

Good morning,



I hope you are doing well these days. The last few months have been difficult for many of us with the death of loved ones and the ongoing battle with health issues. The word to describe this is **struggle**. I am amazed when I see how trees on craggy rocks at the ocean shore are able to survive. Somehow a seed landed in a crack and had enough warmth, sunlight, and moisture to germinate. Then as years went by the roots searched other cracks and struggled their way to find what they needed. The tree grew, the wind blew, and it was shaped by the storms on the water always now pointing in the direction forced by those tempests. Those trees are strong and inspire me whenever I see them. There are many along the coast.

We are shaped by our struggles. That is clear. Will we be broken? Will we find what we need? Our creator made it possible for these trees to survive in spite of the struggle. Our creator does the same for us. That is why we are reminded us that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ: ***For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).*** We are not alone. We can find what we need. We have each other. Hang in there.

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Last Friday we had an interesting Friday morning meeting with our guest Rev. Dr. Ray Aldred. The following note is a reminder about the meeting this week. This follow-up meeting is open to all.

***This will be a Zoom only meeting***

In response to the ongoing call from the ELCIC to "Truth and Reconciliation" with Indigenous Peoples, the Mens' Group have been engaged in an in-depth discussion about the meaning of this relationship based on a book called *Our Home and Treaty Land*.

Last week co-author Rev. Dr. Ray Aldred was invited to visit our church and the wider community heard him speak on Indigenous Spirituality, relationship with the Land, and the meaning of 'Treaty'.

This Friday at 8:30 a.m. the Hope Community is invited to a follow-up discussion on Rev. Aldred's talk. His talk was recorded, link below, so there is still an opportunity to listen and come prepared to participate on Friday.

Eileen Garcia has agreed to lead the discussion and encourages everyone to participate fully in the discussion.

**RECORDING OF JANUARY 20th PRESENTATION**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/e9tJTd5Tz4kgdz\\_IzzHpDeojWFwpkNHcha\\_TZjQVdRAvN3TxhR7AMK\\_W1Z42PIT-W.oik9Fy7dliNo3NmY](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/e9tJTd5Tz4kgdz_IzzHpDeojWFwpkNHcha_TZjQVdRAvN3TxhR7AMK_W1Z42PIT-W.oik9Fy7dliNo3NmY) (if it doesn't open by clicking on it, press and hold "ctrl" button then click). There was a problem with the microphone for our guest at the start which is resolved around the 2

minute mark, so if you are listening please carry thru that part. The rest of the recording has very good audio.

**ZOOM INVITATION for this Friday, January 27 – no passcode required**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84069638336>

Meeting ID: 840 6963 8336

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I have some sad news to share. On Monday, January 23, after a five year struggle with her health, our friend **Janice Vosper** died in the Palliative Care Unit of the Nanaimo hospital. Janice was surrounded by her family. The Lord is her Shepherd. We keep the grieving family in our prayers. Further information will be announced as it becomes available.

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On Saturday you will receive the Hybrid Worship Service and Invitation to Zoom for Sunday, January 29. In the meantime, even when there are struggles, the Lord is with you.

Pastor Terry

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