



## GEORGE STREET UNITED CHURCH



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

***Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.  
--1 Corinthians 16: 13***

16 April 2020

To the Scattered Saints of the George Street Pastoral Charge:

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

The longer we are called to participate in physical distancing as self-isolation the more unbearable the burden becomes. It is less about the actual load we are expected to carry and more about the distance we are expected to carry it.

Back in physics we were told that Work was equal to the force we applied over the distance and elsewhere we were told that distance is a function of time. So, the work we have been doing is the force we have been applying over the whole time we have been applying it.

The last time we worshipped face-to-face with each other was in February. It is now approaching the end of April. We may not have gone far we have certainly gone long and I am sure all of us are feeling it.

My thanks in particular to the Pastoral Care Team who have stepped up in this trying time in an effort to forge and strengthen bonds of connection between us. Thank you also to the various members of the congregation who have reached out to one another and to their neighbours in the wider community. By our love will we be known as Christ's disciples. Thank you also to our volunteers keeping the Jimmy Pratt Soup Kitchen running after a bit of a scare and some time in isolation. All of you have shown the measure of this congregation and all of you have demonstrated your commitment to the Church of Christ.

As I write we are 5 days in a row without a new case of Covid-19. That will increase our desire to reach the end let us be sure not to stumble and drop the load we have so cautiously been carrying. We may not remember personally the second wave of the Spanish Flu we read in our history books that it was more



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deadly than the battle of Beaumont-Hamel yet not as mercifully fast. So, I encourage you to slow your pace and keep your burden up. Out of love for our neighbours we must endure further.

For those of you with Facebook accounts we will continue to hold live-stream worship Sunday mornings at 11am. We know we aren't able to reach all of our members through the live-stream sessions and we feel very badly about that. Until we have a better technology that all can use, we will continue to stumble forward in faith and hope.

May God be a blessing to you in these days and weeks and may God use you to be a blessing to the world around you always. Amen.

Your Servant in Christ Jesus,

Reverend John Maich