



Salisbury United Church

*"Connecting hearts, minds and lives
in community with God"*

*"And Jesus was
driven by the Holy
Spirit into the
wilderness for
forty days ..."*

Mark 1:14

March 18, 2021 ENEWS

SOMETHING TO PONDER BY REV BRITT



Happy St. Patrick's Day! By the time you read this the day will have come and gone, but nevertheless, Happy St. Patrick's Day.

I don't know why it is that on this one day, the day that honours the patron Saint of Ireland, that we all suddenly become Irish. Or at least, we dress in green to honour the Emerald Isle, as Ireland is called. Yet if there are ever a people who have something to teach us, including lessons about survival and resilience, then we might look at Irish history a bit more closely.

St. Patrick, who is honoured on St. Patrick's Day, was himself a slave, taken captive from the shores of Wales and brought over to Ireland to tend sheep. He escaped, went on to become a Christian priest and the Bishop of Ireland. He also was a key founder for what would come to be called "Celtic Christianity" and went on to become a person with whom sainthood was associated. Given his beginnings, his accomplishments are something of a miracle. Not only are they a miracle, but his life is in many ways a parable for the experience of being Irish over the centuries.

I am not a direct student of Irish history, but I have paid attention to books like "The Brendan Voyage", "How the Irish Saved Civilization" and "The Celtic Christ." Here's a very brief summary of what I do know: Ireland was never successfully conquered by the Romans and remained free until it was invaded by the Vikings and later the English. With the English conquest came rapid land transfers into the hands of absentee English nobility, the replacement of Irish farmers in northern Ireland with Scottish planters, the disallowance of the use of the Irish language for education, business, religion, and the displacement of sheep and linen farming in favour of cash crops, especially potato farms. Then there was the great potato famine which brought waves of Irish immigration to the "new world" and the deaths of millions of Irish in Ireland through starvation. I could go on of course. Running through all this history was a general prejudicial attitude toward the Irish that they were lower class, incapable of real industry and of feeble moral character. Enough said.

Now, here is some of what else I know about Irish history. The Irish remained "Irish" through sheer persistence in longing for the right to be self-determining the way they once were and in the way that many other peoples and nations remained. Over centuries the Irish preserved their language and their sense of being Irish through music, storytelling, and remembered history that was passed on outside the "proper channels" of established education and religious convention. That preservation led them on

into a struggle, sometimes violent, sometimes fuelled by religious nationalisms, that eventually achieved the partitioning of the Irish Isle, and the independence of the Republic of Ireland. (Northern Ireland remains in the United Kingdom up to today.) Many of you will be far better able than I to recount this history in depth and lend it nuances. However, in the end the Irish remained uniquely Irish in spite of invasion, conquest, suppression, prejudice, and overt attempts at eradication of their sense of themselves as a people.

St. Patrick would have been astonished. He was himself not born Irish and could not see the back of Ireland fast enough when he escaped. Yet once away he eventually had a dream in which he heard:

The voice of the Irish... they were those beside the Wood of Voclut, which is near the Western Sea - and thus did they cry out as with one mouth: We ask thee, boy, come and walk among us once more.

On his return to Ireland, he brought with him an understanding of Irish life and the Irish language that lead him to lay the early foundations of an expression of Christianity that was distinctly Irish and Celtic. He incorporated native Irish rituals instead of trying to eradicate Irish traditional beliefs. Bonfires were lit at Easter for example and the sun disc was added to the Irish cross. Monasteries were organized along the same structure as local tribal settlements. Creation was spoken of with reverence as a direct link to the Creator. They taught Irish history and the Irish language along with Christianity. Long after Patrick's death, this Celtic form of Christianity continued to spread throughout the Celtic world. It continued to spread after the Council of Whitby which met in in Northumbria, a council convened by Roman church representatives. That Council declared that the Roman forms of church would be the legitimate expression of Christianity. I will say more about Celtic Christianity after the Council of Whitby in the next Enews.

Until next time, may the sun bless you with warmth and may the Lord be a comfort to you in these lengthening days until Easter. Happy St. Patrick's Day.

HOLY WEEK BEGINS ON PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2021

Holy Week will soon begin, and you are invited to join us online for the following services:

- Sunday, March 28, Palm Sunday, 10:30 am - have something to represent palms with you for worship: paper palms from your Lent-to-Go Kits, a branch like pussywillows or from a tree in your yard, a lightweight scarf you can wave.
- Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7 pm - have a small dish ready with something bitter (celery, parsley), something sweet (apple, grapes, raisins or craisins), a piece of bread or cracker, a cup of grape juice or drink. Also have a small bowl of water and a hand towel or face cloth.
- Good Friday, April 2, 7 pm - have a seed and a small pot ready to plant. Use the seed pod and nasturtium seeds from your Lent-to-Go kit, or use a pot, soil, and seeds close at hand. If you do not have seeds or pots handy, find a small silk or paper flower and have it with you.
- Easter Sunday, April 4, 10:30 am - have a cup of juice and bread for communion ready for Easter Sunday communion.





BOTTLE DRIVE

Our next bottle drive will be on:

March 26 from 9am to 1pm

March 27 from 9am to 4pm

50% of the proceeds from this fundraiser will be for the church and the other 50% will be donated to Basically Babies. Basically Babies is a registered charity that provides a basket of basic items to equip the day-to-day needs of infants whose families are living in poverty in the greater Edmonton area.



OFFERING UPDATE

Your Finance Committee would like to echo the thanks expressed by Rev. Britt during each Sunday service for your unwavering support of Salisbury United Church. The year ahead is promising, with a light at the end of the COVID tunnel. The new year is off to a bit of a bumpy start, however, with offerings for the first two months falling short of budget by about \$5200. We realize that could simply be due to timing of donations, but we do want to keep the congregation posted on the financial well being of your church. Thank you for your ongoing financial support.

Grant and Craig, Finance Committee

UPCOMING DATES:

- April 5-12: Rev. Britt will be away on her holidays as per her usual Easter week off after Easter Sunday.
- April 11: We will join the congregation of Robertson Wesley United Church in Edmonton, via a provided link on our website.
- April 26 – May 3: Rev. Britt will be away on Study Leave.



ONLINE MEDITATION CIRCLE

Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am for morning meditation led by Rev. Britt Aerhart. Everyone is welcome to attend. We will gather online, with the links posted on our website.



WE'RE ONLINE

Find us online for the latest news, worship links and donation information at www.salisburyunited.ca.



CHURCH STAFF & VISITORS ENTRANCE

Just a reminder that **all Salisbury UC staff and visitors should be using the Sanctuary entrance (north door)**. While Covid-19 is a factor, the south entrance is reserved for the daycare staff and families only. The Sanctuary entrance doors will be locked so please phone the office when you arrive, and someone will open the door for you.

Thank you for your support of Salisbury United Church and congratulations for helping your church to meet ongoing ministry obligations.

Click Here

TO DONATE ON-LINE WITH CANADA HELPS



We are now set up to accept Interac ETransfers. If you are familiar with Etransfers, just use our email address salisburyuc@telus.net to send your donation. As our church is set up for automatic deposits no password will be needed.

NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWS



NORTHERN SPIRIT WEBSITE

Northern Spirit has a website! Go to www.northernspiritr.ca for more information. The Regional Council has been posting updates to the web site: <https://northernspiritr.ca/covid-19coronavirusnews/>. Please visit the web page frequently as information and changes to information are shared. The General Council web page for COVID-19 matters and resources is also helpful and is updated frequently: <https://www.united-church.ca/covid-19>. And, please don't forget to keep checking the federal and provincial or territorial government websites: [Health Canada](#) [Alberta](#)

HELP WANTED:

READING TEAM FOR COMMUNITY OF FAITH ANNUAL REPORTS

The Communities of Faith Support Committee is establishing a volunteer Reading Team, whose members will read Annual Reports submitted by Communities of Faith. The Team members will review the reports, using a checklist provided by the Committee, and offer feedback on what they have read. Reading Team members will receive training and support from the Communities of Faith Support Committee. The number of Team members will determine the number of reports each will be asked to read, so please consider this opportunity to support ministries in our Region. For a full job description, and to join the Team, please contact the Regional Council Office (NorthernSpirit@united-church.ca).





A prayer for March 21, the International Day to Eliminate Racial Discrimination,
by the Right Rev. Richard Bott.

TO ROOT OUT QUIET RACISM

While we give thanks for the diversity of people—
of cultures and ethnicities,
of histories and life-stories,
of skin colour and language
and hearts that love the world;
the best way to give thanks
is to disassemble the systems,
the stories, the myths,
that privilege one colour over another—
is to root out (and un-root) the insidious beliefs
of those of us with privilege
(sometimes hidden quietly within,
sometimes disguised,
sometimes trumpeted as manifesto)
that “me and mine” are better than “you and yours.”

To root out quiet racism—
to root out White Fragility,
and White Supremacy—
so that it withers and dies.

It is time.
It is well past time.
On this International Day to End Racial Discrimination.

God of all creation,
bless us all with what we need,
to take on this work,
and live it.

Today.
Every day.
Always.

Until this International Day is a thing of memory.

In Jesus' name.
May it be.



A CROSS-CANADA DAY OF PRAYER FOR HONG KONG



On March 21, at 5:00 pm (MT), you are invited to join a Cross-Canada virtual evening prayer gathering to pray for peace and justice for Hong Kong. This Day of Prayer has been initiated by the Mustard Seeds Hong Kong Concern Group and organized in collaboration with The Canadian Council of Churches. The initiative is mainly in response to current events in Hong Kong that, although political in

nature, affect all facets of life, and especially, matters of human rights. To view different translations of the flyer (English, French and Chinese), or to register, please click on the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/a-cross-canada-day-of-prayer-for-hong-kong-tickets-142235234415>

LIGHT THE FLAME FOR A GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME

In [this video](#), Moderator Richard Bott invites you to join the call for a Guaranteed Livable Income and to contact our Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. On April 8, we have a chance to make visible this call, and to Light the Flame for a Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI). Plan to light a candle and post publicly on social media (#UCCanlivableincome) in solidarity with small outdoor vigils being held on Parliament Hill, at Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland's constituency office, and at other MP constituency offices. Due to COVID-19, the vigils are restricted to locally designated individuals, and plans will be adjusted if needed. If you'd like to organize one, contact justice@united-church.ca. Take a look at the United Church [GLI web page](#) for more information and worship resources. And sign up [here](#) to receive updates. The Cross Canada GLI Network of United Church leaders is eager to connect with you.



TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION NEWS



INTRODUCTION TO INDIGENOUS LANDS AND ISSUES IN CANADA

From now until June 19, host Adrian Jacobs, Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre's Keeper of the Circle, and Indigenous Elders from across Canada, invite you to explore the cultural and historic foundations to today's headlines. Join in a series of online conversations in response to the Indigenous education mandates from Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report. The next session is on Saturday, March 20. For a

full schedule and further information, or to register, please [click here](#). Be sure to check local times carefully, as each session varies.



RESTRICTIONS FOR STRATHCONA COUNTY

Strathcona County continues to align its COVID-19 response with the Government of Alberta.

For up-to-date information on the Strathcona County guidelines go to:

<https://www.strathcona.ca/council-county/news/covid19/>

For up-to-date information on the Government of Alberta health guidelines go to:

<https://www.alberta.ca/enhanced-public-health-measures.aspx>

Please be kind to each other. Remember to stay two metres apart, wear a mask and wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water.

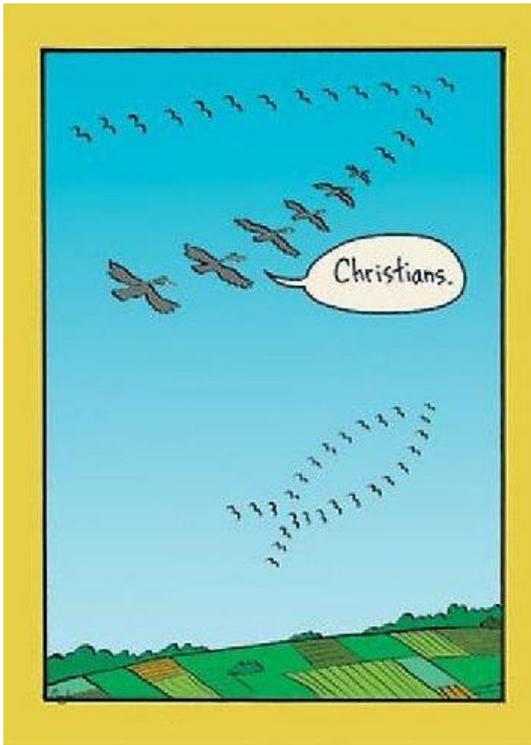
If you have COVID-19 symptoms or require testing, please visit albertahealthservices.ca/testing, or phone Alberta Health Services at 811 to book.



SUPPORT

If you are struggling, or have financial, housing or parenting concerns, call 780-464-4044 for assistance in connecting you to support.

TODAY'S FUNNIES



RECOGNITION OF LAND



We worship with respect on land where people have lived, prayed and held ceremonies since long before Canada was a nation. This is Treaty Six Territory, and we affirm the traditional relationship of the Cree, Blackfoot, Déne, Assiniboine, Nakota and later the Métis people with this land, along with our ongoing treaty relationship with each other.

Following are the email addresses that are from Salisbury United Church:

salisburyuc@telus.net – from Roxanne, our Church Office Administrator

salisburyminister@telus.net – Rev. Britt's church email

revvedtoo@gmail.com – Rev. Britt's personal email



Contact Us:

2 Mission Street, Sherwood Park, T8A 0V3

Church Office: 780-467-7310

Church Office Hours: Noon to 5pm

Mondays - Thursdays

Minister: Rev. Britt Aerhart

Children's Church Coordinator: Lynne Wilson

Music Coordinator: Lucienne Holzman

Church Office Administrator: Roxanne Prytula