



Saturday, May 23, 2020

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

We are moving through an absolutely gorgeous weekend, and I sense that even more than usual there is sense of general thankfulness, even if it is just for the small things like the ability to go out and sit in the sun, and to think about nothing at all, except the warmth, and the coming summer. Let's hope the terraces open soon, and we can enjoy the outside even more.

There continues to be a lot going on at St. Georges. The past week corporation signed on to an extension of our agreement with the city to open our church to the homeless for respite from the weather. We continue to open seven days a week and will make the church available to the city until June 30. I believe that it is everyone's intention to have the contract come to an end there. So far the city has done a good job of fulfilling its end of the bargain, and we are pleased to be able to provide for those in our very near neighborhood a place where they can isolate during the day, and hopefully keep safe.

Last Thursday we had a very successful congregational meeting with our partners from Quo Vadis. We had thirty people sign in on Zoom, which may have been a little fewer than I expected, but if you were unable to be there at that time, do not worry, we made a recording of it, and it will be available to anyone who wants to see it. Just drop Carole a line on email or by phone and she will be able to email the link to you. Unfortunately, it is only available to those who can get on by their computer. Anyways it was our first taste of having a congregational meeting online via zoom, and I think it went quite well. There were many questions asked, and answers given, and the news seemed exciting. We are looking into our future, and it is looking bright.

The worship experience survey is ready! Thanks to Rev. Debbie for taking care of the details and pressing forward to make sure we ask the questions that we want. I know that I had said earlier that it was coming out on "Survey Monkey" but our plans have changed, and Debbie found it better to use something called "**Google Forms**", so look carefully in your email box and open it up, it is not junk mail! We would be very appreciative of everyone taking the time to fill out the survey online and letting us know your feedback and any new ideas you might have.

We receive prayer requests during the service every week, and it pleases me that we are able to continue to offer prayers that are requested during our service. Most of the time, the prayers are noted on a master sheet, and we are able to continue praying for those in our community who have asked for our prayers. However, unlike in the past, we often do not have a record of who has made the request and are uncertain if it is an ongoing request or not, or when we can leave the name off. So, if you are listening to the prayers for the sick on Sunday and realize that there is someone who you put on the list that is no longer in need of our prayers, if you could let someone know, we will make the changes that are necessary. Carole, or any of the clergy can easily change the list.

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This Sunday we are looking forward to welcoming our Bishop **The Rt. Rev. Mary Irwin-Gibson**. It will be fun to have her, and to hear what she has to say in this time. She will stick around for our coffee hour, so if you are wanting to meet her, you will very likely be able to. JS has also prepared a special hymn offering for the occasion, and I hear it is really fun, so that this is certainly not a service to miss!

So, I look forward to tomorrow, and to welcoming +Mary. I keep you all in my prayers daily, and so look forward to the time we might meet again in person. As things improve, questions around how we will get back to some sort of normal are being asked. I can assure you that our highest priority will always be everyone's safety, and the assurance that as we gather to worship, we remain united in our worship and prayer. Being the Body of Christ is important, and as much as possible everyone who wants to gather should be able to do so safely. So continue to take care of each other, and to keep in touch, especially with those who are most vulnerable, and may be in need of something. There are a multitude of ways that you can show your love for each other. Be creative. Being together in this is what makes it livable.

Sincerely

Karen+

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