



## GEORGE STREET UNITED CHURCH



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

***Love is patient, love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends . . .***

***--1 Corinthians 13: 4-8a***

13 May 2020

To the Scattered Saints of the George Street Pastoral Charge:

In the midst of your isolation, grace and peace to you.

Maybe it is only me. I think Alert Level 4 feels a lot like Alert Level 5—with added grumpiness. I suspect that we are all tired of the Public Health Guidelines and wish that they would go away as suddenly as they started. The fact that these guidelines may have saved us so far from the brunt of the storm that others have endured should help our mood somewhat if we can prevent ourselves from taking our good fortunes for granted.

I think we can all be edified by turning our attention to brother Paul's treatise on love, even if we aren't celebrating a wedding or anniversary. After all, it is Jesus himself who exhorts us by saying, "by this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13: 35).

It looks like we will have some time yet to practice the characteristic qualities of love before the all-clear is given and we can meet together regularly. Why not use our abundance of time to examine our hearts and determine how we might improve upon our capacity and ability to "love one another"?

We are given new opportunities to exercise our patience every day as we deal with line-ups as a result of social distancing; as we walk up and down aisles in the supermarket wondering who has all the toilet paper, hand sanitizer, or yeast. We do not need to be in a rush to hurry up and wait. We can practice our patience daily. We can demonstrate our kindness by allowing others to take their



## GEORGE STREET UNITED CHURCH



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

time scanning aisles for food items before heading the wrong way in one of our social distancing labyrinths. We can also resist the urges to be impatient or argumentative, empathizing instead with those who are so desperate for human contact that they deliberately stack the social desk against themselves.

All of this might involve some effort. It will certainly challenge our faith. With that said, why would we hand over our bodies to be burned, if, in so doing, we lost everything and gained nothing? It is not too late to trust and to love the one we have chosen to trust. And how could working on our ability to love one another be anything but an asset to our Community of Faith when it is finally able to worship together as we once did?

Your Servant in Christ Jesus,

Reverend John Maich