

Some of you may know that after university I worked as a journalist. Not necessarily the profession held in the highest esteem.

Certainly, Donald Trump is no fan of the fifth estate, but the mistrust goes back far further than “the Donald.”

I remember a survey from the 1960s that ranked journalists just above used car salesmen.

Well, guess what? It doesn't matter if your source is the Globe and Mail, CNN, the internet or the next door neighbour we all need information. Information is the life blood of human decision making.

The question is:- How do we make sense of our lives, and our world? How do we connect the dots? Where do we find the answers.

These are the same questions the disciples faced after the death of Jesus. Their world had been turned upside down.

Two thousand years later the answer has not changed. By all means read the Globe and Mail, the Economist, listen to TV, surf the internet, I do all of these, but we need more, much more.

Peter in our first reading points the way- **“Friends, the scriptures had to be fulfilled...”**. Look to the scriptures!

These Biblical writings are far more than journalistic records or a compilation of helpful hints. They are **the living word of God**.

Nevertheless, scripture needs to be interpreted and understood – that is why God gave us a brain. We are formed by the experiences and the events of our own times.

So the first disciples knew the scriptures, but it was the current events of the crucifixion and resurrection they struggled to comprehend.

For them, and for us, what is needed is the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit of God who inspired the ancient writers and it is the same Spirit who enlightens the reader whatever be the time and place. Jesus says:- **“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth;...”**

So whether you are considering what God is asking of you today or demanding of the nation, the place to look is scripture as guided by the Holy Spirit.

Let me end by focusing on St. John’s. I am so impressed with your faithfulness, your willingness to serve. You have a long history of sharing the love of God in this place.

As I read the scriptures and listen to the Spirit, I am convinced that God is far from done with you. I will **not** talk about **change**: I will say **renewal**. The Gospel promises whatever has grown old he will make new, whatever is cast down he will raise up.

The challenges we face are real but you are the Body of Christ in this place. Put your trust in His Word and call on the Spirit and all will be well.