



GEORGE STREET UNITED CHURCH



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

I am the resurrection and the life
--John 11: 25

9 April 2020

To the Scattered Saints of the George Street Pastoral Charge:

Grace and peace to you.

Here we are! Holy Week like we've never done it before. And none of us is feeling like we want to repeat this experience any time soon.

Interestingly, as we read the narrative and retrace Christ's footsteps through this week of his life, we find that there is not a lot of times that Jesus was happily in the midst of crowds. Most of his experiences were isolating. During Christ's last night in the garden of Gethsemane, he laments the slumbering apostles who leave him to wrestle with his doubts alone.

This was a lonely week for Jesus. Eventually he cries out on the cross, "My God, my God! Why have you forsaken me?"

And we think cabin fever and social distancing are tough.

Beginning this evening, we will have four worship events live-streamed from our Facebook page. I have attached liturgies of all those worship opportunities.

Maundy Thursday: Thursday, April 9 at 7 PM

(Holy Communion; gather your own elements)

Good Friday: Friday, April 10 at 11am

Easter Sunrise: Sunday, April 12 at 6:17 AM

(weather-permitting, I will be live-streaming from outside)

Easter Bell Ringing: Sunday, April 12 at 9 AM

(grab your own bell, step outside, and ring it for all you're worth)

Easter Communion: Sunday, April 12 at 11 AM

(Holy Communion; gather your own elements)



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Regrettably, we have decided that it is best to cancel this year's People of the Sea Service. While it has expanded in scope over the years, it has its roots in sealing, and pushing it back to sometime in the summer just doesn't feel right.

The attached liturgies can be used by families in their homes. None is terribly long. The Facebook live streams record for later viewing on the off-chance you aren't motivated to get up at 6:17 on a Sunday morning.

I hope that, in spite of circumstances, you will take an opportunity to reflect on just how important the events of this week are for your faith today and in the days to come.

May God bless you in these trying times.

Your Servant in Christ Jesus,

Reverend John Maich