

Participants in Video Devotions for May, 2021

Date	Worship Assistant (Psalm)	Reader (reading)	Prayer leader
May 2	Marilyn C	Katharine B	Christa M
May 9	Eric N	Kim D	Kara R
May 16	Monica P	Pam R	Marilyn C
May 23	Tim L	Eric N	Jett I
May 30	Tom R	Christa M	Monica P

Readings and prayers available on the "Sunday Service" page (and archive) of our website. Video clips need to be submitted in advance; contact Pastor Tyler if unclear about parts.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church is located on original lands of Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

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*Raise up beauty from the ashes; end our violence; tend our peace.
Give us visions of a future where all captives find release,
where oppression is evicted, and all works of hatred cease.*

ACS #1052

As I write this, the verdict for the first police officer charged with killing George Floyd in Minneapolis has just been handed down – guilty.

Systemic racism exists in our society: in Canada, in Manitoba, in Winnipeg, in Charleswood. In our Lutheran circles, we enjoy a lot of privilege; many (most?) of us are of European decent, and structures are in place that have given us rights and privileges that others do not have, and it's easy to miss where life has been tipped in our favour, so it's also easy to turn a blind eye to injustice.

The question (as it was once put to Jesus, Luke 10: 29) is "who is my neighbour?" Can we treat others as we would want to be treated? Can we see that the dreams and hopes of others, the desires they have for their children, are like ours?

And, further, can we risk some of the privilege and favour that we have enjoyed so that others may also live in happiness and hope? It's true: it may mean things like we stand in line for a bit longer, or we help others to learn what we've known for our lifetimes.

The ministry of Jesus – the kingdom that Jesus proclaimed – was one that saw the *humanity in all people*. Our faith calls us to works of justice, and living in peace-filled ways. As we sing and pray that violence ends and works of hatred cease, we also work towards a day when those who feel captive by systems we create are freed.

-Pastor Tyler

Wednesdays – 9:30am Virtual Coffee Hour
Sundays – 9:30am Bible Study,
10am time of prayer:

zoom

- those who are ill
- those who have experienced loss
- those celebrating birthdays, and other good news

To join in these social times, follow the link provided in the e-news.
Once per month, our prayer time includes online Eucharist (see calendar) – have some bread and juice ready!



Ascension Day & Day of Pentecost

In May, we observe these two days in our church year.

Ascension Day is forty days after Easter.

“Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.” (Luke 24:50-51)

Pentecost is fifty days after Easter. It is sometimes referred to as “the birthday of the church.”

“When the day of Pentecost had come, [the apostles] were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.” (Acts 2:1-4)

@GloriaDeiWinnipeg

**A few quotes
as we begin reading...**

“Lasting happiness cannot be found in pursuit of any goal or achievement. It does not reside in fortune or fame. It resides only in the human mind and heart, and it is here that we hope you will find it.” (p.ix)

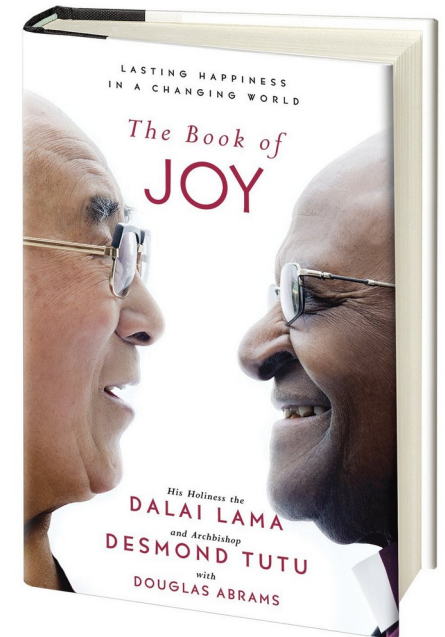
“Discovering more joy does not, I’m sorry to say, save us from the inevitability of hardship and heartbreak. In fact, we may cry more easily, but we will laugh more easily, too. Perhaps we are just more alive. Yet as we discover more joy, we can face suffering in a way that enables rather than embitters. We have hardship without becoming hard. We have heartbreak without being broken.” (p.12)

“It does not matter whether one is a Buddhist like me, or a Christian like the Archbishop, or any other religion, or no religion at all. From the moment of birth, every human being wants to discover happiness and avoid suffering. No differences in our culture or our education or our religion affect this. From the very core of our being, we simply desire joy and contentment. But so often these feelings are fleeting and hard to find, like a butterfly that lands on us and then flutters away.

The ultimate source of happiness is within us. Not money, not power, not status. Some of my friends are billionaires, but they are very unhappy people. Power and money fail to bring inner peace. Outward attainment will not bring real inner joyfulness. We must look inside.” (p.14)

“Certainly, they also share values at a place where the core of all religions meet, and of course they share a fantastic sense of humour. I was beginning to see how central friendship, and relationship more generally, was in our experience of joy. This was a theme that would arise many times in our week together.” (p.21)

Join us for a time of study and discussion on Zoom on Sunday mornings!



Our Muslim Neighbours: *What is “Ramadan”?*

Ramadan is the Arabic name for the ninth month in the Islamic calendar. It is considered one of the holiest Islamic months.

It's also one of the Five Pillars of Islam. These are five principles which Muslims believe are compulsory acts ordered by God.

Muslims believe that some of the first verses of the Islamic holy book, the Qu'ran, were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad during the month of Ramadan. Extra emphasis is placed on reciting the Qu'ran at this time.

Fasting is considered to be an act of worship, which enables Muslims to feel closer to God and strengthen their spiritual health and self-discipline.

How does this work in practice?

Muslims have an early morning meal before dawn, known as *suhor* or *sehri*.

They break their fast after sunset for the evening meal, called *iftar* or *fitoor*.

Ramadan is also a time when Muslims are encouraged to give to charity, strengthen their relationship with God, and show kindness and patience.

The Islamic calendar follows the lunar calendar of 12 months. Each month begins with the new crescent moon and lasts either 29 or 30 days.

The month of Ramadan begins with the first sighting of the new moon. (In 2021, Ramadan is April 13 – May 13)

(<https://www.bbc.com/news/explainers-56695447>)

A Term Worth Knowing: BIPOC

BIPOC stands for Black, Indigenous, and people of colour. Pronounced “bye-pock,” this is a term specific to the United States, intended to center the experiences of Black and Indigenous groups and demonstrate solidarity between communities of colour.

The term “BIPOC” is more descriptive than people of color or POC. It acknowledges that people of colour face varying types of discrimination and prejudice. Additionally, it emphasizes that systemic racism continues to oppress, invalidate, and deeply affect the lives of Black and Indigenous people in ways other people of colour may not necessarily experience. Lastly and significantly, Black and Indigenous individuals and communities still bear the impact of slavery and genocide.

BIPOC aims to bring to center stage the specific violence, cultural erasure, and discrimination experienced by Black and Indigenous people. It reinforces the fact that not all people of colour have the same experience, particularly when it comes to legislation and systemic oppression.

(<https://www.ywcaworks.org/blogs/ywca/fri-01152021-1332/why-we-use-bipoc>)



SOMETHING
TO THINK
ABOUT
REGARDING
THE MISSION
OF THE
CHURCH:

there is a
significant
difference between
"all are welcome
here" and "this
was created with
you in mind"

Camino Manitoba

“Walking Winnipeg Rivers” is being planned for the May long weekend (some details TBA, given recent Covid restrictions) see the website:

www.CaminoManitoba.ca

Subscribe to Gloria Dei’s YouTube channel!



Our video devotions are posted there, as well as videos of music and other church-life clips of interest!

As Gloria Dei celebrates its
60th Anniversary in 2021...



What memories do you have of the past?
What dreams do you have for the future?

Let’s share our stories, and hopes!