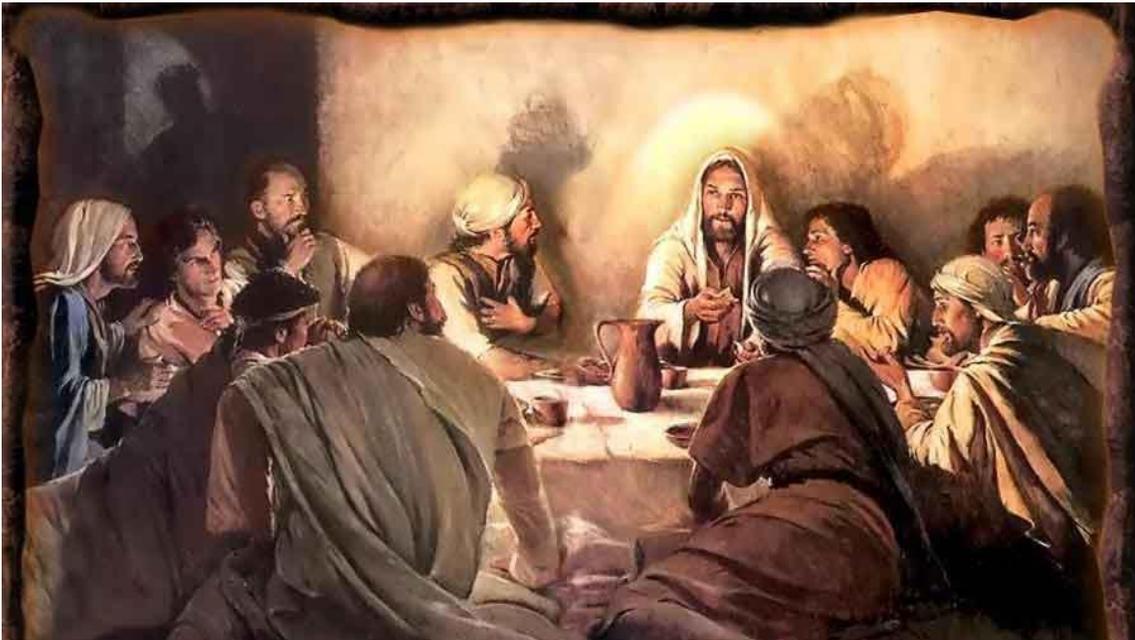


Friday News from South West

May 19, 2023

Easter 7

This Sunday, the 7th of Easter, our focus reading is John 17: 1-10.



As this season of Easter draws to a close, we see the early church slowly transforming, taking the experience of encountering the risen Christ and trying to find ways to make it real in their world.

Jesus has expectations for his disciples – the ones who would lead the early church “so that they may be one.” It is his time, and he is spending his last hours talking with them, willing them to understand that they must remain together and be unified. He wants them to work together, for the common good of all followers.

His words, this week, are from The Message: **Jesus’ Prayer for His Followers**

17¹⁻⁵ Jesus said these things. Then, raising his eyes in prayer, he said:

Father, it’s time.

Display the bright splendor of your Son so the Son in turn may show your bright splendor.

You put him in charge of everything human so he might give real and eternal life to all in his care.

And this is the real and eternal life:

*That they know you, the one and only true God,
And Jesus Christ, whom you sent.
I glorified you on earth by completing down to the last detail what you assigned me to do.
And now, Father, glorify me with your very own splendor, the very splendor I had in your presence
before there was a world.*

*6-12 I spelled out your character in detail to the men and women you gave me.
They were yours in the first place;
Then you gave them to me, and they have now done what you said.
They know now, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that everything you gave me is firsthand from you,
for the message you gave me, I gave them;
And they took it, and were convinced that I came from you.
They believed that you sent me.
I pray for them. I'm not praying for the God-rejecting world but for those you gave me,
For they are yours by right.
Everything mine is yours, and yours mine, and my life is on display in them.
For I'm no longer going to be visible in the world;
They'll continue in the world while I return to you.
Holy Father, guard them as they pursue this life that you conferred as a gift through me, so they can
be one heart and mind as we are one heart and mind.
As long as I was with them, I guarded them in the pursuit of the life you gave through me;
I even posted a lookout.
And not one of them got away,
Except for the rebel bent on destruction
(the exception that proved the rule of Scripture).*

Unity is tough. Being the church, even at the best of times, is not easy. We might not always agree but we are called to be true to our tradition while, at the same time, open to the indwelling and transformative presence of Christ.

This means that, sometimes, we must hang on to yesterday and, at other times, we are called to let go. Perhaps the key lies in that call to unity – not a false unity that has little value, but a real one that seeks understanding and strength as we reach out in service to others.

The Spirit, Jesus prays, will help the disciples (and us) to understand more and more of all that Jesus has shown and taught them.

As many churches seek to grow in their understanding of Christian unity and beyond that to the interconnectedness of all creation, we remember Jesus' simple plea that we all be one.

My prayer for this week is:

Be with us, O Spirit, and form us as witnesses to the love of God in Christ. Grace our hands, eyes, ears, mouths, and even our noses with your power so that we experience and share your love with anyone who seeks to know it. Amen.

In peace

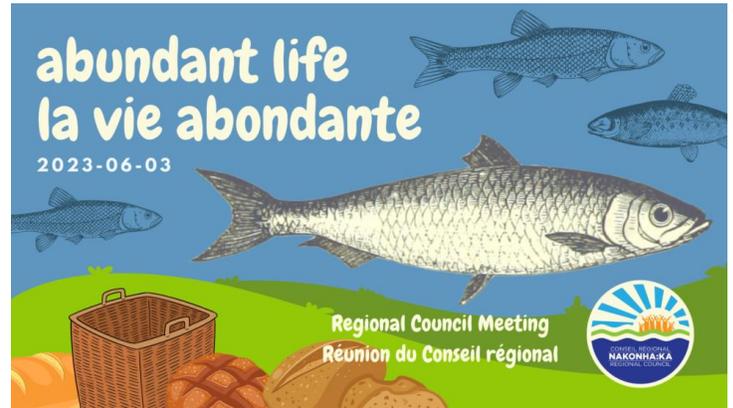
Pastor Beryl, DLM

Regional Council Gathering: Abundant Life

The Regional Council gathering on **June 3, 2023** will be a hybrid meeting (in person as well as on Zoom), hosted by Plymouth-Trinity United Church in Sherbrooke.

Find out more, including how to register:

<https://nakonhaucc.ca/event/regional-council-gathering-june-2023/>



Garage Sales!

It's the long May weekend, and that means treasures will be on offer on front lawns throughout the region. In Verdun, Lasalle, and Lachine, this weekend is one of the ones when anyone can have a garage sale without obtaining a permit. Items must be on your property only, not on sidewalks. Sales are permitted Saturday, Sunday and Monday.



Vintage Cars in Lachine

Notre-Dame Street in Lachine will be a block party on Sunday May 28, with activities for kids, a barbecue zone, and lots of cool old cars to look at. It's from 10:30-3:30, so why not head over after church?

Upcoming Services at Summerlea (10AM):

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

Summerlea United will close for the month of July.

Other Announcements:

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

June 3: Yard Sale at St-John-Brebeuf church in Lasalle

June 4: Sarah Fraser is organizing a concert at Rockburn Presbyterian Church, Sunday June 4 at 4:00 PM to celebrate their new pipe organ, which of course is the former SouthWest United pipe organ. A choir has been formed for the occasion. Details to come.

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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