



Volume 1, October 28, 2023

Kokanee Concerns

We are reminded in the Gospels and in the Baptismal Covenant that we are called to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbour as ourselves. We are reminded also to strive for justice and peace, respecting the dignity of every human being, and strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, respecting, sustaining, and renewing the life of the earth. *Kokanee Concerns* is a new weekly publication from the Anglican Parish of Kokanee that identifies items of concern in both the local community and the wider world, for which we can advocate, act upon, pray, and learn on a weekly basis. Consider the local community, the wider world, and your place in both as you reflect upon the topics each week.

Peace,

David+

Concern in our Neighbourhood . . .

Life is busy for many of us. We have more things on our "To Do" list than we have time to do them.

What is on your To Do list? What can be crossed off as not needed? What do we want to add? One thing that many of us have on the list, as a low or moderate priority, not a high priority is to take time to stop and look at the natural world around us.

Stop! Look! Smell the air! Listen!

Are you reminded of a piece of music, or a photo, or a painting, or a memory of another time and place? Nature often speaks of a loving Spirit, Creator, God. Many spiritual writings, including Judeo-Christian writings include stories of a creating Spirit, a loving Spirit. This Creator gave humans the gift of creation to enjoy, and the responsibility of caring for Creation.

Recently, there has been several stories in the news of bears in towns, villages, and rural areas of our parish. Bears are coming into their traditional homelands, places where they can find the food they need to prepare their bodies for hibernation. We, as created humans, have a responsibility to create environments that are safe places for humans, and for bears. We might have heard the statement “a fed bear is a dead bear”. We have a responsibility for keeping bears safe by not providing food for them. Food – garbage, food stuffs in compost piles, fruit left on trees in populated areas.

Both the City of Nelson (<https://www.nelson.ca/101/City-Services>) and the Village of Kaslo (<https://www.kaslo.ca/>) have more detailed information of how we can protect both ourselves, our pets, and bears who are tempted to come into what we consider our living spaces. People in rural areas can access information at: <https://wildsafebc.com/>

Let’s work together to care for the creation that surrounds us and nourishes us in many ways.

Concern in the World . . .

The following link is from *Tikkun*, which describes itself as a website addressing the Prophetic Jewish, Interfaith & Secular Voice to Heal and Transform the World. They have named and identified challenges concerning the current actions taking place in Gaza between Israeli and Hamas forces. Consider this document, read carefully, and we invite you to offer support and prayer as the world learns and responds to the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

‘We are outraged by, mourn deeply, and unequivocally condemn, the horrific actions of Hamas. According to Israeli sources, more than 1,200 people were killed and 2,900 injured, most of whom were civilians, and over 100 individuals (including children, women, and the elderly) were taken as hostages into Gaza.

We call for the immediate release of Israeli hostages and Palestinian political prisoners.

Tikkun magazine and *Beyt Tikkun: A Synagogue without Walls* partnered with others to write a joint statement that we hope can help us rise above divisiveness and call us to our highest selves.

What follows is our joint statement. We invite everyone who agrees with our statement to add your name. You can read the statement below and add your name by [clicking here](#).

Solidarity with Israel/Palestine

This statement is written and signed by Palestinians, Jews, and others who are committed to holding complex truths and striving to overcome polarization. We feel the pain of our people, identify with their pain, and need to work together to uplift our shared humanity.

The unfolding horror in Israel and Gaza is an escalation of decades of state-sanctioned violence by Israel against Palestinians. We condemn the horrific actions of Hamas against Israeli civilians. We likewise condemn Israel's unbridled bombing and cutting off access to all basic needs, including food, water, electricity, and medical care. Attacks on Palestinian and Israeli civilians are repugnant.

Israeli violence against Palestinians has been intentionally hidden, slow, and steady. Contrary to what the media is reporting, this attack was not unprovoked. The Israeli and American governments have worked together to suppress and deny the inhumane acts against Palestinians that have led to this moment. There are Palestinians and Jews who have been raising red flags and warning about this inevitable outcome for decades, only to be dismissed and ignored.

The world's failure to challenge Israel's ongoing occupation, apartheid, and unbridled violence by settlers and soldiers in the West Bank provides the context for what is happening now. The recent Israeli government's escalation of violence, encroachment of Al Aqsa Mosque, and its 16-year siege of Gaza has led to the current explosion.

We repeat: the brutality of Hamas' attack on Israeli civilians is unjustified.

As we watch the violent attacks and rallying of xenophobia on both sides, we are broken-hearted. Although it feels like a time to stand with "our people," we know this is a time to come together. This is a time of great suffering for all; a time of painful emotions. It is only by recognizing our shared fears and our shared tears that we will find our way through this nightmare. It is a struggle we need to undertake jointly.

When we fall back into our separate and distinct identities we risk becoming part of the problem, not the solution. Both peoples suffer from ongoing trauma. We are all on high alert. The fear is palpable. And it is easy for us to objectify the 'other.'

We seek a third path that neither perpetuates a xenophobic response nor sustains an unjust status quo. This moment calls us to slow down, sit with the pain and complexity, and grapple with our discomfort. It is a moment for digging deep, seeing across differences, and remembering our deep yearning for peace and justice. It is only through compassion and empathy that we will find a different way.

We recognize and uplift the humanity of all peoples in Israel/Palestine.

We call for an immediate ceasefire from Hamas and Israel.

We demand that basic needs be provided to Gazans.

We demand that the United States provide only humanitarian support to Israel and Gaza.

<https://www.tikkun.org/statement-of-solidarity-with-israel-palestine/>