

Friday News from South West

May 12, 2023

Easter 6

This Sunday, May 14, we celebrate the sixth Sunday in Easter, and our focus Gospel reading is from John:



John 14:15-21 NIV - Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ "If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father and I too will love them and show myself to them."

In this passage, Jesus makes reference to an "advocate", or the presence of the Holy Spirit which, after his death and resurrection, will be available to us.

Presence of Spirit in our lives can come in many forms; for some it is in times of turmoil or sorrow when they sense the presence or the help and protection of departed family members who have known and loved them throughout their lives.

For others, the presence of the Holy Spirit can be found in the beauty of a sunrise, the lonesome call of a coyote, the lengthening of shadows as the day comes to a close, the stars in the skies – even the first smile of a baby.

In more modern terms, if one is called before a court of law, one is generally advised to have an advocate. The job of the advocate, above all else, is to plead on behalf of the accused.

It is within this context that Jesus tells his disciples, and us, that he is sending an advocate, the presence of one who is, quite literally, sent to advocate for us before God. We are reminded that the indwelling love of God and the Spirit's enduring presence is with us. We are never alone and never abandoned.

What an amazing gift Jesus left with us!

I would like to leave you with words written by Bill and Gloria Gaither in 1964. It is a prayer which I have sung more times than I can remember when I have found myself in times of trouble and uncertainty.

"Come, Holy Spirit"

*Come as a wisdom to children
Come as new sight to the blind
Come, Lord, as strength to my weakness
Take me soul, body and mind
Come as a rest to the weary
Come as a balm to the sore
Come as a dew to my dryness
Fill me with joy evermore*

*Come Holy Spirit, I need you now
Come, Sweet Spirit, I pray
Come in your strength and your power
Come in your own gentle way*

*Come like a spring in the desert
Come to the withered of soul
O, let your sweet healing power
Touch me and make me whole*

*Come Holy Spirit, I need you now
Come, Sweet Spirit, I pray
Come in your strength and your power
Come in your own gentle way
Come in your own gentle way*

In peace,

Pastor Beryl, DLM

*Montreal Invests in Community Gardens in Verdun (IDS) and Lachine**

The City of Montreal recently approved almost 1 million dollars for the financing of 19 projects in 11 boroughs, as part of a program to develop and repair public community and collective gardens.

Among the projects are the establishment of a brand new garden on land formerly owned by the Soeurs de Ste-Anne in Lachine and an upgrade to the community garden on Ile-des-Soeurs.

The \$156,598 Lachine project involves the creation of a new community and collective garden on the grounds of the Mother House of the Sisters of Sainte-Anne, ceded to the borough by the congregation, following a protocol agreement signed in 2020.

This green space with an area of more than 15,000 square meters will be protected and transformed into a large park accessible to citizens. Part of it will be converted into a community garden to “respond to the need for new gardening spaces expressed by citizens,” explains the City of Montreal’s publicist, Karla Duval.

The project, whose objective is to develop between 100 and 175 new gardens, will be carried out in two phases. For this first phase, which will receive funding in 2023, the borough plans to carry out infrastructure work and acquire universally accessible garden containers.

Lachine plans to spend about \$80,000 in 2023 for this garden, up to \$40,000 from its Ten-Year Capital Plan (PDI) and \$40,000 in professional services.

Improvement work on Île-des-Sœurs in Verdun

Funding for the \$30,131 project at Parc Adrien-D-Archambault aims to improve universal accessibility to the Île-des-Sœurs community garden, which has 240 gardeners among its members, 79% of whom are aged over 60 years old.

In addition to optimizing the space by adding new gardening containers and repairing certain obsolete installations, there will also be work to reorganize the entrance, the addition of an access ramp for people with reduced mobility, the installation of a multi-use washbasin and the extension of the irrigation system to the entrance to the garden.



Image shows community gardens at the Douglas Hospital where planting season is about to get underway.

*translated from a story in French by Carl Sincennes in *Nouvelles d'Ici*

Upcoming Services at Summerlea (10AM):

May 14: Easter 6; Mother’s Day

May 21: Easter 7

May 28: Pentecost

June 4: Trinity Sunday; Pride Sunday, Union Sunday; Environment Sunday

June 11: 2nd after Pentecost

June 18: 3rd after Pentecost; Father’s Day

Indigenous Day of Prayer / Food Sunday

June 25: 4th after Pentecost

Other Announcements:

May 13th: Puzzle Sale 10am-12pm (Saturday)

June 3rd: Plant Sale 10am-12pm (Saturday)

Summerlea will close for the month of July.

If you have **puzzles** that you would like to donate for the Outreach Committee's upcoming Jigsaw Puzzle Sale, please drop them off at the church weekdays from 8am-1pm or on the day of the sale, May 13th, at 9:00am.

Thank you.

SouthWest Prayer List

John Adnum

David Adnum

Helen Cameron

Donna Cobb & Keith Wood

May Cook

Violet L'Esperance

Phyllis Luther

Bridget McCarthy

Shirley Mitchell

Patrick O'Leary

Roberta Roberts

Doris Smith

Maurice Tringle

Suzanne Webster

If you would like your name added to (or removed from) the prayer list, or if you are requesting on behalf of a family member, call the office or contact Pastor Beryl directly.

Pastoral Care: for emergencies, you may contact Pastor Beryl directly on her cell phone. No calls after 9pm please: 514 942-6212.



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