



## THANKSGIVING 2021

Beloved in Christ,

One of the biblical images of our role within God's creation is that of a steward put in charge of the household while the owner is away. (Mark 13:33-37) Each of us is challenged as stewards; to stay alert and be ready to account for that which has been put in our charge. Stewardship of Creation, Each other, and Finances.

Rather than just one day, Thanksgiving in Canada is really a season. In late summer and early autumn much of the activity in Canada moves to preparing for a long dark and cold winter. Fruits, vegetables, and grains are harvested. Fall is hunting season, and in villages on all three of our coasts, it's time to wind down the fishing, and prepare the nets and boats for storage. It's kind of how we work; plant in the spring, nurture in the summer, and gather in over the fall, so we can spend our winter enjoying the spoils of our labours, and prepare to begin anew in the spring.

One thing for sure in life you can count on, is that the seasons will come and go and our activities, according to the seasons, will continue. As I write to you today, it's a brisk day. I've had to pull out my heavy weight sweater and hang my raincoat by our front door. All sure signs fall has arrived on "The Island".

2020 and 2021 have been challenging for all of us as the times we would have been together, outdoor picnics, Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving suppers, and something as simple and yet important as Coffee Hour, have all been spent alone or within our own "bubble". "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few" (Matthew 9:37). In 2021, the labourers are sheltering from COVID and wearing masks.

Chris, Liz, Eileen, and I are thrilled to be worshipping in person with so many folks, and thankful to see the increase in number of online worshippers. Our community is blessed with so many folks who generously give of their time and talent to facilitate worship at St. Peter, Quamichan and to send it out on Zoom and online. We especially thank Mark Hird-Rutter and Marilyn Rummel for that.

Holding services, in-person and online, as well as the day to day running of this campus is costly and I'm sorry to say that our finances are not keeping up with our expenses. As many of you know all too well, the costs of utilities and maintenance of our properties has increased greatly over the last couple of years and sadly, our income has not kept up. I'm thankful to say that going forward, our parish hall is pretty much booked with outside groups. At this point we are working on a "bare

bones” budget where there really isn’t anywhere to cut. And yet, expenses have exceeded income over these past few years. Therefore, I’m asking each of you to prayerfully review your financial offering to St. Peter, Quamichan. We are asking our electronic plate givers to increase a little and those of you who put your offering in the plate, to make arrangements to drop off or mail your offering even if you are not physically able to be present. Or perhaps you’d prefer to send in a onetime end-of-year donation to St. Peter, Quamichan.

With Chris, Liz and Eileen, I wish you a blessed, bountiful and safe Thanksgiving.

I remain yours in Christ’s service,



The Rev. MJ Leewis-Kirk, Incumbent



## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

- **Harvest Thanksgiving** will be celebrated on Sunday October 10 at both services.
- **All Saints Day** will be observed on Sunday November 7<sup>th</sup>, at both services.
- **Remembrance Day** will be observed on November 14 at both services.
- *Due to Covid we will NOT be hosting a Remembrance Day Tour and Tea*
- **Advent** (Season of Preparation) begins on Sunday November 28 at both services
- Due to Covid, we will not be holding a Christmas Fair and Luncheon; however, we **WILL** be doing an **online Silent Auction of themed baskets!**
- **Bishop Anna** will preside at both services on Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup>
- **The Longest Night** service will be held on Tuesday December 21 at 7 p.m.

*Keep a close eye on the Beacon for more news as it becomes available.*