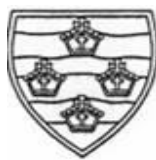


The Territory of the People Anglican Church

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July 9, 2021

To: The Territory of the People

Dear friends,

June 30, 2021, is a day the people of Lytton, the Lytton First Nation, and surrounding areas will not forget. It is a day that will likely be remembered by both those in British Columbia and across our country. The fire within the community started and burned quickly, with no warning and no time to pack people jumped into vehicles seeking to get out of their homes and community that was quickly engulfed in flames.

Community members, spread across many evacuation sites in various nearby towns, continue to wait to hear from family members separated during the evacuation and wait to confirm the devastation and damage caused by the fire.

On Sunday, July 4, members of Lytton Parishes were joined by Bishop Barbara Andrews, Anglicans from St Michael's, Merritt, and their priest, the Rev Isabel Healy-Morrow. The people of All Saints, Shulus and their priest, the Rev Angus Muir, hosted this time of being a community in prayer. Bishop Barbara reflected, "We gathered in All Saints Anglican Church, located at Shulus on the Lower Nicola First Nation land. We heard the stories of those who made it out of Lytton during the 23 minutes of raging fire that destroyed the town and surrounding First Nation communities. The gathering was a powerful time for people to share their stories and start to heal. Indigenous and non-indigenous alike shared their experiences, finding a place in the Church to begin their healing journey. The community gathered, listened, anointed, and offered healing prayers for those who shared heartbreaking stories."

The Interim Steering Committee meets weekly to care for the administration needs of the Territory. At our meeting this week, we heard an update from Rev. Angus Muir and Bishop Barbara. We listened to the stories from the Sunday gathering in Shulus; we held the stories of heartbreak and concern alongside stories of hope for the future. We, the people of the Territory, have lived this experience of fire, evacuations, and destruction of homes, communities, and livelihoods. We are a people of hope and rebuilding.

It is from this place we commit to listening and praying unceasingly. We commit to hearing from elders and community members of Lytton and Lytton First Nation about your needs at this time and your changing needs in the weeks, months, and years to come. As people who have lived this experience, we pray, we wait, and we hold space as we prepare for the invitation to listen, honour

experiences, and provided support through finances, food, shelter, and meet other basic and required needs.

We invite you to pray with us:

- Pray for the scattered; for those not connected with their family, friends, and community members.
- Pray for the healing of the body from burns and illness.
- Pray for the moments of peace amid shock and trauma.
- Pray for rest.
- Pray that all may receive an acknowledgment of anger, fear, disappointment, and worry.

Accompanying this update, you will find a letter to the people of Lytton and Lytton First Nation from Archbishop Lynne McNaughton.

Ways in which you can help:

The generosity of prayer and financial donations from across the country continues to be shared with the Territory. This support is a tangible reminder that we in the Territory of the People are not alone. As we seek to find ways to walk together alongside the people of Lytton, the Lytton First Nation, and surrounding areas, people across the Church are joining us in that walk. For this, we are deeply thankful.

The Territory of the People continues to receive donations for immediate needs by cheque, clearly marked "Lytton Fire," mailed to the Territory office. An online donation option is to send financial contributions through St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral, clearly marked "Lytton Fire." These donations will be sent through to the Territory: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/53639>.

Blessings,

Interim Steering Committee:

Bishop Barbara Andrews

The Rev. Len Fraser

Ms. Melissa Green

The Rev. Jo Ann Hinter

Bishop Gordon Light

The Rev. Barbara Liotscos

Archbishop Lynne McNaughton

Pastoral Elder Ernie Michel

Canon Margaret Mitchell

The Rev. Angus Muir