, the purpose of this festival was to recognize and give thanks to God as the source of rain, fertility, and food.

Because the spring harvest lasted for a period of seven weeks, and because one week is made up of seven days, this period was sometimes known as a "Week of Weeks" or simply "Weeks". The Hebrew word for weeks is Shavuot, and this is what the festival is known as to the Jewish people to this day.

Shavuot was one of three "Pilgrim Festivals" in ancient Judaism, where Jewish people from all over the known world would travel to the Temple in Jerusalem to celebrate. This is why we read in Acts Chapter 2 that there were people from a long list of geographic regions present in Jerusalem when Peter and the first disciples spoke to them in their own languages.

While it was originally an agricultural and religious festival centred around the Temple, the meaning of Shavuot for Jews changed following the destruction of the Temple by the Romans in the year 70. With Jewish people (for the most part) no longer living in Israel, and the Temple no longer existing, the festival was reinterpreted and reinvented to celebrate the giving of the Torah or Law to the people of Israel by God as recounted in the Book of Exodus. According to the Bible, it took seven weeks for the people of Israel to travel from Egypt to Mount Sinai where they received the Law.

Christians also reinterpreted and reinvented this ancient festival to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. In the first few centuries of Christianity, the time between Easter and Pentecost was a time for feasting and celebration. There was a belief that Christ might return during this season since He left the earth on the day of Ascension. New converts to Christianity were often baptized on Easter or Pentecost. They wore white robes, from which we Pentecost gets one of its names - White Sunday or Whitsunday. Whether it is the Jewish people celebrating the giving of the Law on Shavot or Christians celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, it is a time to celebrate God's action in our world.

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## **Pentecost Egg? Why Not?**

You may remember her article about the labyrinth she mows into her lawn every summer, and the pictures she provided of her winter version, shovelled though the snow.



Sally Hortop is definitely a trail blazer!

In honour of Pentecost, she painted a beautiful fiery egg.

Wow! What a lovely idea.



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### Are you concerned by the news you hear and read about the pandemic in India?

Elizabeth Veninga writes:

When I got my part 1 Vaccine recently, I was thinking how lucky we are to get it fast and free., But there are many in the world who cannot get it because of lack of funds- personally or as a country.

She turned her thoughts into action by contacting the national church to inquire whether PWRDF (The Primate's Fund for World Relief and Development) is active in this area.

Their response:

Yes we do have a program to make sure vaccines reach countries that need supply. It is called the **Vaccine Equity Fund**. You can read more

here: <https://pwrdf.org/vaccineequityfund/> or donate online

here: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E344492QE&id=27>

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And, of course, there are many other options, including

- UNICEF Canada
- OXFAM Canada
- Humanitarian Coalition
- CARE Canada
- Canadian Red Cross

Online donations can be made to these charities and others through the CanadaHelps [Support COVID-19 Relief Efforts in India](#) page. Or directly through the charities' web sites.



New in Karen Masson's garden: forget-me-nots honouring her Aunt Evelyn

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## Praying for Peace in the Middle East

From Rev. Jonathon

While many of us were thankful to see last week's ceasefire agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians, we are also well aware that a ceasefire is only really a temporary pause to a long and complicated conflict.

If you are interested in learning more about the current conflict, I would recommend two short videos. The first video is a brief (10 minute) video on the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. You can view this video [HERE](#).

The second video is a dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian young people who are living in the middle of the conflict. You can view this video [HERE](#).

I encourage everyone to pray for peace in the Middle East, possibly using the following prayer from the Church of Scotland:

God of justice, bless those who work for peace through justice. Strengthen their resolve in the face of seemingly endless violence. Guide the leaders of the people of the Middle East to know your will and to support a just peace for all of your children.

God of love, lifting up the holy land for all humankind, breathe love and compassion into our prayers with a desire for nothing other than peace: peace in our hearts, peace for all creation, and especially peace in the land that is called holy.

God of hope, we lift up the city of Jerusalem, distracted and divided, yet still filled with promise as all the cities of the world. Come again into our cities, places of worship, Upper Rooms and Gethsemanes, that we may be given sight to recognize you.

God of mercy, even as we long to understand that which is often beyond our comprehension, we lay before you the hearts, minds and bodies of all those suffering from conflict in Palestine and Israel and from the ongoing occupation. Shower upon all the people of the Holy Land the spirit of justice and reconciliation.

God of the nations, give to all our people the blessings of well-being, freedom, and harmony, and, above all things, give us faith in you that we may be strengthened to care for all those in need until the coming of your son, our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

From [The Church of Scotland](#)

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## A Bench-lift

(Like a facelift, only different!)

From Karen Luyendyk

**Sarah Spinks** has a wonderful wooden swing/bench under the maple tree in her front yard. The bench has been in need of sanding and painting for a while and one day returning to Sarah's apartment after a walk, I randomly (hypothetically) asked her what would be a good colour to paint it ... and Sarah said, "I dunno. Blue? I dunno..." and shrugged her shoulders.

I suggested a rainbow ... and Sarah smiled one of her great big smiles from behind her mask and said, "Sure!"

So, we decided this would make a great birthday present! The bench was sanded, painted white and then when Sarah was out for the day, a rainbow was painted on the seat back as a surprise



Sadly, green is missing from the rainbow (I didn't have any green paint... and stores... well stores are closed 😞) but God provided the green in the surrounding grass and the leaves overhead!





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## And Speaking of Birthdays...

From Katrina Ayling

Sarah Spinks' 36<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 23<sup>rd</sup> was very special, with a zoom party joined by many friends including Arlene Quinn singing in person, Dolly Parton singing from a distance, a Sens player sending greetings, and all of us playing "what would Sarah choose?", a game to see how well we all know her.

Then she joined Karen (Luyendyk), Katrina and Ron (Ayling) for fish 'n chips from the Cheeky Chippy, outdoors in the sunshine. In the attached photo, Sarah is sporting her new autographed Sens hat and her birthday jersey.

I think she slept well that night after opening her gifts, full of happy memories, love and good food!



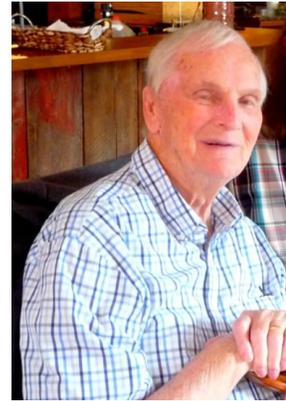
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## More Birthday News!

The Rev Jim Scanlon celebrated his 94th birthday on May 22.



Happy Birthday to Jim from all of us!



EDITOR'S NOTE: If you would like a birthday greeting included in this newsletter, please let the office know by phone or email! We'll do our best to accommodate!

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## READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

### Trinity

Click on a reading to see the text from the  
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) on the Bible Gateway

- First reading: [Isaiah 6:1-8](#)
  - Psalm: [Psalm 29](#)
  - Second reading: [Romans 8:12-17](#)
  - Gospel: [John 3:1-17](#)
- 



God For Us, we call You Father,  
God Alongside Us, we call You Jesus,  
God Within Us, we call You Holy Spirit.  
You are the Eternal Mystery that enables, enfolds, and enlivens all things, even us, and even me.

Every name falls short of your Goodness and Greatness.

We can only see who You are in what is.

We ask for such perfect seeing.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

Richard Rohr. [Centre for Action and Contemplation](#).

**In the World.** La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico; our Companion Diocese, The Diocese of Jerusalem and The Middle East and Archbishop Hosam Naoum.

**In Canada.** The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil, Bishop; The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson, Suffragan Bishop; The Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw, Suffragan Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Toronto; our Metropolitan, The Most Rev. Anne Germond and our Primate, The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls; our Sisters and Brothers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and their Bishop, Michael Pryse.

Pray for the people and churches involved in the Bales-for-the-North program.

**In our Diocese.** Our Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Shane Parker; Area Parish of the St. Lawrence Trinity: Cornwall Christ Church, Seaway and St. John's, Lancaster -- The Venerable Peter Crosby, The Reverend Adam Brown, Deacon Richard Matthias; Area Parish of South Carleton: Holy Trinity, North Gower; St. John's, Kars; and St. Paul's, Osgoode -- The Reverend Carolyn Seabrook and The Reverend Allan Budzin.

**In Our Community.** We ask God's blessing on local faith communities and on their ministries and, we pray for the people and leaders of this town of Almonte and the surrounding communities that the Lord will help us contribute to its well-being.

We pray for the work of our local not-for-profit organization, The Hub -- for staff, volunteers and clients.

We pray for the health, safety and well-being of our neighbours in the face of increased numbers of covid-19 cases in our area and for everyone involved in the distribution of covid-19 vaccines.

**In Our Parish.** We pray for Jonathon, our priest, for ourselves and for each other, remembering our Parish Council meeting on Wednesday evening.

We ask for God's healing hand to cover our members who are struggling with health issues.

We ask for God's blessing on our members David and Inez McCreery, Bonnie McCurdy, Joie Meehan

Barbara Milford, Paul and Fay Mills and Debbie Morton.

We remember our neighbors, especially Assad, Alsit, Lana and Elias.

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From [Political Graffiti](#)

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