



Saturday, May 30, 2020

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

How time seems to be moving along relentlessly, I cannot believe it, Pentecost is already upon us. If you receive this letter before the service tomorrow, see if you can wear a something red, I think it would be fun to have the screen before us reflect the color of the day. Red is the colour of flames of fire that danced upon the first Apostle's head as they received the Holy Spirit and were driven out into the street to share God's good news. The Spirit moves to continually build up the church, and to bring forth the Kingdom of God, and because God is always at work encouraging and building, I am certain we will feel the Holy Spirit's presence tomorrow morning.

We continue to hear via the news about plans to open up our society, and to slowly work towards a new normal after the pandemic. I get asked from time to time what our plans are for the church, and though everything is always uncertain, I can say at least that I expect our opening will be later, rather than earlier. Of course, it depends how things happen, and whether or not the virus comes back in full force, but because we have many parishioners amongst us who are over 65, I personally will be very reluctant to open while we expect that large numbers are reluctant to come. We have spoken about the possibility of having one service in the church when we are allowed at least a medium of people gathering, and keeping the zoom service for the people who would like to stay home, and that might work as an interim solution. The problem is that as the church opens there will have to be no singing, unless we get the complete green light, and our communion will likely be affected, perhaps bread only, probably received in the church, and not at the altar rail. These are initial considerations for sure, and I can assure you that no decision has yet been made, but I for one would like to see a return that we can celebrate, and celebrate all together, and that will have to mean most people being comfortable returning together. My hope is Christmas, but as you all know, it is far too early to make any predictions.

In the meantime, we continue to function at a surprisingly high level, making plans and keeping each other in touch and in our prayers. The Wednesday service and Bible Study has been one large success, we have never had so many attend, and as we worked through Acts this Easter Season, we has a wonderful time gathering inspiration and insights, The early disciples were brave and faithful, true products of God's Spirit working amongst the group. We began at the last bible study discussing how we might proceed through the summer. Normally, we take a break after June 24, but this year, we may continue, at least as long as we are able considering vacations and time away. Possibly going through July and taking August off. It is hard to lay down a successful program so we may just keep at it!

The worship experience survey has gone out! If you haven't returned it yet, please try to do so before Tuesday when the worship team meets to discuss our next service and plans for the next few months. We honestly want your feedback, and especially if there are any suggestions for ways we can improve, or add to the services, whether at 10:30 Sunday or Wednesday at noon. We look forward to compiling your replies, and we will likely give you a taste of the feedback. Thank you.

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Just one more thing: The city of Montreal has concluded that they no longer need our building to offer respite for the city's homeless and have decided to hand it back on June 5. I for one have been pleased and proud of our ability to provide for the less fortunate amongst us, so have been glad we could be of help. Our dealings with the city have been good, respectful and they have been especially good at communicating to us their needs, problems and any changes that they have made to our agreement. Overall it has been a success. Sometime this week a number of us from corporation will do a bit of a walk about as they hand back our church, making sure things are all in order. I for one would like to see a healthy relationship continue to be fostered between us and the city, and I think we are in a good position to see that happen.

So I will end by wishing you a happy and inspiring Pentecost. It is a wonderfully windy evening tonight, and I hope the Spirit is getting ready to move through our congregation with that same energy tomorrow! I look forward to seeing you. God Bless you all!

Sincerely

Karen+

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