



Saturday, June 6, 2020

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

This week we move from the liturgical season of Easter, into the long season of Pentecost, and though they call it ordinary time, I often think that much of it is far from ordinary, beginning with the celebration of Trinity Sunday. I like to think that we have spent all those eight Easter weeks celebrating the gift of resurrection and renewal we are given in Jesus' resurrection, and now, as the so-called ordinary time is upon us, we are given time, all sorts of time, to reflect on what that renewal and transformation means for our lives together. We spend these weeks studying Jesus' teaching, and doing our best to live God's dream for us, and the community around us. And each year we set out anew to reset our lives and recommit to a changed heart and a changed world. It strikes me as timely, that across the world this week, all of us have been confronted by the cry for justice for George Floyd, and the hundreds, really the thousands of men and women of colour who have been killed, injured and mistreated by the police. We watch as protesters drop to their knees to peacefully demonstrate against the lack of dignity and worth endured by their racialized brothers and sisters, and as Christians we too must drop to our knees in prayer to hold up their lives before God and before each other. And while we pray that justice will flow like a living stream, and cry out to God that it might begin right now, so I am left wondering what we can also do here, today and tomorrow in our church and in our community.

The reality of racism in Canada and what it means for us in the church is definitely a conversation that is long overdue, though in truth it has already begun in places of worship and prayer. We need to bring it out in the open, and have more people listen and participate. With that in mind, this week, on Wednesday evening, the Rev. Deborah Noonan and I will encourage this dialogue by hosting a forum to allow for community conversation. What needs to be said will be said, and those who need to listen will listen with open hearts and minds. It will be a beginning. And this is a reason for hope. It will be a sincere invitation to listen to one another, and to begin to think about how we, as a church community, can both educate ourselves about racism in Canada and work towards building up our community, by finding ways to combat the systemic racism that eats away at both individual lives, and at the Kingdom that God dreams of building with all of us.

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Please consider coming. It will begin at 7:30 with a short prayer, and end with a short service of compline. As we discern a way forward, we will invite everyone from St. Georges to come, whether they wish to speak, or simply to listen. Whatever the course this conversation takes, I am certain of this: we must begin somewhere, and where better than among our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Topic: Community Conversation

Time: Jun 10, 2020 07:30 PM Montreal

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84100984612>

Meeting ID: 841 0098 4612

One tap mobile

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On another note, Tim, Kosala, Tracy and I visited the church together, (keeping a safe distance and wearing masks of course!) this past Thursday morning, and I have to say it was lovely to see how well the city had done cleaning everything up, and putting things back in order. Kosala has been a steady source of support for the church, overseeing the city's use of the building and opening and closing Tuesday to Saturday. Tim and Caitlan have stepped in for the other times and have been exceedingly helpful in communicating with the city and dealing with last minute requests. I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank them for their dedication to the task, and for making this project successful. We couldn't have contributed without your help!

I'm going to end this letter by letting you in on some good news. I got a call from Natalie from Quo Vadis this past week to say that she was very pleased that her presentation to the city's Urban Planning Team went well, and that they gave her the green light to proceed to the next step, which will involve obtaining all the right permits, and getting more permissions. Obviously, our project has a ways to go in getting the complete green light, but nevertheless, good news is good news, and I for one will take it any way I can get it.

So for now, keep well and keep safe, and do your best to get outside to enjoy the beautiful spring and summer. God is most certainly at work in the beautiful peonies that are opening up around the corner. What's happening in your neighbourhood?

Blessings all around,

Sincerely

Karen+

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