



GEORGE STREET UNITED CHURCH



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

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today forever.

-Hebrews 13: 8

30 April 2020

To the Scattered Saints of the George Street Pastoral Charge:

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

According to Public Health Directives released by Dr. Janice Fitzgerald and the Newfoundland and Labrador Ministry of Health we have some time before we can resume worship services together in our sanctuary. At some point we will have to discuss what we had that we can keep and what we had that should be set aside for a while.

One thing that is for certain, the congregation that left will not be the same congregation that returns. All of us have been changed in some ways by this pandemic and some of the things we have left behind are things we may not be that eager to pick up again.

One of the things I have been missing is the participation of the congregation in our liturgy (a Greek word meaning work of the people.) Our live-stream technology doesn't permit me to hear your voices in prayer, praise and song and that makes worship a lonely experience. I know it is temporary and in time will end. Until then . . .

Kimberly suggested a solution which might help me, and by extension, you. Any member who is willing can submit a video (taken by your cell-phone camera, or tablet or even your lap-top). That video can be you reading scripture, a poem or singing a favourite hymn. We will upload those videos to our YouTube and FaceBook pages so that we can see you sharing in our liturgy. Forward the video clip to me at revmaich@yahoo.ca and I will make sure it is uploaded to our social media pages.



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When we reconvene, we will have to work particularly hard as a congregation to catch up on all the bits that have been laid aside due to our physical distancing and separation. This after all your hard work of the past few years seems quite unfair. Remember that you do not labour alone and that in Christ Jesus your labours are not in vain. Together we tend to the vineyard God has placed us in and by our care this vineyard will flourish.

In the meantime, cherish your family and your friends. Reach out to one another and delight in the sound of the voices of your loved ones. This valley is not forever, we shall climb out into well-lit fields when the time is right.

Your Servant in Christ Jesus,

Reverend John Maich