



GEORGE STREET UNITED CHURCH



25 Buchanan Street, St. John's, NL, A1C 0A4

***Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.
-John 14: 1***

18 March 2020

To the Scattered Saints of the George Street Pastoral Charge:

Grace and peace to you.

Every day the news changes. Every day the concern grows that something terrifying and deadly draws ever near. Now, we know that Covid-19 is in our province. We know that there are three individuals in the Labrador-Grenfell Region who have tested positive for this illness and we pray for them and their families. We pray that they are strong enough to endure this new virus. We pray not only for them but for the teams of doctors and nurses and other health care professionals and essential workers who put themselves in harm's way to provide all possible help.

Across the country, and indeed—across the world—actions are being taken to slow the transmission of the illness, to deprive it of host bodies, and to starve it into extinction. To that end, governments are asking their citizens to refrain from meeting together in groups larger than 10. And though the time is still dark, light is dawning, and with it, hope.

When we gather together, our number is greater than that and we have decided that our Sunday worship cannot continue as it has. What will take its place will only be temporary. At this point, we do not know how long temporary will be. The Mission Team Board will be meeting shortly and solidifying some plans that will allow all of us to function together as a Church even as circumstances dictate that we remain physically apart from one another as much as is possible.

Perfect love drives out all fear, says The Apostle. That perfect love is not something we can generate within ourselves: it is yet another gracious gift of God's that is poured out over us and washes over us. Feel concern if you must. Concern is prudent and will spur us on to deeds of compassion and kindness in the days and weeks to come. Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God and God's steadfast love. Believe also in Jesus and His Amazing grace. Believe in the Holy Spirit who dwells within you and even now seeks to draw you nearer into communion with our Holy God.



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Remember, as isolated as we may become in responding to this crisis, that we are never alone. We live in God's world. We believe in God. We trust in God. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone.

For those who are connected to Social Media we are hoping to offer brief, live, worship opportunities on the George Street United Church Facebook Page Sundays at 11am. For those not on Facebook we will have regular emails sent out to try and keep ourselves connected. For those not utilizing email the Pastoral Care team will be attempting to reach you by phone, that will not be a quick process so please be patient.

There will be further announcements as we find conditions changing. Meanwhile, your prayers for those who have been infected, their families and friends, and the health care teams that are attending to them, would be gracious ministry to all.

Your Servant in Christ Jesus,

Reverend John Maich