



CATHÉDRALE
CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL

[In this week's letter: Pentecost – Evensong sung by our choir with Ottawa Cathedral choir – thanks for help at picnic and receptions – appreciation of Gwen Spurrll – Synod – Fire in Pikangikum – French films, an invitation from Kairos – regular cathedral events – Pentecost again]

Dear Friend of the Cathedral

Fire and wind and red vestments – this Sunday is Pentecost, the day when tongues of flame and a rushing mighty wind heralded the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, our guide and inspiration. The first reading describes how suddenly the people in the crowd who received the Holy Spirit were speaking in many languages, yet everyone knew what was being said. What a wonderful symbol of our cathedral community where, despite our differences as individuals, we come together as one family. Yet what a challenge:

*Unless the eye catch fire,
The God will not be seen.
Unless the ear catch fire
The God will not be heard.
Unless the tongue catch fire
The God will not be named.
Unless the heart catch fire,
The God will not be loved.
Unless the mind catch fire,
The God will not be known*
(William Blake: Pentecost)

Next Sunday we celebrate an even greater mystery of faith, the Trinity, and I'm looking forward to hearing the preacher tackle this challenging doctrinal topic. There will be a special Evensong at 4 pm that Sunday (June 16) when the choir of men and boys from Christ Church Cathedral Ottawa will be joining our choir to sing music by Sir William McKie, who directed the music for the Queen's wedding and coronation, Bernard Rose, Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, and Sir John Stainer. It would be wonderful to have a good congregation to support this venture.

Last Sunday we had a very successful indoor picnic with abundant food and good company and a warm welcome to Jonathan White our new Religious Music Director. Sheena, who organized the event, thanks everyone who brought the wonderful food and the people who helped with set-up and cleaning. She says that they are the ones who made it such a special event. I think Sheena too made it a special event.

We also owe a big vote of thanks to Vivian for organizing the reception after Patrick Wedd's memorial service and for helping Gwen Spurrll's family with the reception after her memorial on Wednesday. Gwen was lovingly remembered by her family and many friends from the cathedral, the MUHC and the Parkinson's support group. A parishioner reacted to an article written by Gwen with the comment "It is 110% her, with her ascerbic wit, never taking herself too seriously and yet having a deep perception of all things that went on around her. No one who came in contact with Gwen could be left indifferent. She was a great person and gave her best every day to all those with whom she came in contact."

Beyond the Cathedral

1. Diocesan Synod will be held in Fulford Hall on Saturday June 15, from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Our cathedral delegates are Sam Keuchguerian and Flo Tracy. You can read the convening circular which contains reports and parish statistics on line at montreal.anglican.ca/synod
2. Some of you will remember that the children helped us raise awareness of the terrible water conditions in Pikangikum last year. Tragically there is now a terrible forest fire in this area and PWRDF is asking for our prayers.
3. We have received an Invitation from Kairos Canada to a screening of seven French films that deal with notions of history, geography, social issues and the daily lives of Aboriginal youth. June 19 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm. in Salle Bellarmin, 25 rue Jarry ouest. It is free. Reservation is required.

Reminders about regular Cathedral events

1. This Sunday, June 9 two bible studies, in French at 10:00 am in the Undercroft and in English at 12:30 pm in the boardroom on the 3rd floor
2. Sunday June 16 Fair Trade Kiosque during coffee hour in the baptistry
3. Sunday June 16 Cathedral@6 – a bilingual communion service with contemporary music. You can help the joyful nature of this service by contributing to the Rock the Cathedral fund. Look for the pink basket on Sunday, or put a cheque in the collection plate. The congregation for this service wants to buy sound equipment.
4. June 18 Forum
5. June 23 at 12:15 pm QueerSpace@CCC. This group meets monthly. For information email queerspace@montrealcathedral.ca
6. Meeting every Wednesday Hungry Minds discussion group for young adults. The group will join the brainstorming supper at Ann's house on June 19 when we will discuss ideas for Les journées de la culture at the end of September. The theme is making connections and building bridges.
7. Every Saturday, currently at 4:30pm, Oasis Musicale concert. See the programmes on their Facebook page or at oasismusicale.ca
8. Every Sunday, Evensong at 4 pm, a bright star in the Anglican firmament. Come once and you'll be hooked! This week the music is by Mendelssohn, Howells, Leighton and Elgar. Don't forget the special combined choirs Evensong on June 16.
9. The flowers which beautify the Cathedral each week are donated by parishioners. Please contact Vera Burt, or the office. There is a sign-up sheet in the baptistry on Sunday.

Gerald Manley Hopkins was one of our most interesting Victorian poets whose thoughts are still relevant over 100 years later. In one sonnet he wrote "The world is charged with the grandeur of God". After describing how humans have spoiled God's creation he concludes

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

May the blessings of Pentecost enfold you
Ann Elbourne
June 6, 2019