



Friday April 17, 2020.

To all members of the congregation of St. George's Place du Canada,

Allelulia! Christ is risen!

We live in an in-between time, a time between the first resurrection and the second coming, a time between God's promise of faithfulness, and its ultimate fulfillment in the Kingdom of God. And every Easter we live through and celebrate helps us to remember the joy, the surprise, and the sheer bewilderment of the resurrection. And when I think about it, I am always amazed, amazed at how much more we will experience when what we have been promised is finally fulfilled, when we will see God face to face. There is a lot to look forward to, and we have so much to be thankful for.

I also have much to be thankful for. I was ever so pleased to work together on our team which oversaw the week of services that we celebrated from St. George's this past Holy Week. There was so much variety available for everyone to soak up, visually, emotionally, musically and prayerfully. Bravo to everyone who participated, and for those who were able to sign on, and be there. I want to give a special thank you to Tim for working behind the scenes on every service, to Holly, Debbie and Maylaine for their creative input and confident leadership, and to JS for his double duty as Music Director and reader. Everyone else who read, and prayed and contributed in any way, I am ever so grateful for your contributions, as I am certain is everyone who is reading this right now. Bravo and thank-you; sharing your faith at this time is a gift that is much appreciated.

St. George's may be closed right now but the ministry that it can undertake as a safe space for the homeless continues. I was approached this week to allow the city to supervise a space that will be open to homeless people during the day, to be a respite for our homeless brothers and sisters whose existence is unbelievably difficult at this time. Because several day centres are closed, including ours, and because the capacity for the least fortunate to fend for themselves in the empty city has forced them to go hungry and become desperate, the city has stepped in to provide food in Place du Canada next door, and to try to offer some shelter during the day, especially when the city has experienced such unseasonably cold temperatures this wet spring. After some back and forth as the details were worked out, I am pleased to report that a supervised site has been established in the church for 30-40 guests. The city is providing all the necessary staff, several security guards, cleaners, and social workers to oversee the project. In fact, they have more than three times the staff that we were ever able to provide for our small drop-in centre. Kosala has been able to help out, and in the week to come Caitlan will also be on site to make sure that they have what is necessary and to see that our interests are taken care of. St. George's is making a name for itself both at the City and in our city. Thanks be to God for the care we can help to provide for the least among us. What did Jesus say when we asked: *"When was it that we saw you, a stranger, and welcomed you?"* Jesus said: *"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me"* It is nice to have Jesus being taken care of in our church.

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Our services of Morning Prayer continue this coming Sunday, and as well we have returned to our usual service of Noon Prayer on Wednesdays at 12:15. The links to the services are easy to find on our website and send you directly to the Zoom meeting. If you want to use the links below, feel free to use them as well, they remain the same as always.

All Sunday services, 10:00 am for families, 10:30 service begins. **Wednesday 12:15 followed by Bible Study**

<https://zoom.us/j/783940814>

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“Virtual Coffee hours”

Our virtual coffee hours have tended to be slightly less well attended lately, and we have decided to reduce the number of visits together to two a week. Beginning this week, we will meet together for tea at 4pm on Tuesday, and for drinks at 7 on Friday evening. I personally have found them warm and welcoming and have been glad to be able to get to know many members of the congregation over this time together. There remains one link to get on as follows:

Tuesday at 4 and Friday at 7:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/231767905>

Meeting ID: 231 767 905

One tap mobile

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The choir met together this past week on Thursday evening for a much needed break from their isolation, and if there are other groups, formal or informal, that would like to meet, just let me or Deborah Noonan know and we will be happy to make the necessary arrangements. Are there knitters? quilters? board game players? gardeners itching to get out? The only limit is our imagination and your willingness to reach out. Let's beat this lonely time by reaching out to each other and finding a common interest. You will be happy you did.

And know that each of you continue to be in my prayers, and I pray daily that we will soon be able to meet together face to face in the beautiful church that I am sure you miss as I do.

Karen+

Trust in the Lord for ever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock!
Isaiah 26.4