

CALEDONIA CONNECTOR

Serving Anglicans in Northern BC

Upcoming Diocesan Events

Mid-day Prayer

Monday - Saturday ~ 12:15 PT

St. Andrew's Cathedral
Facebook Page

Compline

Nightly

9:00 PT on Facebook

Diocesan Service

Sundays

10:00 am PT on Facebook,
YouTube, and Vimeo

Christmas Services

Special Services will be held on

Christmas Eve - 4:00 pm PT

Christmas Day - 10:00 am PT

New Year's Eve - 7:00 pm PT

Light in the dark

by Bishop David Lehmann - reprinted from the *On Eagles Wings Advent Devotional 2021*

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 119:105 (ESV)

Living in northern Canada the darkness is deep at this time of the year and the days are very short. While there is a beauty to this, I am thankful that I know Jesus as the light of the world and as the light of my world. Jesus is the Incarnate Word - the brilliant and everlasting light. I am thankful for our celebrations of light and life too.

Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany come at the darkest part of the year for the northern hemisphere. As our liturgical year was formed, Christmas was set days after the shortest day of the year when we can see the new light. In Advent we prepare for the dual celebration of Jesus's birth in Bethlehem and his return to bring to fulfilment the Kingdom of God. In Epiphany, we mark Jesus as the light for all people. These days of shadow are marked in God's word with the one true light.

Throughout CoVid, a summer of wildfires, and acknowledgement of children's graves at Residential Schools



ANGLICAN DIOCESE
OF CALEDONIA



Bishop's Travels

November 9 - 24 Vacation

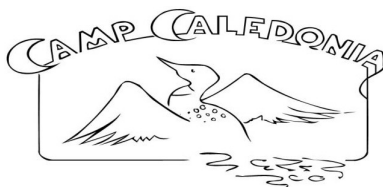
November 28 Prince Rupert

December travels are contingent on lifting on current restrictions.

Camp Caledonia

Due to CoVid-19 pandemic, Camp Cal is closed for 2021 for all rentals and programs.

BUT, 2022 Camps are being planned! Details of 3 camps, including a Youth Camp are coming soon!



www.campcaledonia.ca

there has been much darkness for us to journey through. The work of reconciliation and rebuilding community takes much effort and time. These are important endeavours and deserve our prayers and action. Please pray daily for opportunities to act in helping to rebuild that which has been lost.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you are the Incarnate Word, the light and life amongst us. Shine in our darkness and lift us to your glory. Fill us with your love, hope, peace, and joy as we prepare to celebrate your birth. Guide us as we work to bring about reconciliation and healing. Be the light upon our path, we pray in your name. Amen.

Stewardship - The Gift of Light

by The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (www.tens.org)

“Keep awake!” Jesus tells us, as if we could possibly let ourselves sleep right now. This year, full of plot twists has not given us a chance to rest. Staying vigilant has been standard operating procedure since the first cases of COVID-19 started making news. This was followed quickly by economic unrest and work disruptions, changes of our routines. Suddenly our living rooms were classrooms and our kitchens stocked snacks for quick meals between web conferencing. Our summer was marked by political upheaval, demonstrations for justice, natural disasters of every kind – more sleepless nights. Thank you for the words of advice, Jesus, but keeping awake has not been a problem this year.

But I don't think Jesus was worried about our sleep cycles; rather, his words were a caution to stay focused, to pay attention. Further, I believe Jesus was not asking us to merely pay attention to the news cycle, to the obvious events that shape the big moments in the world around us, but to notice the subtleties, the patterns of behaviour, the nuances.

Ruby's Thoughts

"To everything there is a season" *Ecclesiastes 3:1*

My daughter Barb gave me a mug inscribed with the words "I've got catitude."

There is a cat smile drawn below the words. While a feisty – I am in charge attitude may have worked for me in the past, I think I am in need of a bit of a reset. "To everything there is a season" says the writer of Ecclesiastes. I am seeing the truth in this statement as I approach my 79th birthday. Now as I move into the season of less active retirement I will be trying to be more appreciative of nature, of people, of God's goodness to me. I will try to "let go and let God" instead of thinking it is my job to manage my daughters' lives. They are, after all, over 40! I think when we are looking to the future, we need to let go of our past mistakes in order to move on lightly. God expects us to do our best and accept God's forgiveness in order to move

Advent is a subtle season. Its quiet refrain offers us hope and patience in equal measure. Around us it is characterized by a frenzy of shopping and planning; but deep into the darkening evenings and cooler days of the Northern Hemisphere, or fully into the languid heat and brightening skies of the south of our globe, there is a silent stirring of movement and of

expectation, as the things we have planted deep, begin to take root and find the light. Those small moments, the delicate actions and thoughts of Advent, open our hearts to see that faint light as it breaks through the chaos of our culture.

These are the gifts of the season: patience, hope, anticipation, and like every perfect gift, these presents bestow on us just what we need when we need it most. In a season marked by the opposing forces of starkness and extravagance, God's generosity appeals to us in the simplicity of God's desires for us: to be patient, to live in hope, to anticipate the freedom that will unshackle us from oppression. "And what I say to you, I say to all: Keep awake!"

Good News in difficult days

some hope

Christmas Gift Ideas

DONATE TO UNICEF'S #GIVEAVAX COVID-19



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What are the gifts that you can give that meet the needs of the world?

What patterns in yourself do you want to nurture with the coming Light?

on. As we become more aware of our own past sins we can be more accepting of others and gain empathy for others. God will help us, but we need to accept that we are not perfect. While aging has challenges it also has many rewards. We realize that love is central to the meaning of our lives and that realization draws us closer to God and closer to our neighbour. And perhaps some of that “cattitude” is helpful in surviving in an imperfect world.

Ruby McBeth is a Lay Reader in the North Peace Parish

Social Media

Please look for the Diocese on Facebook @dioCaledonia

Vimeo by searching for the Diocese of Caledonia or vimeo.com/user110118524

YouTube Channel - *Diocese of Caledonia*

2022 Calendars

There are a limited number of 2022 Church Calendars available at the Synod Office. To order call the Synod Office or go to anglican.gilmore.ca

VACCINE FUND

More than 85% of eligible Canadians have received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. But the situation is very different for families and communities in low-income countries, where only 2% of the population have received at least one dose. We must act swiftly to vaccinate the world against COVID-19, to get ahead of new and more infectious variants of the virus.

Go to www.unicef.ca for more information.

PWRDF - BC Floods

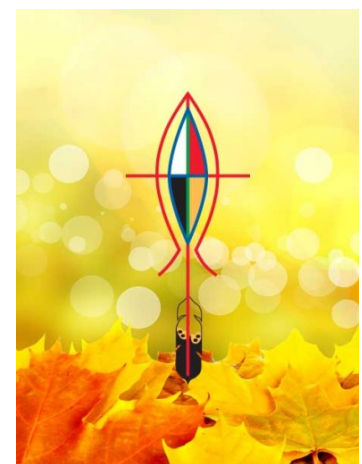
The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund is now accepting donations towards an emergency response in British Columbia. Go to pwrdf.org for more details.

Tithing Options

One of the concerns expressed is how we can continue to support the mission and ministry of the local congregations. Easy! Either arrange to mail in or drop off post-dated cheques, complete the forms on the Diocesan website for direct debit, or go to CanadaHelps.org or PayPal Charities and donate to your parish or the Diocese. For more information, please contact your parish treasurer.

Gospel Based Discipleship

Attached are the Gospel readings for December. Read the Gospel three times asking 1. what words jump out, 2. what is Jesus saying to me, and 3. what is Jesus calling me to do? The Gospel Based Discipleship book may be found at www.anglican.ca



Gospel Based Discipleship—December 2021

| Date | Day | Gospel | Colour |
|-------------|---|---|------------------------|
| 1 | Wednesday | Mt 15:29-39 | Violet |
| 2 | Thursday | Mt 7:21-27 | Violet |
| 3 | Francis Xavier, Missionary to the Far East | Mt 9:27-31 | Violet |
| 4 | Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon & the Community of Little Gidding | Mt 9:35—10:1, 5-8 | Violet |
| 5 | Second Sunday of Advent | Lk 3:1-6 | Violet |
| 6 | Nicholas, Bishop of Myra | Lk 5:17-26 | Violet |
| 7 | Ambrose, Bishop of Milan | Mt 18:12-14 | Violet |
| 8 | The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary | Mt 11:28-30 | Violet |
| 9 | Prophets of the Old Testament | Mt 11:7-15 | Violet |
| 10 | Friday | Mt 11:16-19 | Violet |
| 11 | Saturday | Mt 17:9-13 | Violet |
| 12 | Third Sunday of Advent | Lk 3:7-18 | Violet |
| 13 | Monday | Mt 21:23-27 | Violet |
| 14 | Tuesday | Mt 21:28-32 | Violet |
| 15 | Simon Gibbons, First Priest from the Inuit | Lk 7:19-23 | Violet |
| 16 | Thursday | Lk 7:24-30 | Violet |
| 17 | Friday | Mt 1:1-7, 17 | Violet |
| 18 | Saturday | Mt 1:18-25 | Violet |
| 19 | The Fourth Sunday of Advent | Lk 1:39-45, (46-55) | Violet |
| 20 | Monday | Lk 1:26-38 | Violet |
| 21 | Tuesday | Lk 1:39-45 | Violet |
| 22 | Wednesday | Lk 1:46-56 | Violet |
| 23 | Thursday | Lk 1:57-66 | Violet |
| 24 | Eve of Christmas (Day) Eve of Christmas (Night) | Lk 1:67-79 Lk 2:1-14, (15-20) | Violet White |
| 25 | The Birth of the Lord: Christmas Day | Lk 2:1-14, (15-20) | White |
| 26 | First Sunday after Christmas | Lk 2:41-52 | White |
| 27 | Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist | Jn 20:1-8 | White |
| 28 | The Holy Innocents | Mt 2:13-18 | Red |
| 29 | Saint Stephen, Deacon & Martyr | Mt 23:34-39 | Red |
| 30 | Thursday | Lk 2:36-40 | White |
| 31 | John West, Missionary in the Red River District | Jn 1:1-18 | White |



Contact

A Newsletter for the Council of the North

Fall 2021

Responding to God's Call to mission and ministry in the northern regions of Canada

'Worship on the land is the fundamental experience of Arctic Christians'

By Matt Gardner

The Northwest Territories saw an explosion of COVID-19 cases this fall. By Oct. 7, health authorities reported the territory had the highest infection rate per capita in Canada, with an average of 50 new cases per day—a reminder that the pandemic is far from over and reaching into the farthest corners of the north.

As Yellowknife imposes new limits on indoor gatherings, those organizing worship services are looking for alternatives. Speaking from Iqaluit in the Anglican diocese of the Arctic—which encompasses the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and northern Quebec—Bishop Joey Royal says that while worship on the radio and Internet has become more common during the pandemic, many parishes have taken worship outdoors.

"There are instances of parishes gathering outside for sure ... There was certainly worship moving out of the church building, because for the longest time ... there were serious limitations on gathering indoors and the limitations were less when you gathered outdoors," Royal says.

Worship on the land, the bishop suggests, has a particular resonance in the Arctic. Royal describes

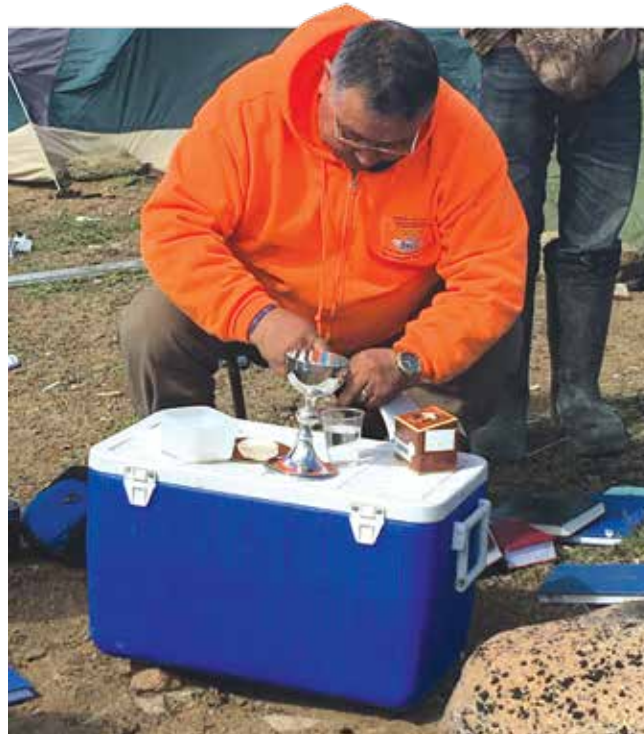


PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Campers enjoyed music, prayer and worship outdoors, including an observation of the Eucharist.



outdoor worship as "baked into Arctic Christianity, because the people in this land up until the last century



or so were nomadic and lived in family groups on the land."

He highlights the role of

Inuit catechists, and later Inuit deacons and priests, in travelling long distances to spread Christianity through the Arctic.

"Although missionaries brought [the gospel] here, missionaries often functioned as people who trained local people, who then spread it to their own people across the land," Royal says.

"That obviously involved worship [outdoors], because there were no church buildings ... This was long before there was an Anglican church building or any church building in the Arctic. So worship on the land is the fundamental experience of Arctic Christians, at least when you go back generations."

Historian Kenn Harper has written extensively about the Arctic. He notes that the spiritual practices of Inuit shamans in pre-Christian culture often took place outdoors.

"The initiation ceremonies or practices initiating someone into shamanism—that was definitely outdoors in nature and often in extreme privation, like fasting for a number of days out on the land away from other people," Harper says.

Some of these Inuit traditions of outdoor spiritual

Continued on page 2

Outdoor spiritual practices part of northern tradition

Continued from p. 1

practice may have continued after the introduction of Christianity, he suggests. When camping away from established communities, Harper says, “Inuit maintained the Sabbath even when they were not in the communities under the watchful eye of the missionary. I think it’s safe to assume many of those observations were outside if the weather was nice, or in their tents if the weather wasn’t.”

The cover of Harper’s book *In Those Days: Shamans, Spirits, and Faith in the Inuit North* depicts a photo of pioneering Anglican missionary Edmund Peck—who founded the church’s first permanent mission on Baffin Island and developed Inuktitut syllabics—presiding over what the historian describes as an “outdoor prayer meeting.”

The presence of a young man and woman holding hands in front of Peck indicates to Harper that the gathering was likely an outdoor marriage ceremony.

“This would be an Anglican ceremony held out of doors, and the reason would probably be that indoors was too crowded, quite frankly, because Peck’s premises at Blacklead Island were pretty small,” Harper says. “I know during the wintertime, he crammed people indoors for worship services. But I’m thinking that outdoors would have been



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Campers partake in the Holy Communion service.



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Members of the congregation at St. Jude’s Cathedral hold worship outdoors during their 2018 parish camping trip.

much more comfortable.”

More recently, Anglican worship outdoors has taken on a more intentional character. In July 2018, an estimated 25 members of the congregation at St. Jude’s

Cathedral in Iqaluit took an hour boat ride outside the city for a three-day parish camping trip.

Between boating, fishing and hiking, parishioners held morning and evening prayer,

Bible study and the Eucharist outdoors. Bishop Royal, who preached at the Sunday Holy Communion service on the idea of the sea in the Bible, says gathering outside the congregation’s usual context helped build relationships within the parish across generations.

The idea for the trip came from Methuselah Kunuk, then dean of St. Jude’s and currently a candidate for Aggu MLA in the 2021 Nunavut territorial election. Worship outdoors was nothing new for Kunuk, who has served as co-chair of Iqaluit’s Amarok Hunters and Trappers Coalition and the Baffin Fisheries Coalition.

“When I was growing up ... when the weather’s good in the summer and spring, we used to do our services outside,” Kunuk says.

While Nunavut had zero cases of COVID-19 at the time this article was written, St. Jude’s has not organized a formal camping trip since 2018 due in large part to the pandemic. In the Northwest Territories, current health guidelines restrict even outdoor gatherings to a maximum of 50 people.

Yet whether worship takes place indoors and outdoors, Kunuk says, the presence of God can be felt equally in both.

“I think it’s the same, because we believe that the Holy Spirit is with us all the time,” Kunuk says. “It doesn’t matter where we are.” Ω



THE COUNCIL OF THE NORTH is a grouping of financially assisted dioceses, supported through grants by General Synod, that serve sparsely populated areas in the Arctic, Yukon, Northern and Central Interior British Columbia, Alberta, northern Saskatchewan, Manitoba; and northern Ontario.

Specifically:

- Diocese of the Arctic • Diocese of Athabasca • Diocese of Brandon • Diocese of Caledonia • Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh • Diocese of Moosonee • Diocese of Saskatchewan • Territory of the People • Diocese of Yukon •

Gathering observes search for unmarked graves of residential school children

By Diana Swift

Special to Anglican Journal

Despite its pristine location in Saskatchewan's boreal forest on the edge of the Canadian Shield, the town of La Ronge, Sask. (population: ca 5,700) has had its share of pain—experiencing, since 2015, a suicide crisis and evacuation for wildfires.

Recently this town, about 250 km north of Prince Albert, has been facing a new cause for grief: the discovery of unmarked graves of Indigenous pupils who died at a local former residential school—this one operated by the Anglican Church of Canada.

The Lac La Ronge Indian Residential School opened in 1907. It burned down in 1920 and was thereafter replaced with a new school, All Saints. According to Indian Affairs records cited in a University of Regina profile of the school, a 1937 government inspector expressed concern

at how poorly the children were being fed. The inspector also described overcrowding of classrooms and dormitories, in which students with tuberculosis slept alongside their classmates. All Saints burned to the ground in 1947 after two boys set it on fire, and its students were then transferred to another school.

On Oct. 1, a day after Canada's first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, the diocese of Saskatchewan's bishop, Michael Hawkins, and diocesan Indigenous bishop Adam Halkett attended a survivors' gathering in the old cemetery across from All Saints Anglican Church, the town's oldest building. They joined school survivors and



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Hawkins (right) with Cook-Searson (centre) and LLRIB councillor Devin Bernatchez at the site in La Ronge.

members of the Woodland Cree Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB) to observe a search for unmarked graves at the site, an initiative which began in July.

Some grave markers for these deceased children (as well as other community members) still exist, but LLRIB chief Tammy Cook-Searson confirmed that a substantial number of unmarked graves had been found.

"We did have to do a lot of cleanup on the site. It was very overgrown," she said. "The band used to have an elder, an archdeacon, who looked after the site but except for the front part, the cemetery hasn't been kept up in recent years." Aiding in the search is a ground-penetrating radar machine supplied by engineering firm SNC Lavalin.

The fourth volume of the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, released in 2016, deals with missing residential school children and unmarked graves. According to

the report, government regulations around cemeteries were "non-existent or undeveloped" when many residential schools were founded, so that "most residential school cemeteries were established informally," with, frequently, a lack of thought given to their continuing care once the schools closed. The commission attempted to document former residential school cemeteries but found that most were "abandoned, disused, and vulnerable to accidental disturbance." The report also mentions that in some cases graves were marked by simple wooden crosses that have rotted to pieces over time.

Halkett says his first instinct, on being invited to the gathering at La Ronge, was "to step back and not attend because I thought there would be a lot of anger.... But when Chief Tammy Cook-Searson invited me and the mayor and the town council, it felt welcoming." The survivors indeed welcomed them

without anger and seemed ready to start the healing process, he said.

And despite several threats, Halkett added, no Anglican churches in the area have been closed or burned down, in contrast with the situation in British Columbia over the summer and fall.

Cook-Searson, a third-generation survivor of the residential school system, said the presence of the two bishops at the gathering was significant.

"It is very important for them to be part of these events, to be there to reconcile, support and apologize," she said. And the Indigenous community, she added, is still loyal to the church. "Many of our weddings, funerals, and baptisms are still presided over by Anglican clergy."

As part of his itinerary, Halkett holds services at All Saints, and the congregation includes LLRIB members.

Cook-Searson said the search within the overgrown cemetery was about 97 per cent complete. A report will be issued in the new year but specific numbers on unmarked remains will not be released, she said.

With regard to the way ahead for the church, Bishop Halkett said, "As I told the House of Bishops, reconciliation is a strong word but also a meaningful one. I said I'm willing to work with them, and that I hope the whole of the Canadian church is willing to work with us.

"We can get through this," he said. "We've experienced other hurts but we still want to move forward together and worship in the Anglican Church of Canada." Ω

—with files by Tali Folkins



PHOTO: RUBEN M. RAMOS

A glacier in Fitzroy Fjord, Devon Island, Nunavut

CoN receives game-changing \$400,000 anonymous gift on eve of annual meeting

By Matt Gardner

Shortly before its first in-person meeting since the start of the pandemic, held Oct. 4-6 at a hotel near Toronto's Pearson Airport, the Council of the North was given an early Christmas present.

The council, a grouping of nine jurisdictions (dioceses or diocesan equivalents) that receive financial assistance from the national church, received a \$400,000 gift from an anonymous donor in the diocese of Toronto, said David Lehmann, bishop of the diocese of Caledonia and council chair.

The donor, Lehmann said, had initially contacted a local parish priest who said the Council of the North needed it more than his Toronto parish.

The priest, a former seminary colleague of Lehmann's, "got some stories from me and asked what would I put it towards if

"One of the things the whole church is realizing is that we need to train the next generation of clergy desperately, and that the old model of going away to a three-year residential program isn't possible."

—David Lehmann,
bishop of the diocese of
Caledonia and council
chair

I had a choice," Lehmann recalled.

"I said our training in ministry fund, because as we're coming out of COVID and we're wanting to gather or do things, it is the fund that will be most important to bring us together for

meetings and gatherings."

The council maintains a training fund established through a previous donation, spending a portion of the principal and interest each year.

Lehmann described the \$400,000 gift as "game-changing, and just exceedingly generous and kind and thoughtful of both the parish priest and the donor."

The gift effectively extends the life of the council's training fund for another decade, he said.


The Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh and diocese of Yukon both have training sessions planned, while the diocese of the Arctic plans to use some of the training funds for translation work.

Strictly speaking, the gathering was both in-person and online. Six of the jurisdictions that make up the Council of the

North were represented by someone physically present in the room, three by someone attending online via Zoom.

From donations it had received, the council set aside \$60,000 and awarded a total of \$6,000 in grants to six jurisdictions to allow them to continue developing online worship and ministries.

Lehmann said that while some areas in the North have limited streaming capabilities and rely on radio, for others the internet has become an increasingly significant tool in ministry. He also expressed gratitude to Anglicans for continuing to support the Council of the North.

"We are so thankful for the generosity of the Anglican Church of Canada that empowers and enables the ministry across the North and remote communities," he said. 

Contact is produced by the
Council of the North

The Rt. Rev. David Lehmann, Chair
Email: bishop@caledoniaanglican.ca

For all communications inquiries or to share your stories or experiences about positive ministry projects in the North, please email the editor, Brian Bukowski at cnc@national.anglican.ca.

Subscribe to our email list to receive newsletters and updates about the Anglican church's ministry in the Council of the North. Go online here: anglican.ca/cnml



The Anglican Church of Canada