



Canon Davis Memorial Church

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2nd SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

• January 16, 2022

Isaiah 62:1-5 • Psalm 36:5-10 • 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 • John 2:1-11

Dear Friends,

A frequently heard expression in the 1990's was, *I feel your pain!*

Of course, the hearers of such pronouncements may have wondered if that could have been true. It can be very difficult to adequately enter into someone else's pain.

Empathy can be difficult. For none of us perceives another's pain to the same degree or in the same way. It is not always a good idea to try to comfort someone with the words: *I know how you feel.* The response can be rapid and sharp: *No you don't. You have no idea of what I am going through!*

However, we are now experiencing a period of time where there are some exceptions to this general cautionary rule. The stories are many; and are shared by many millions — millions nearby — millions on all continents. Who hasn't been moved by large scale suffering coming from: COVID-19; serious political unrest; severe climate conditions and other heart-breaking tragedies.

What is different now is how those tragic conditions which are taking place around the world, are happening in our own communities. Almost everyone knows, or knows of someone who has contracted COVID-19; or has seen families split up because of their views on vaccination; or seen long-term friendships dissolve over political movements and issues?

Not only are there often deep psychological wounds, it can become all too easy to become depressed. There is so much negativity it is sometimes difficult to keep a positive outlook on life. This situation is shared by so many that one can truly say to another person how they know how the other person is feeling, and mean it! For we all share in our being receivers of the negative outcomes from time to time.

Enter the Apostle Paul's beautiful passage about the gifts of the Holy Spirit; followed by the Gospel of John's description of our Lord's first miracle. Interestingly, Paul describes these *gifts* also as *services* and as *varieties of activities!* Not only that, Paul talks of the *utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge.*

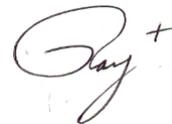
If that were not enough we hear Paul add on to the gift list: healing, faith, the working of miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, various kinds of tongues, as well as to another the interpretation of tongues.

Why?

These are not to be seen as parlour tricks. In love of us, ... *All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.* We are to prayerfully apply these to bring true healing and peace as we may be inspired by the Spirit of God.

Much may trouble us as we look around hoping to see real signs of healing (yes, they do exist). There is real power in holding on to the knowledge that God is in control. God has chosen to work many wonders through and with God's people.

May God, indeed, work with and through us, as we seek to be agents of God's love, healing and peace. When we feel the presence of the Holy Spirit, as always, the breath of God is our breath. We are known and loved by God! A new world awaits. The blessings of our loving, Creator God be upon you and those you love.



You are invited to go each Sunday and/or Wednesday to the link:

tinyurl.com/StAlbans-CDMC

That is the link to St. Alban's Anglican Church in Burnaby B.C. Follow the instructions. You will find links to the Rev'd Greg Jenkins officiating at an Anglican church service with children's focus, church music, readings, prayers and a sermon.

If you are also interested in joining their weekly Bible Study, contact Rev. Greg at revgregjenkins@gmail.com He will be more than happy to be in touch about joining in with their group by ZOOM. We hope you will find these services help to deepen your faith.

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