



GEORGE STREET UNITED CHURCH

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

*When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.
--John Henry Sammis*

21 May 2020

To the Scattered Saints of the George Street Pastoral Charge:

Grace and peace to you in the midst of your isolation.

Brother sun is making his presence known more and more powerfully day after day. This effect will soon start to have a siren effect in turn upon us, and we will feel the temptation to go out into this beautiful, wide, world that God has given us. We should do so joyfully and praising God as we go while remembering that a dangerous virus still lurks waiting for an opportunity to hitch a ride and make many more new friends.

When Reverend Sammis wrote these above lyrics he clearly had in mind that it was God who should be trusted and God who should be obeyed. With Dr. Fitzgerald giving us clear direction, we need to recognize her as God's hands and wisdom in dealing with our current pandemic. We need to continue trusting and obeying the wisdom that Public Health is sharing with us in this moment.

We can still do the Lord's good will. We might have to be more diligent in discerning *how*, but nothing is stopping us from doing good. We continue to live and breathe and have our being in God's very self. We live in the presence of God, and that protected place affords us a space of rest from all of our fears.

It looks like we will not be having in-person worship until September, or later. And even when we are given the all-clear we will not be able to go back to Church as if nothing happened and there is no longer any risk.



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We will have to consider how we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. We will have to reconsider how we pass the peace of Christ to one another. We will have to consider congregational singing and how we might do that less moistly to reduce risk of transmission. We may have to temporarily suspend Coffee Fellowship. Or we might not have to do anything differently at all. Time will tell or Dr. Fitzgerald will tell. Either way we will do what we are told and praise God for such loving and careful instruction.

Our faithfulness and our commitment to love our neighbours as we love ourselves will be stretched and we will need to be more inventive and creative moving forward. We will do this, trusting that God will continue to abide with us since we endeavor to do God's will and serve God's own children.

This has been a long and tiring road so far. But we are not alone. God is with us. Amen.

Your Servant in Christ Jesus,

Reverend John Maich