

Update, May 22, 2020

*Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.* Eph 6:18 NLT

Grace and peace to you dear friends,

We are now 10 weeks into social distancing. When this all began we likely all imagined it would be a couple of weeks; we approached the then *novel* idea of staying at home with intrigue. We took on baking bread, we became hunter-gatherers searching for toilet paper, bleach, and yeast. We embraced online worship. We were afraid as infection numbers climbed and borders closed. We collectively joined a global effort to keep everyone as safe as possible.

And then the weeks continued. We worshiped online, learned how to join virtually for Holy Communion and began sewing masks. We've made home classrooms for our children, shopped online and our hands became weathered from washing. We witnessed the tiredness of hospital workers, the digging of graves, the cluttered ICU units. And still we stayed home to protect one another.

Thank you for your massive expressions of love and care. It's hard to hold the line for so long, especially when we never imagined just how long we would need to do so. Thank you for your offerings that continue to support Holy Spirit's ministry. Thank you for donations of food for the hungry who still come to our doors. Thank you for your encouragement and trust. Thank you for staying home.

Many of you are wondering when we will be back to in-person worship. The short answer is "not soon." The nature of worship and community are high risk activities. So, we ask you to persist a little longer. Our bishop has formed a team to review and make recommendations for reopening of congregations. In the meantime, be encouraged to keep worshipping, keep connecting online – because God is still guiding our church family!

We also need your help!

- We could use some help with discerning, sourcing and implementing technology needs for online worship.
- Celebrate with your church family. Send in a note about birthdays, anniversaries, graduations or other celebrations that we may share in Sunday worship.
- Lawn maintenance – call the church office to put your name on the schedule.
- Record a Bible reading for worship. Learn to write community prayers. Check with the office for more information.
- Pray for our staff and council. It means a lot!

As we continue in the difficult work of love, we are here for you! We are still available for conversations, prayers and counselling. If you have any concerns, please be in touch.

May you and your loved ones be blessed as you stay home. May you be blessed in your tiredness and uplifted in your loneliness. May you be blessed as you try new things. May God comfort your restlessness. May the Holy Spirit fill your breath and keep you in good health.

In peace,

Pastor Trish and Pastor Lindsey