



Friday April 24, 2020.

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

Allelulia! Christ is risen!

As we approach the beginning of the week to come, and this week's Sunday service, I have begun to make some interesting observations to myself that I thought I would share. First of all, there is a growing sense in the air that small things are starting to be considered that may herald the gradual opening up of our society, and while the light at the end of the tunnel is still only rumored, it feels like we may soon know the beginnings of a plan. The coming of spring weather undoubtedly helps in fostering a kind of hope. The other thing that I have noticed, is that the strangeness of this situation is starting to feel less strange, and the work that I am doing week to week is beginning to feel more structured now, and more routine. Wouldn't that be just the biggest joke of all--- that just when I am feeling like I'm getting used to the self-isolation, and what it means for the church work that I am doing, we begin to think about of getting back to "normal", whatever that will mean in the future. Anyways I am sure that normal is still a long way off, but I am thankful for even a glimmer of hope that we are headed in the right direction, even if the journey remains long. Still, I am thankful for any good news on that front.

So there is a beginning of a reliable routine, but still a few new things I can tell you about this week. Last weekend I was visiting our church to meet with the supervisor that the city has put in charge of the respite centre that is situated in our church. I took a couple of photos to show how the city has put up barriers between the nave, where they are putting the homeless that are seeking a place to rest, and our sanctuary, which is definitely out-of-bounds. I thought I would post them in this letter, if for no other reason, than to reassure you that the sanctuary is well protected by barriers that are over seven feet tall. As well, the city is using one of the Peel street doors as their exit, and they have done a good job of protecting the Advent Chapel as well. I will post a couple of photos at the end of the letter.

The other development is that we have finalized an agreement with the city for their use of our church. Basically, the agreement runs until the middle of May, though they have an option to extend the agreement for one month if we also agree. They have also agreed to cover the costs of our gas and electricity for the time they are using the building. In fact, that should more than compensate us for our small costs. I am pleased and happy that we have been able to help, and that our church is being used to provide comfort for those in our society who find themselves the most vulnerable of the poor at this time.

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Otherwise, not much else has changed, though we have begun to welcome many more people to participate in our services, as we have grown more comfortable organizing them, and as we grow more confident of the technology. I wonder if there remains any among us who would benefit from a meeting where the finer points of zoom are discussed, and where we could have a hands-on helping session. Let us know. We continue to meet twice a week for some social time, here are the links and times:

Tuesday at 4 and Friday at 7:

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 231 767 905

One tap mobile

+14388097799,,231767905# Canada

+15873281099,,231767905# Canada

The choir continues to meet on Thursdays and are enjoying getting caught up with each other. Perhaps there are other groups who would like to meet, just let us know, we would be happy to make arrangements through our Zoom account. And our Wednesday prayer service and bible study has a faithful and growing group of people who meet to share their thoughts and prayers together. Everyone is welcome, and if you want to come just to listen, that's fine too!

To get on to the services, probably the best way to find us is to open the website, and near the top of the home page, there are two red buttons, each one takes you to the service indicated. Share this information with friends and family, anyone around the country or for that matter, in any place in the world so that they can join in too. I was really happy to see that on Easter there were a couple of special guests, including at least one daughter from Ottawa who was going to their parents' church for Easter. (Ask Tom Burpee about it.) What a blessing!

So take care, and enjoy the coming spring weather. I am looking forward to seeing you tomorrow, and keep hopeful, we are fortunate to live in a country and province where the concern for the elderly and less fortunate remains strong, and where our leaders remain so very much more concerned for our well being than commercial interests and the profits of large corporations. God is alive, and the Holy Spirit continues to lead the hearts of those in authority. For this I give thanks.

In Christ

Karen+

Trust in the Lord for ever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock!
Isaiah 26:4



A view from below the pulpit



A view of the barriers up to protect the Chapel.
Barriers are present on both sides of this passageway.