

# Worship (con't)

**SUNDAY, JULY 27**

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, 11:00 a.m.**

Scriptures: Romans 8:26-39;  
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52  
Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 3**

**Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, 11:00 a.m.**

Scriptures: TBC  
Rev. Dr. J.S.S. Armour  
Minister Emeritus

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 10**

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, 11:00 a.m.**

Scriptures: TBC  
Rev. Dr. Dale Woods

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 17**

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, 11:00 a.m.**

Scriptures: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32;  
Matthew 15:21-28  
Rev. Jeff Veenstra

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 24**

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, 11:00 a.m.**

Scriptures: Romans 12:1-8;  
Matthew 16:13-20  
Rev. Jeff Veenstra

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 31**

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, 11:00 a.m.**

Scriptures: Romans 12:9-21;  
Matthew 16:21-28  
Rev. Jeff Veenstra



# A Word From the Minister

## Christ Is Among Us

At the time of this writing the Church is nearing the end of its 40-day season of Easter. Easter is the startling good news that in matters of life and death God has the last word; that the good purposes of God in Christ could not be defeated by sin and the grave. That is Easter. However, according to John's Gospel, the news that "Christ is risen" did not transform his disciples into bold witnesses for the kingdom of God. In fact, on the evening of the first Easter – despite Mary Magdalene's announcement to the eleven that she had seen the Lord and that not even the seemingly impenetrable shackles of death could defeat the power of God's love – Peter, James, John and company are huddled behind closed doors "for fear."

What do they fear? Doubtless they feared the authorities. Rome had already convicted and crucified Jesus for sedition, perhaps they would now seek out his followers as well. Or maybe the disciples feared the future. They had given up everything to follow Jesus, believing that he was God's Messiah, and now they were left to face an uncertain future on their own. Or maybe they feared God. Perhaps they were afraid that Mary was right and that Jesus was raised. If God could raise a lifeless corpse from the grave, imagine what God could do to a group of cowardly would-be disciples who betrayed, denied, and deserted Jesus in his hour of greatest need. Regardless, it's Easter evening and the news of Christ's resurrection has not lifted the Good Friday pall that caused his terrified followers to cower behind bolted doors.

So what transformed the frightened disciples into courageous witnesses for the gospel? In a word, presence. The news "Christ is risen" was not enough to make their hearts leap with joy; it was not sufficient to move them outside of their locked hideout. Rather, it was the presence of the risen Christ who came to his followers in their bewilderment and fear and offered them his peace that made all the difference. Whatever the future held, they now trusted that it and they were in the hands of God. The good news "Christ is risen" more importantly meant they were not alone!

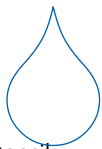
There is a tendency sometimes to believe that churches are useful, helpful institutions in and of themselves. Although no one would ever articulate it out loud there is sometimes an attitude that lingers in the air that if God were somehow to disappear from the scene the church would continue to be a fine, character-building organization contributing to the physical and emotional well-being of the community. But John's Gospel dispels that illusion. If you want to see what becomes of the church when it is deprived of its central holy presence, just sneak a peek at First Church Jerusalem hunkered defensively in a darkened room, peeking through the window to make certain the world isn't out to get them. In the absence of God, the church is hollow, void of meaning and purpose, fearfully locked behind its own institutional façade.

However, the good news is that into the midst of this emptiness, into the centre of this despairing people, the risen Christ comes and says "Peace be with you." The risen Christ is among us as our peace, breathing his Spirit of life on us, equipping us with everything we need for the adventure of being his Church. So be it.

*In shared ministry,  
Jeff*

# From the Church Registrar

## Baptisms



**February 9, 2014**

Ava Sofia Vogelsang Dancik  
Kaylee Abigail Long

## Marriages



**February 22, 2014**

Luc Lachapelle and  
Anne Amelia Durkin

**April 19, 2014**

Paul West and Laura Cigana

## Memorials & Funerals



**February 7, 2014**

Lilian Trudel nee Petrock

**March 8, 2014**

Richard Hobart

**March 1, 2014**

Cosimo Cristofaro