

Good morning,

I sit here in my office this morning and listen to the machine below continue work on the property behind the church.

This began about two weeks ago. Where there was a house now there is a big empty space. From the size of the excavation, something new will be rising up. Neighbours stood around and watched as the demolition took place. They talked about the people that lived there over the years. A Monkey Puzzle tree was saved in the front, as well as a Walnut tree and a few others in the back bordering our property. The machine reminded me of a Tyrannosaurus Rex. The operator was very skilled and the house came down quickly.



Many people have memories of that house and its occupants. But change is inevitable. The old is gone and the new comes. It's the story of life. Surprise, sadness or relief, and curiosity accompany these transitions. Some of the houses that I lived in when I was younger are now gone. I go back to those locations sometimes and remember. I remember what used to be there, what I was doing then, and how the whole neighbourhood is now so different. Only those who lived there at the time know how much change has taken place. Life marches on.

As I was writing this the chaplain from the jail dropped by to pick up all those blank greeting cards that have been offered to the prisoners for their use. He began telling me about the new building going on at the Brannen Lake Jail.

Much of the old is gone and the new is coming. Now the question is what shall they do with the new possibilities? The chapel program has been closed to visitors and volunteers for a long time and he is thinking about what what is really needed, what worked and what didn't work. How do they best meet the needs present instead of just doing what they used to do whether it worked or not. These are good questions about change.

Our church building is still here. Our Hope congregation remains vital and interested in the community around us. The two year pandemic demolished some of our past activity and way of doing things. With the future coming into view again, it's a good time to ask ourselves, "What do we need as church? What is really important? What do we leave behind? Where should our focus be?"

So each day, the property nearby changes and the machine works at something. I wonder what will take place. I wonder what will be new on the old property. Will it be better or worse than what was? I think many people also wonder if the "church" in this world has had its time, or will it live again in a new way? What do you think?

I'm recall some of the words of that old hymn ***Abide with Me,***

Swift to its close ebbs to life's little days' earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away' change and decay in all around I see; O thou who changes not abide with me.

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We had a very interesting presentation and discussion last Friday with Elder Nora during the Friday Morning Hybrid meeting. You are invited once again as a follow up on *First Nations spirituality and culture*. Please consider joining us in person or if you prefer, here is the Zoom Invitation (please use the pass code included below):

Topic: **Friday Zoom Meeting First Nations Spirituality**

Time: May 13, 2022 08:30 AM Vancouver

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88391675782>

Meeting ID: 883 9167 5782

Passcode: **924745**

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+1 647 558 0588 Canada

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

+1 780 666 0144 Canada

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+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

Meeting ID: 883 9167 5782

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdD7XEBZDi>

Incidentally, the Rostered Leaders of our synod are meeting in Study Conference next week (May 15-18) with the emphasis on *Called to be Ambassadors of Reconciliation & Working Effectively with Indigenous Peoples*. **Anglican Bishop Barbara Andrews** and member of the **Enoch Cree Nation** will be our presenter. I will offer a report on this conference in the June newsletter.

On Saturday you will receive the Hybrid Worship Service and the Zoom invitation as usual.

Christ is Risen!

Pastor Terry