



# St. Andrew's News

www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!



## From Presbyterian World Service and Development

**Respond to the India COVID Crisis**  
India is currently in the midst of a dramatic surge in COVID-19 cases, threatening its healthcare system and leaving already vulnerable families in crisis.

*First published on the PCC website on May 4<sup>th</sup>.*

For more than a week, over 300,000 cases have been diagnosed daily. So far over 220,000 people have died in India and the crisis is only worsening.

Immediate needs are access to health care, medical supplies and medicines, particularly oxygen. There is an urgent need to educate people on risk prevention and address vaccine hesitancy.

Vaccine supply is insufficient and inaccessible to many, leaving herd immunity out of reach.

PWS&D is preparing to respond with its partners and ACT Alliance members in India to support people that are sick or quarantined at home with cash to buy medicines and provide for other emergency needs. Additionally, they will work with communities to share messages on infection prevention and control, as well as information on vaccines.

PWS&D has been working with partners in India for decades. These partners are on the ground, actively assessing the situation to determine how best to respond. Our Christian partners in India reach out to all those in need, irrespective of their faith, as Jesus called us to do. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

You can donate through St. Andrew's making sure to note that the donation is to go to India Covid Crisis. You can also go to <https://presbyterian.ca/pwsd/2021/05/04/india-covid-crisis/> and donate directly through the PCC.

Services are available online and can be accessed on the church Facebook page, or on the website at

<https://standrewspres-tbay.ca/worship-services-by-video/>

Arrangements can also be made for a print version of the worship service to be provided. Connect with Rev. Joyce for more information

## PRAYERS FROM THE HEART

The following prayer is taken from the Lectionary Liturgies Blog by Thom. M. Shuman He describes himself as a pastor and a poet and I often use his prayers in worship. So together with this gifted writer we pray...

We do not notice,  
Holy God,  
but you give us:  
time,  
so we can think  
about your Word;  
silence,  
so it may fill  
our emptiness;  
wisdom,  
so we may know  
the path to walk.

We do not notice,  
Risen Christ,  
how you have not given  
just a piece of yourself,  
or a portion of your grace,  
but all of who you are:  
for us -  
and yet,  
you regard US  
as God's amazing gift  
to you!

We do not notice,  
Nourishing Spirit,  
how you remove our fears,  
simply by sitting with us  
and holding our hearts;  
or how you swirl around us,  
pulling us deeper and deeper  
into love, grace and peace,  
until we find ourselves  
rooted forever in the One  
who watches over us forever.  
Amen.

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## From Joyce

Thursday May 13 was Ascension Day. Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup> is called Ascension Sunday. Ascension doesn't get the same airplay as Christmas, Easter, or even Pentecost, but it is a day of importance for the Christian church. My friend and colleague Rev. Kobus Genis recently shared this on his Facebook page. Kobus is a minister, teacher, and author. With his permission, I share his words today.

What do we celebrate when we celebrate the Ascension of Jesus?

After the resurrection of Jesus, He spent 40 days teaching His disciples and then ascended to heaven to rule alongside His Father. Yet Christians are not always excited about the Ascension. Perhaps this is because the day falls on a weekday or because the world does not celebrate (exploit) this day commercially in the same way as it does Christmas.

Yet there might be another reason why the Ascension does not fill us with excitement: perhaps we are not quite sure what to get excited about. It is interesting to note that Luke is the only Gospel writer who tells the story of the Ascension (Luke 24:50). Paul (in Ephesians) and the author of Hebrews do, however, enthusiastically refer to the Ascension. What do we really celebrate when we celebrate the Ascension?

Acts 1 (Prose: History) The Ascension of Jesus

9 After Jesus had said this and while they were watching, he was taken up into a cloud. They could not see him, 10 but as he went up, they kept looking up into the sky. Suddenly two men dressed in white clothes were standing there beside them. 11 They said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here and looking up into the sky? Jesus has been taken to heaven. But he will come back in the same way that you have seen him go.' (CEV)

The Ascension does not mean that Jesus has left us but that He is with us in a different way. He is with us in a glorified way—in other words, in the Spirit. We do not have someone else with us in the Spirit. No, the Spirit is the new way, the glorified way, whereby Christ Himself is with us. This is why Matthew could use the following words of Jesus to conclude his Gospel: "I will be with you always, even until the end of the world" (CEV).

Jesus is not gone! We should get excited about this. There is also another reason why we should be excited: the Ascension declares that Jesus will return. But it will not be a return after a long absence—the second coming of Christ will be another way in which He will be with us. As a Church, we are not on our way to nowhere. History is not merely a series of unrelated facts. God is leading us to the second coming of Christ, and for this we have to be prepared. We cannot prepare for it by staring at the clouds all day long. No, we have to work hard to spread the gospel so that others can share in God's blessing.

"As the Resurrection opened the grave, the Ascension opened heaven." Author unknown

Taken from "It takes More Than A Mask" <https://thebibleqps.com/it-takes-more-than-a-mask>

### STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

For if you are eager to give, God will accept your gift on the basis of what you have to give, not on what you don't have.

*2 Corinthians 8:12*

### ST. ANDREW'S COVID UPDATE

St. Andrew's remains closed until further notice, due to government regulations.

*stay safe*

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Sunday Worship - Online

at [standrewspres-tbay.ca](http://standrewspres-tbay.ca)