ANGLICAN PARISH OF
SALT SPRING ISLAND

November 15th, 2026

Companions in Christ

The Christian year is coming to an end. Just two more Sundays – today, and the 22nd when we will celebrate the feast of the Reign of Christ, summing up the entire experience of the year that is passing. Think of the 22rd as the church equivalent of New Year's Eve. Because when we gather next on November 29th, we will be celebrating the first day of the New Year when we once again, out of the winter darkness, anticipate the advent of the light of Jesus.

As the year comes to an end and we look forward to the birth, it is time, as it is every year, for us to think of our baptismal vows and renew our commitment to Christ and his church. We believe that all that we have comes from God's abundance. Our response to all the God given gifts must be overwhelming gratitude. In response to our thanksgiving, we must give of ourselves – our time, our talents, and our treasure – to God's work in the world.

All things come of thee and of thine own have we given thee.

Accepting God's invitation to belong together with Thankfulness and Giving are foundations of our spiritual health. So as tonic to our spiritual health, we are asked to reaffirm our commitment to what part of God's work in the parish we will give our time and our capabilities and how we will support that work financially. Accordingly, you will find enclosed with this letter:

- A two-part pledge form. The top half asks what areas in the parish's work we will engage or continue our engagement. The bottom half asks us for our financial commitment for the new year.
- An envelope addressed to the Treasurer. We are asked to detach the section on our financial commitment and place it in the envelope, seal the envelope because only the Treasurer and the Envelope Secretary will know our financial commitments.
- A Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) form (administered at minimal cost by the United Church of Canada on behalf of the Anglican Diocese of BC) that you may choose to complete to make your financial contribution by automatic monthly withdrawal. We have not included the form for those of you are already registered on the plan. If you want to change your PAR amount, simply email the PAR Office at par@united-church.ca and inform them of your new monthly amount, the date for the change, your name and address, and that your donation is for the Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island.

We are asked that the upper part of the form together with the sealed envelope be placed in the collection plate on November 29th where all received will be blessed as part of our New Year's celebration. Anyone who cannot be with us on the 29th can bring the two items on the 22nd or through the week to the office or to the secure mailbox to the left of the lower outside door, or by Canada Post – please mail it early, so all we receive can be blessed on the 29th.

It is no secret that this parish has significant financial challenges. But please know that our commitment of time and talent is as important as our money. Please also know that if the parish had a multi-million-dollar endowment the income of which covered all our costs, our need to give from what we have been given would be undiminished. Our spiritual health depends upon it. Please God, we would all say that our spiritual health is greatly supported by the parish and the community of saints within it.

Yours in Christ,

The Wardens:

Deb Smith ***Gloria McEachern*** ***Lolla Devindisch*** ***Dave Phillips***