

'The Ambassador'

st. paul's
anglican
church

As Ambassadors for Christ, we are called to bring our Lord's grace, love, and peace to everyone.

~ **Saturday November 19, 2022** ~



Art Sale for Indigenous Ministry

Thanks to our Rector's Warden Dorothy Piccinin for her securing and staffing a booth at a local arts & craft show last weekend to sell the

collection of the late Abe Kakapetum's artwork bequeathed to St. Paul's from Abe's dear wife Eva. Sales will fund Indigenous ministry projects like scholarships for Indigenous youth pursuing higher education, sending health supplies to northern communities, and programming. Dorothy tells us the sale was very successful. [No wonder with such gorgeous works so beautifully displayed!]

If you have not yet had a chance to purchase some of Abe's work, Dorothy will be selling packets of Art Cards at 'Coffee Hour' after church this Sunday [5 for \$20]. Abe's cards, books, prints, and originals will also be available December 2 & 3 at the CLE's *Indigenous Arts & Craft Sale*.

Dorothy is asking parishioners for their support. Thanks in advance for helping us get Abe's beautiful work into the public while supporting Indigenous ministry.

"GRACE NOTES" from thunderbay-northshoreanglicans.com

*"God has given us ALL a chance to know Jesus!
What are you doing with your knowledge of Him?"*

visit our website @ stpaulsanglicanchurch.ca and find us on facebook



1. Rector's Grace Notes ~



Pastor Sirpa Tolppanen was installed on Sunday November 13 at Hilldale Lutheran Church. Here's a photo of the clergy who were on hand to welcome her into this ministry. What a celebration of JOY!!

Editor's Note: Anglicans and Lutherans in full communion = lots of familiar faces! See anyone you know?
~ Christine French, Newsletter Editor

2. "Events In Faith" ~

THIS FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25: 'ZOOM' Morning Prayer **@ 9:00 am**

Get ready for the weekend with a **30 minute 'pray-cation.'** Coffee and worship with Archdeacon Deborah. Optional 'check-in' after the service to catch up with your parish family. **Hello Jesus, bye-bye stress!** 😊

Deborah Kraft is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Time: Fridays, 9:00 am, until June 23, 2023

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81656849999>

Meeting ID: 816 5684 9999

Same ZOOM link every week!



THIS SATURDAY NOVEMBER 26:

'Walking The Camino' 1:00 – 2:00 pm

From May 2 to June 6, Daniel Klein, along with some friends, walked the **Camino de Santiago**. He found ***"Walking the Camino de Santiago is like walking any other 800km trail, except in Spanish. And there's a lot of church."***

If you want to know why that's so, how it makes for a deeply spiritually connecting experience, and see pictures of some of the **weird stuff** along the way, Daniel has you covered . . .

Learn about the **headless St. James**, why one church **keeps live chickens**, and what happens when you **cross a Templar Knight's honour**.

This talk explores some of the stories of the Camino through the lens of the small band of pilgrims that walked the French Way this past summer.

Mask Friendly *Registration NOT required — Drop in!



FRIDAY DECEMBER 2:

'Grown Up Game Night'
7:00 – 9:00 pm

First Friday of EVERY MONTH!

Get Your Geek On! Check out our monthly adult **Game Night** with yummy snacks and stellar company, and get caught up in the "BOARDNADO"!!!

Open to all adults, everywhere! Come out and enjoy **all your favourite card and board games**. **FREE!**

Sponsored by **The Gameshelf**, who will be supplying **ALL** the games. There will be the **classic games** you know and love, as well as **some new, hot titles** to try.

We'll supply the beverages. **Bring a snack to share** [but **no 'orange' coloured snacks** like 'Nachos' or 'Cheezies' please! They stain the game pieces.]

***Registration NOT required — Drop in once or every time!**

Grab your friends and enjoy an evening of GROWNUP COMPANY and CONVERSATION!

3. My Sermon from 'All Saints' Sunday November 6, 2022 ~ "For All The Saints"

Speak Lord, your servants are listening. Amen.

"Let me get through today, and I shall not fear tomorrow."

This statement was made by **St. Philip Neri**, a 16th century Italian priest who was canonized by Pope Gregory in 1622. St. Philip was known for his sense of humour and once he intentionally mispronounced every biblical name he could during a sermon. The worshippers did not know until the end of the sermon that he was trying to be funny.

'**All Saints Day**' is celebrated on November 1 and then the church celebrates "All Saints Sunday" on the Sunday next, which this year is today, November 6.

I spoke on 'Anglicanism' at a seminar last Wednesday evening at *St. Paul's United Church* and I stressed our **unity in diversity** ~ how Anglicans can be at opposite ends of the spectrum on certain issues and still remain together. The reason we can do this is through our core theology on the gospel ~ the incarnation, and the resurrection. However, there are many other issues on which there are many opinions.

And "All Saints" is one of those. What do you believe about Saints in the Christian Church? The Protestant teaching is that we are part of the sainthood of all believers and that all baptized persons can strive for lives of holiness, rooted in Christ. We are all saints. This morning we are recognizing the saints in the church through our candle-lit procession of people celebrating baptisms during the last 12 months and remembering loved ones whom the Lord has taken home during the last 12 months.

The pre-reformation teaching is that some people lead exemplary lives of holiness and can be recognized and respected for how they have lived. They can be an inspiration to us. And we pray for the grace to follow their examples and to be similar instruments of God working in us and through us.

The Anglican Church has a book, called *For All the Saints*, and I celebrate that we remember holy men and women ~ priests, bishops, monks, nuns, missionaries, martyrs, kings, queens, reformers ~ who have given their all for the community of the body of Christ.

We give thanks to God for the saints and we pray for grace to be like them.

One of my favourite saints is a man named **Jan Hus**, and although I am drawn to him because his first name “Jan” is the same name as my favourite (and only) son-in-law, I celebrate his desire to reform the church.

Jan Hus was a Czech priest who was executed in 1415 because he advocated reforms in the Roman Catholic Church.

Hus was a theologian and was filled with goodness. He spoke out against the abuses of the church at the time. Sadly, it was German churchmen in Prague who had him targeted and tried on false charges of heresy. Jan Hus was burned at the stake by Christians on July 6, 1415. Roman Catholic scholars now agree that he was unjustly condemned and that he was a great teacher, and a great man of faith, with great courage.

Here is part of what Reformer Jan wrote on the eve of his execution:

“I, Jan Hus, in hope a servant of Jesus Christ, am not willing to declare that every article drawn from my books is erroneous, Secondly, concerning the articles ascribed to me by false witnesses, I am not willing to confess that I have asserted, preached, and held them. Thirdly, I am not willing to recant, lest I commit perjury.”

And then he goes on to write this: *“For God’s sake, preserve the letters carefully.”*

And they were preserved. And his legacy has been vindicated.

Jan Hus paved the way for the Protestant Reformation. He spoke just before the introduction of the Gutenberg printing press which would have made it possible to get his ideas out to the people. In 1452, 37 years after Hus was burned at the stake, Gutenberg printed the Bible and this opened the door to the common people, for the first time, being able to read the scriptures without interpretations by clergy.

One hundred years later, Martin Luther’s sermons and books were printed and hundreds of thousands of copies were made available to Christians in Europe. This enabled reformation ideas to get out to the people.

Another person standing out for me in our Anglican *For All the Saints* book is **Saint Hilda**. This is the name of the residence where I lived for 2 years as an undergrad at *Trinity College* at the *University of Toronto*. Here is a photo of *St. Hilda’s College*:

St. Hilda was a 7th century Englishwoman; she was a nun and the Abbess of Whitby.

She became a nun when she was 33 years old and, under her leadership, the community of nuns in Whitby became the most famous religious community in all of England! People came to see her to receive her spiritual





support and guidance. She showed great devotion and grace, and she used her gifts of holiness and wisdom to nurture the God-given gifts in others.

In the November issue of the Anglican national newspaper called *The Anglican Journal*, there is an article about Anglicans views of the saints. This article stresses the varying viewpoints among Canadian Anglicans about the saints. Some people support the 39 Articles of Religion, which are a list of doctrinal statements developed in England during the 16th century. They are included in the *Book of Common Prayer* and the 22nd article states this:

“The invocation of Saints is a fond thing vainly invented and is ... rather repugnant to the Word of God.” (BCP, p. 707)

The “invocation of saints” means that you pray to the saints. Do you pray to the saints and ask the saints to pray with you just as you ask your family and friends? Anglicans today believe that you can pray with them and not to them. When we think about the “*communion of saints*” that we say in the Creed, we are referring to the fellowship of Christians both living and dead. We ask people we know and love for their prayers, so it does seem compatible to ask those who have

died for prayers. There are some biblical references to this practice, as Jesus tells the story of a dead man asking Abraham to intercede on his behalf.

Other people state that the 39 articles are not a binding document for modern Anglicans and that they were used to disassociate the new Church of England from Roman Catholicism. Most Anglicans today like the recognized saints and turn to them as they show the presence of God in their lives and their transformations. We don't focus on their miraculous deeds but on their loving service, rooted in Christ.

I believe that the stories we learn about the Christian men and women who have given their all to share the gospel are compelling and inspirational and motivate us to be Christ-centred. I personally am motivated to do better when I focus on the legacy of Jan Hus and Hilda of Whitby. I am not sure though if I will intentionally mispronounce biblical names in a sermon to be more like Philip Neri!!

In Luke's **Sermon on The Plain** that you heard the opening portion of this morning (Luke 6:20-31), Jesus tells us to do good and expect nothing in return and to love those who mean us harm and have treated us badly and spoken badly about us. These are hard lessons that require discipline and spiritual strength. We receive this strength through our baptisms and then spend our lives praying to grow in wisdom.

You don't have to believe in saints to receive your salvation but the saints have much to teach us. On this All Saints Sunday, let us listen to the voice of the psalmist who tells us to praise God through singing with joy, and through dancing. To me, this is saintly behaviour.

I began with the words of St. Philip Neri and I will close with the same words:

“Let me get through today and I shall not fear tomorrow.”

Amen.

Archdeacon Deborah+



4. My Sermon from 'All Hallows' Sunday October 30, 2022 ~ "Run To Jesus!"

*O Lord, uphold me that I may uplift you, and may the words of my mouth
and the meditation of our hearts be always acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, our strength and our redeemer. Amen.*

I remember learning this song as a child in Sunday School:

*Zacchaeus was a wee little man, a wee little man was he.
He climbed up in a sycamore tree, for the Lord he wanted to see.
And as the Saviour passed that way he looked up in the tree.
And he said, "Zacchaeus, you come down,
For I'm going to your house today! For I'm going to your house today."*

Jesus is on his way south to Jerusalem. He passes through the ancient city of Jericho and sees this man in a tree and as the song lyrics state, Jesus tells Zacchaeus to come down because Jesus is going to his home.



This episode in the life of Jesus is not a parable but a true episode. Zacchaeus would have been hated by the Jewish people as even though he was Jewish, he worked for the Romans collecting taxes. Tax collectors were frequently unscrupulous because they could keep anything they collected beyond what the Romans expected.

Here is what we know about the historical Zacchaeus. He lived in Jericho. He had a home. He was rich. He was a chief tax collector. He was very short.

Zacchaeus was eager to meet Jesus. He must have heard about him. Zacchaeus knew that he would never be able to get in front of the crowd lining the streets of Jericho so the Bible tells us that he *"ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree."* (Luke 19:4)

Here is an ancient sycamore tree on the outskirts of Jericho. I have seen this tree and although it is not 2000 years old, it is still very old. Notice the smooth trunk and that would have made it relatively easy for Zacchaeus to climb. I find it interesting that Luke names the type of tree. It must have been a significant marker for people entering Jericho. Maybe it was used for directions. *"I live just beyond the sycamore tree,"* or *"I'll meet you under the sycamore tree."*

Zacchaeus runs to the tree. He is that eager to see Jesus. When my grandchildren arrive in Thunder Bay at the airport, a great pleasure I have is when they run as fast as they can into my arms. I kneel down and open my arms in anticipation and that joy of holding them again is wonderful. That was one of the trials of the pandemic when we couldn't do that.

At a wedding, the groom is so eager to be with his bride that he can barely contain himself and all he wants to do is to run to her and to get lost in her arms.

What happens next in our gospel story? Jesus calls Zacchaeus out of the tree and



Zacchaeus immediately hurries down. It is not unexpected that the crowd complains loudly and bitterly, as they can't imagine why Jesus would want to spend time with such a sinner, a man who has wronged them time and time again over many years. A man who has taken their money with greedy hands in order to better only himself. A man loved by Rome and hated by the Jewish people.

Here's what a modern interpretation of the Bible, called *The Message* by Eugene Peterson, and what it says about the crowd's reaction:

"Everyone who saw the incident was indignant and grumped, 'What business does he have getting cozy with this crook?'"

Jesus goes to the home of Zacchaeus and ignores the grumbling of the crowd. What happens next? Zacchaeus has a change of heart. He states out loud that he will give 50% of his possessions to the poor and he will give back 4 times to anyone he has cheated. What generous actions of redemption and of grace. Jesus says that *"Salvation has truly come to this home."* And that he came to *"save the lost."* (Luke 19:10)

When the apostle Paul writes to the Thessalonians, he begins this second letter by saying that *"your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing."* (2 Thessalonians 1:3)

These Christians in Thessalonika are living out the call of Zacchaeus. And isn't this just what you and I are called to do? To run with enthusiasm the race that is set before us, to thank God for our abundant faith, and to love each other.

Thomas Merton, a 20th century priest, monk, and author wrote extensively about love:

"Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbours worthy."

Merton also wrote that *"God is good, salvation is not hard; God's love has made it easy!"*

In the 2022 edition of *Disciplines*, United Methodist Church Pastor, Lisa Schubert Nowling, writes this about the transformation of Zacchaeus:

"An old Christian adage says that every Christian needs to experience 3 conversions ~ a conversion of the heart, the head, and finally the pocketbook. Zacchaeus has all three. He slips out of the grip of his own greed."

This is Jesus' dream for the whole world. That we learn to live in kindness and in justice. Our Cantor for this morning, Barbara Towell, put these words last week on her Facebook page:

Three things in human life are important: the first is to be kind, the second is to be kind, and the third is to be kind.

(I love that Barbara's Mom Patsy responded *"What's the first thing again?"*)

Thank you Barbara for your words. You are so right. I am privileged to watch the many kindnesses that are extended so freely by parishioners. You visit, you serve, you help, you drive, you shop, you cook, you repair. All done in the name of our Saviour in kindness.

Jesus was kind to Zacchaeus and Zacchaeus passed this kindness forward to everyone else in the community of Jericho.

Let's help actualize that dream and grow in faith and grow in knowledge and readjust our spending and our giving.

Let us show our enthusiasm for Jesus and get to know him and thank him for the gift of our salvation.

*Let us always love in truth
and in action,
and not in talk and in words . . .*

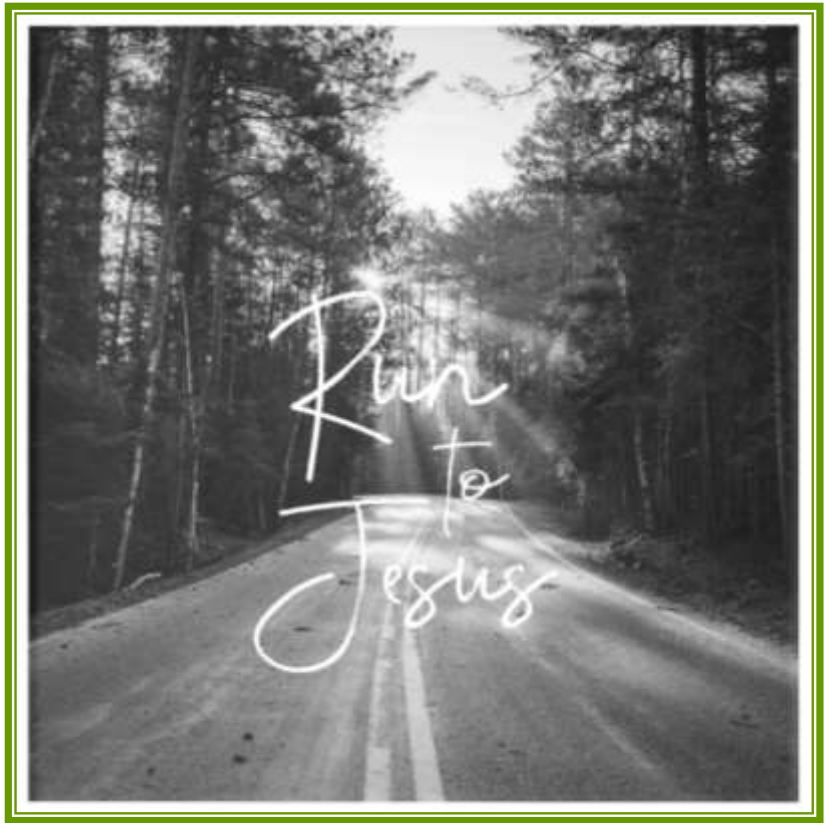
(from 1 John 3:18).

Run to Jesus. Why not?

Amen.

Archdeacon Deborah+

5. The Last Laugh ~ "A cheerful heart is good medicine."
[Proverbs 7: 22]



Saintly behaviour . . . ☺



May you be made strong in the glorious power of Christ the King.

Archdeacon Deborah+

"The Happy Rector & Archdeacon"

The Venerable Deborah Kraft

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