

# Time Together

## While We are Apart

Wednesday, May 27, 2020



Good morning, dear church communities,

Our featured animal today is Sadie Belle, an American Cocker Spaniel, who lives with Bob and Lee Casazza (SMWC). Sadie Belle will be eight years old in October, and was born on Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, where the Casazzas lived until last fall. When they moved here, to be closer to Lee's sister who lives in White Stone, Sadie Belle rode across country with them by car. A long trip for all of them, but they are now happily settled in Lancaster County. Sadie Belle is shown here back on Salt Spring Island, with, I believe, her favorite stick! Many thanks for sharing your sweet girl with us, Bob and Lee!

I enjoyed a refreshing week off, often sleeping in until 7am, having time to sit on the porch and read, and finding time to work in my garden! Many thanks to all for your support and for the quiet time; much appreciated! Before my week off I read an article on pastor burnout, that included a vivid image that has stayed with me. The author noted that when pastors do not take care of themselves, the shepherd may begin to experience starvation, and thus, he/she can sometimes start eating the sheep. Yikes! I will work to faithfully take care of myself, and to take my time off, so I do not start gnawing on any ankles!

One programming note, this Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> is the Day of Pentecost, and we will host our first Zoom worship service at 10am! More details in the Announcements, but for now an important reminder if you already have Zoom. Zoom has a required upgrade for all users, to be completed by May 30. If you do not upgrade, it will occur automatically when you open Zoom on Sunday, May 31. So, either upgrade now or give yourself extra time on Sunday morning! Either way, I hope to "see" you on Sunday!

And now onward to a little more "Time Together,"  
Megan

## **Prayer Notes:**

We will include our prayer lists in each Sunday Newsletter. Please continue to let us know of folks you would like to have on our prayer lists.

Notes for this week:

- Chuck McGrath Please continue your prayers for Chuck and his family.
- Our healthcare workers are on all our hearts. Please keep them, and their families, in your prayers.

## **May and June Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**St. Mary's Whitechapel Birthdays:** Karen Woodruff, May 4; Jean DeFilippo, May 12; Ernie Greene, May 13; Chuck McGrath, May 17; Randy Romaine, May 25; Rita Theisen, June 3; Ursula O'Bryhim, June 16; Ed Ramsey, June 16; Jane Henley, June 17; Jane Fortin, June 22; Warren Hottle, June 29

**Anniversaries:** Lucy & Warren Hottle, May 10; Donna and Pete Ransone, May 26; Ed and Sue Ramsey, June 15

**Trinity Birthdays:** Finn Pollard, May 2nd; Allen Cornwell, May 3rd; Karen Woodruff, May 4th; Jonathan Chilton, May 11th; Hope Hayden, May 11th; Milton Kingsbury, May 13th; Owen Christopher, May 22nd; Spencer Cammarata, May 24th; Jenny Dunaway, May 24th; Jamie Hayden, June 12th; Jodie Hayden, June 12th; Alexis Hayden, June 15th; Cole Hayden, June 15th; Dinny Jackson, June 23rd; Julian Cornwell, June 24th; Curtis Walker, June 30th

**Anniversaries:** Carter & Cheryl Christopher, May 19th; Janet & Jay Davenport, May 20th; Gwen & Stan James, June 16th; Diane & Dukie Smith, June 18th



## Announcements

Our first Zoom worship service will be this Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at 10am. Sunday is the Day of Pentecost, the day we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. Red is the color of the day for Pentecost, so feel free to wear red, including, if you wake up late, red pajamas! The bulletin for Sunday will be emailed to all on Friday, and then will appear again in the Sunday Newsletter, if you would like to print it out ahead of time or look for your Book of Common Prayer and be ready for the service. We will be celebrating the Liturgy of the Word, the first half of our usual Sunday service concluding with the Passing of the Peace.

The Zoom invitation will go out on Sunday to everyone who receives our Newsletters. The “meeting” will be open at 9:30am for folks to gather and to work out any technological kinks, before worship begins at 10am. With this first service we will undoubtedly have some glitches and confusions. We are all, including this technological dinosaur, learning new ways in this oh so strange time... hmmm... sounds like the disciples on Pentecost! Hope you can be there for this Pentecost; I am so excited for us to gather!

If you would like to attend on Sunday, but are not signed up for Zoom, Ellen Tracey from Trinity and Sharon and Richard Gill from SMWC are willing to help anyone get on Zoom. Ellen can be contacted at: 804-436-2371 and The Gills can be reached at: 804-462-9939.

We will still have “Zooming Coffee Hour” this Sunday, at 3pm. All are welcome at this comfortable gathering of folks to visit and laugh together, and conclude with prayers for the concerns on our hearts. Text, call or email me if you want to join us, and I’ll put you on the list to receive the Zoom invitation each week. Once you sign up you are on the list and can come any Sunday that suits you. (My cell number is 804-477-5515.)

Washington National Cathedral continues to offer beautiful and moving worship daily. They can be found at [cathedral.org](http://cathedral.org).

Please let me know if you are in need of help with getting groceries or other necessities. Call, text, or email and I’ll connect you with a volunteer.

You can continue to mail pledges and donations to Rector’s Discretionary Fund to each church:

Trinity Church  
PO Box 208  
Lancaster, VA 22503

SMWC  
5940 Whitechapel Rd  
Lancaster, VA 22503



## ***Thoughts from the Organ Bench***

Many of us are probably familiar with the hymn “Here I Am, Lord,” written by Dan Schutte in 1981. The lyrics, which describe a Christian answering God’s call, are based on Isaiah 6:8 and 1 Samuel 3. The tune has met with success since it was first published by OCP Publications. In 2004, *The Tablet*, an international Catholic magazine, reported “Here I Am, Lord” as a readers’ favorite, while a 2013 survey conducted by *Songs of Praise* named it the fifth most popular hymn in Britain. The hymn’s composer, Dan Schutte, however, never thought that this tune would take off the way it did.

When Schutte was 31 years old, he was a Jesuit studying theology in Berkeley when a friend asked him to write a song for an upcoming diaconate ordination Mass. Mr. Schutte told *America Magazine*, “I sort of had to catch my breath, because he was knocking on my door on Wednesday and I knew the ordination was on Saturday.”

He was instructed to make sure that the song contained imagery of the word of God, the light of Christ, and the bread and wine. At this time, Schutte, who had been suffering through a bad bout of the flu, thought, “Gosh, I don’t know what to do with that.”

The feverish songwriter sat at his desk with guitar in hand and no idea where to begin. That’s when he did the only thing he could: he said a prayer. He petitioned the Lord, “God, if I’m going to do this for my friend, you’re going to have to help me.”

Mr. Schutte said he often uses Scripture as the basis of his songs, so as he thought about the idea of vocation for the ordination Mass, he turned to the stories of the prophets, like Jeremiah, who asked God to give him the right words to say.

“In all those stories, all of those people God was calling to be prophets have expressed in one way or another their humanness or their self-doubt,” Mr. Schutte said.

When finished, he sought feedback from the St. Louis Jesuits, a group of young Jesuit songwriters who popularized folk-influenced liturgical music in the 1970s. It was their criticisms and suggestions that changed the original chorus of “Here I am, Lord; here I stand, Lord” to “Here I am, Lord; is it I, Lord?”.

All said and done, it took just two days for the hymn we all know and love to be completed. Schutte delivered the song to his friend, still scribbling edits along the way. “At that point,” he told *America*, “I really had no sense that the song would be any good, and I was actually very nervous.”

Schutte notes that he does not remember much from the ordination, except that people were praising his song by the end. He told *America*, “I couldn’t figure it out,” Mr. Schutte said. “If only they knew the story of the last two days of my life trying to make this work!”

Please enjoy these two arrangements of “Here I Am, Lord.” The first is arranged by Craig Courtney (no relation!) –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFpKgtJ4wcc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BomAkJ21laE>

Source:

<https://aleteia.org/2018/05/10/the-story-of-how-the-hymn-here-i-am-lord-came-to-be/>

## Reflection

*“Jesus asked, “What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.”*

*Luke 13: 18-19*

One description of our pandemic life notes that we need to look at this time not as a sprint, but as a marathon. As a person who was only, at most, a three-mile runner, this analogy might not be ideal for me. But I did, many years ago, walk one marathon and one half marathon (fundraisers for the Leukemia Society). And I remember how VERY long a marathon is, and I remember wondering, at about mile 20, why we could not do fundraisers centered instead on the 100-yard dash!

Back in March, when we thought church would be closed for two weeks, we were in a sprint mindset, run this thing quickly, and get back to normal. But now as we draw closer to three months, and close to 100,000 deaths in our country alone, we know we are in a marathon. To do a marathon you need patience, you need to pace yourself, and you need reserves of both strength and hope.

In the lengthening time of our marathon we recognize too that there is much we grieve. We might have taken human contact, human connections for granted before, but now we know their invaluable worth in our lives. We deeply grieve the loss of the simplest connections, lunch with a friend, a hug at church, feeling the bread placed in our hands, offering our hand in greeting to a new acquaintance. I imagine there are many other things you grieve in this marathon of pandemic.

I grieve today, that as we plan towards our first Zoom worship service, those in our community without computers or internet, are left out of this gathering. And, as we live in a county with at best fickle internet service, some with the technology will still not be able to tune in to worship too. Any worship that leaves some folks out, does not feel completely right, but we do what we can, and lean on God’s strength as we keep putting one foot in front of the other in this marathon.

We do need reserves of both strength and hope in this time. During my week off I was reminded of an image that gives me hope for the days, weeks, and months ahead as we travel together. I had time last week to get my tomato seedlings and flower seeds in the ground. Every time I open a packet of seeds, I think to myself, you have got to be kidding. I love picking out seeds in the store, looking at the colorful pictures, imagining my flowers in full bloom in the bright sunshine of a July morning. And then I open the packet and just a few dry husks, a few grains fall out and they seem like truly nothing, so small that the slightest wind will blow them away, and they will be lost in the gravel forever. However, though they do appear inconsequential, in them lies deep hope. Our brother Jesus spoke often of seeds, addressing crowds that knew well seeds and growing, knew crops, and knew hope in seeds that grow strong.

In this marathon we do grieve many losses, and so many deaths, but we too are called to find hope and create hope, to plant those tiny seeds in our community and beyond, that will grow in new ways beyond our imaginations. If we decide to just wait until everything is “back to normal” to be joyous, to be vessels of God’s love, we will have a marathon length wait and waste much time, especially if we are grumpy while waiting! Our brother Jesus calls us to our fields, and hands us the tiniest of seeds, those dry husks... a phone call, a meal, a hand written note, a Zoom connection, a prayer, many prayers... “What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden.” Amen.

