

imagine



IN OUR PANDEMIC, WHERE DO YOU SEE GOD IN OUR WORLD?

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN CREATING OSLC DIGITAL ART GALLERY

This has been a challenging pandemic. Currently we are in a significant storm surge, and as we await calmer waters, we ask, *Where do we see God?* We have faith and know that God is not a distant entity, but is in our every breath. God is creative and being created in God's image, we are creative as well. During this season of Advent we await with anticipation and hope in Christ's coming. Your **Guiding Team** invites you to creatively express how you see God at this moment in time.

ARE YOU UP FOR THIS CHALLENGE?

Take time to reflect on the question:

In our pandemic where do you see God in our world? OR In our pandemic where do you see God at work in our world?

Through any medium of creative expression, share your story with us. All narratives are greatly appreciated.

FEELING YOU ARE NOT CREATIVE?

In supporting you, your Guiding Team has brainstormed a variety of ways you may creatively express yourself. Check out the enclosed **Ideas Sheet** and the church website **Digital Art Gallery**.

COMPLETED THE CHALLENGE? WHAT NEXT?

Email the document, photo or video to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at oslcospika@gmail.com OR drop it off at the church during office hours.

We will post it to the church website and social media sites.

REFLECTING AND SHARING YOUR STORY

We develop a shared understanding when we have an opportunity to come together and reflect on what we have created. We will invite you to a Zoom sharing session at a time to be announced.

OSLC DIGITAL ART GALLERY GRAND OPENING Watch and listen for it!

Through ZOOM and the website link everyone will have the opportunity to view each others creative expression of God in our world.

WHEN SHOULD I HAVE THIS COMPLETED?

First Submissions Due: January 15, 2021

QUERIES? oslcospika@gmail.com

CREATIVE EXPRESSION - AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT OUR PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL WELL BEING

Peace, Solace and Healing

IN OUR PANDEMIC, WHERE DO YOU SEE GOD AT WORK IN OUR WORLD?

THE QUESTION

IN OUR PANDEMIC,
WHERE DO YOU SEE GOD
IN THE WORLD?

IN OUR PANDEMIC WHERE
DO YOU SEE GOD AT
WORK IN OUR WORLD?

REFLECT ON THE
QUESTION, THEN
CREATIVELY EXPRESS
HOW YOU SEE GOD AT
THIS MOMENT IN TIME

HOW IS YOUR CURIOSITY
AND IMAGINATION BEING
NUDGED BY THE SPIRIT?

**YOU ARE INVITED
TO CONTRIBUTE**

**OUR SAVIOUR'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**DIGITAL ART
GALLERY**

IDEAS SHEET

AND YOUR FAVOURITE
MEDIUM FOR CREATIVE
EXPRESSION IS?

SOME IDEAS FOR YOU
We're sure you already
have plenty!

VISUAL ARTS

MUSIC, VOICE, RHYTHM

POETRY & WRITING

DANCE

CRAFTS
CULINARY ARTS
COOKING/BAKING
SCRAPBOOKING/PHOTOS
WOODWORKING
METALWORKING
COLLAGE

In the Pandemic, how do we see God working in the world



Vancouver city council directed staff Thursday to use \$30 million to help buy and lease hotels and other buildings to house homeless people. File photo Dan Toulgoet



The encampment along Notre-Dame Street (Montreal) grew significantly over the summer, and now the city is offering to move people into shelters instead. (Jean-Claude Taliana)

Seeing God at work during the pandemic Hebrews 13:8

opportunities to reflect on God's Grace.

2 Corinthians 12:9

opportunities to work at trusting God more

opportunities to worship differently

opportunities to work at being more patient

opportunities to pray more and read my bible more

opportunities to be thankful for what I have

opportunities to be more compassionate and empathic

opportunities to look at what it looks like becoming a welcoming church to God's children

opportunities to work at taking care of God's creation and enjoying his creation

opportunities for self reflection

OSLC DIGITAL ART GALLERY

Finding the Music Within the Trees



Finding the Music Within the Trees

Following a recent windstorm, I went out walking. As I surveyed the fallen branches and the ground freshly carpeted with fallen leaves, before me stood a once tall fir tree, the trunk split in half by the wind. Arriving back home, I checked my trees to ensure they had not met the same fate as the poor fir. Luckily, only a few branches covered the ground and the leaves continued to hold strong. As I began cleaning up the strewn branches a quote from my English 12 teacher came to mind, "*The mighty oak stands tall while the weeping willow bends.*" I am not sure what his intention was with that quote, I do know it was one of his favourites as we heard it many times throughout the year.

Does this quote still have meaning for us during this pandemic? Does it show us how God is at work in our world? Are there days when we feel like the mighty oak standing tall or at times slightly gnarled; or are there more days when we are the weeping willow bending to all that comes our way? Do we feel as broken as the fallen fir? Wondering when that day will come to freely see friends and family? Do we feel like the weeping willow bending and reaching out? Receiving the love of neighbours, no longer strangers, as they support us through this time? God's love abounds in the small, unplanned moments of support received from others; the neighbour dropping off groceries, the local farmer delivering his produce to the front step, the eaves trough cleaned unexpectedly, the heavy wet snow shovelled by the neighbour. God's love brilliantly shines into the darkness, bringing forth light and joy.

Is this a time to mourn, to hang our harps on the willow tree? Like the Israelites on the shores of Babylon, do we stand in sadness, lamenting the loss of what we knew with nothing more to sing? Or is this a time to reach out, stepping into the river of new spaces that await us at every bend? Can we listen, rejoicing in the sounds of the wind? Can we be nimble and find new ways to joyfully sing in the morning? Bring music to others by reaching out with the phone call, the Zoom call, the text, the email, the social media post, the posted letter? Connecting with an online community and through a kind word lifting up another as they/them reached out in loneliness asking for support? The Facebook Covid Compline family member who through the gracious act of love offers the greatest of gifts - to be a life-sustaining donor to a stranger? God's prayerful answer given from a stranger to a stranger. The unexpected parcel sent simply to let a distant friend know they are loved and God is with them? Though alone, the Spirit brings us together as one and God's steadfast love endures.

Rooted in our faith, roots reaching out far deeper than those of the oak tree, we are firmly planted in God's splendour as a child of God. We know God's love is endless, is transformative, and through God's grace and love we open ourselves to others. Like the righteousness of the oak, we are nourished, we are filled with strength to bring new forms of music to those in need, to reach out and lift up all the vulnerable through our simple acts of kindness and God's love. God is with us, above us, below us, around us, within us, and gives abounding hope. As God walks this pandemic journey with us, we are not alone. God's blessings overflow.

In the prayerful words of Julian of Norwich, "*All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.*" Within each of us, "*The mighty oak stands tall while the weeping willow bends.*"

Robin Dielissen