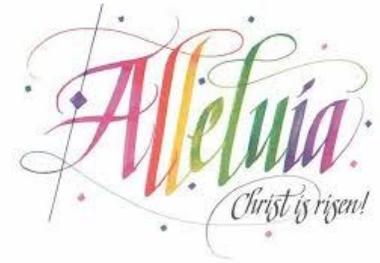


Cathy's Note April 17, 2020

Dear Holy Trinity Parishioner and Friend:

After the excitement of Easter Sunday – although muted in our social distancing, we begin like the first disciples to live the resurrection. On this Sunday I would still greet you by saying:



“Alleluia! Christ is risen!” to which you would respond: “The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

and then I would pray: “May his grace and peace be with you.” to which you would respond: “May he fill our hearts with joy.”

We are people of the resurrection. We are people of hope – filled with Christ's grace, peace and joy. Christ goes before us and comes to meet us on our way. He meets us in solidarity and understanding of our suffering and our longing for the kingdom in all its fullness for all, every last fragment of creation.

All around me these days, I hear people wondering about when we can return to 'normal,' and what the path is to return to 'normal.' Occasionally I hear questions about what will change and/or what changes we might want in our new 'normal.' And last week I read an article titled “Resist a Return to the Fallacy of Normalcy.” The author, Sarah Kendzior, talked about all the people who never were a part of what we might want to call 'normal:' the vulnerable and everyone excluded from work, home, health and a place and way of belonging. In her article, she was challenging us to think more critically about what we mean by 'normal.' Just as Jesus' crucifixion shattered any preconceived ideas the disciples had of life with Jesus was all about, so our pattern of life together has been completely disrupted. What is our way with Jesus now? What will be our pattern of life and action – our ministries, our witness to Christ's path in downtown Winnipeg? Holy Trinity's 'normal' was changing even before this disruption. As I said last week, “these are times to come to faith anew, to imagine a new horizon, to deepen our journey together.” Maybe our new 'normal' is not 'normal,' or not a return to a 'normal' that never was or should have been. Let's follow the Spirit's nudging, let's follow Jesus into the resurrection.

I would love to hear how you are imagining your new 'normal.' What is Jesus leading you toward? Do you have a dream you would like to make happen at Holy Trinity? Let's start a conversation together. Please email me at revcathy@holytrinity.mb.ca and we can dream and pray together and together discern Christ's leadership into our shared future.

Your sister in Christ

Cathy

ps. I've also included Bishop Geoff's Easter pastoral letter to the diocese for your reflection and nourishment.

pss. See the Winnipeg Free Press Article “Keeping The Faith” by Ben Waldman. posted 04/09/2020.

<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/life/faith/keeping-the-faith-569523012.html>



The Diocese of Rupert's Land

The Right Reverend Geoffrey Woodcroft
Bishop of Rupert's Land

*A Pastoral Message from the Bishop
To the People of Rupert's Land
Easter 2020*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! And light for all is pouring upon us!

Greetings in the name of the risen Lord! May this find you, and those whom you love, in safety and good health.

Jesus' journey toward the cross, including his trial, came not only with great personal pain, but with a profound exposure of tyranny and corruption in the world. Easter Sunday is a gift God continually gives to the world to show that in spite of the pain and suffering, the trial, and the tyrannical forces, love conquers all. In our loving response to the present state of the world, we have physically distanced ourselves from other community members, we are staying home, we are not going to work places, schools and the like because we do not wish to spread the virus to others, and we wish to protect our health care system from over-load. Our active role, strictly following Public Health protocols, is one of our most important active ministries. We do not know when or how the present situation will end; but we do know that God is leading us.

Certainly this present day shall not be eclipsed by darkness, greed and fear, for God has called us into the fellowship of the Body of Christ to bring continual light and love for all people in all places. As social and economic uncertainty cause more to be cast out of work, as the number of patrons increase in community ministries, and as the most vulnerable of our communities become seemingly invisible, the light of Christ shines to provide a path of safe travel for all. It is incumbent upon each member of the Body of Christ to actively financially support the work for which we have been called. Our generosity is God's generosity and we, a people of light who have so much, must continue to act beyond courage and hope, into faith – and the faithful expression of God through us. There are many ways you and I can continue distributing God's generosity in the world.

We are the Body of Christ, we have become that food which normally nourishes us week by week. We are a sacrament to the world in which we live - healing, caring, crying and laughing within the creation around us. We are a sent people, fully equipped to administer this sacrament of self to all who hunger and all who thirst. This Easter Sunday I will break fast and celebrate The Great Thanksgiving from the Altar of Live from 935. My deepest desire is to draw each of us into one prayer and action, that which expresses God's deep and passionate love for the world. I encourage those whose parishes are also providing live-stream and recorded messages on Easter Sunday to participate fully in the life of your congregation.

I yearn for that day of freedom when we shall meet face to face, feast together again, and greet one another in peace and love. May you know of my deep affection for you; I offer prayers daily for every community in Rupert's Land; I am thankful that God has indeed bound us in spiritual relationship, a Eucharistic people in a time of exile. May you be continually bathed in God's light and love.

May God bless you with new insight, new story, and new opportunity. Amen.

Diocesan Office: 935 Nesbitt Bay, Winnipeg, MB Canada R3T 1W8
Bishop's Office: (204)992-4212 General Office: (204) 992-4200 Fax: (204) 992-4219
E-mail: bishop@rupertland.ca

Cathy's Note April 10, 2020

Dear Holy Trinity Parishioner and Friend:

On this Sunday I would greet you by saying:

“Alleluia! Christ is risen!” to which you would respond: “ The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

and then I would pray: “May his grace and peace be with you.” to which you would respond: “May he fill our hearts with joy.”

And that is indeed my prayer for you, for the parish and for our whole circle of care: may Christ's grace, peace and joy fill your hearts and ripple outward. These are troubled and troubling times. They are times for prayer: prayers of thanksgivings, prayers of lament, prayers for healing and for healers, prayers of praise for God's sustaining power for life, resilience and compassion. These are times to come to faith anew, to imagine a new horizon, to deepen our journey together. A quote from a favourite author of mine seems apt.

The shadow cast by the cross becomes a dark womb that holds [our] brokenness and envelopes [our] pain. In this space there is no justification for [our] suffering, but there is the outstretched gesture of understanding of solidarity and of welcoming embrace... God's gospel can never be finished. Its edge is unsettling and unnerving. It brings us to the voids and chasms of our experience. Where gestures of grace are imagined and at long last embodied. In these voids and silences we find that we are not alone: we are in a vast landscape of grace, broad and beautiful enough to hold all the fracturing of our lives, and in so holding us, to give us back ourselves made whole. {Serena Jones; “Trauma + Grace: Theology in a Ruptured World” 2009}

May this vision of a “vast landscape of grace” indeed give us all back ourselves and our human community made whole again!

Many of you may have already read Ben Waldman's article “Keeping the Faith.” in the Winnipeg Free Press, this Saturday. You will already have read my opening remark in the video note we've created for you: “Because this Sunday is Easter, I felt that I would like to speak to you visually, with a voice and a person, and not just a written word. And so instead of an email note to you, we've gathered here to create a video, in the spirit of a letter to you. And I hope this all finds you well and safe, and in the spirit.”

<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/cn3AyDrZYVs" frameborder="0" allow="accelerometer; autoplay; encrypted-media; gyroscope; picture-in-picture" allowfullscreen></iframe>

I would like to thank Richard, Johanna and Donald for their participation in the making this video for you. It took all of us, appropriately distant, but present, to make this happen. I hope you can know the circle of love that is Holy Trinity joined together as part of the Body of Christ and know we live!

“Alleluia! Christ is risen!” ... “ The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

In Christ, your sister

Cathy

revcathy@holyltrinity.mb.ca

Cathy's Note April 3 2020

Dear Holy Trinity Parishioner and Friend:

Here we are, in our very topsy turvey, unsettled COVID time of social distancing, about to enter the familiar territory of Holy Week. This Sunday, Jesus enters Jerusalem to an enthusiastic welcome from palm carrying crowds. By Friday he is dead – publicly executed, surrounded by criminals, Roman soldiers and jeering crowds outside the city gates. It is a profound testimony of God's presence and steadfast, no holds barred, compassion, with us and all of creation. Jesus experiences betrayal, abandonment, torture and the loneliness of great suffering.

He enters the fullness of the depths of the human condition. Every Holy Week we are invited into this journey *either* as the suffering one *or* as the ones who cause the suffering and turn our backs to the suffering of the world. In truth, even as silent bystanders, we are always a mix of both. This is a week to enter with an open, prayerful heart, trusting in the love and guidance of the Spirit. And so today we can pray together, as we do each Sunday:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,

all desires known and from you no secrets are hidden.

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

That we may perfectly love you, and

Worthily magnify your holy name...

Trusting in the presence of the Spirit, we enter this moment in our lives [individual and collective] and follow Jesus' path deeper and deeper into the heart of God's love for this beloved world. May this be a blessed week for you and all those you love.

Throughout this sacred week, I encourage you to explore our website. The 'Worship' includes the written text of the passion but also two audio recordings of this text. Listening to the gospel helps it to enter more deeply into our souls. I thank Gordon Tanner and elder Ellen Cook for these recordings: one in English and one in Cree. We've also included music to deepen your meditation throughout the week. Johanna has offered some ideas to engage our parish children. We've added a family recipe from Janice Headley and some beautiful stories of kindness and grace thanks to the Rev'd. Norman Collier. I'd like to offer a particular shout out to the Rev'd. Donald MacKenzie and Derek Feschuk for their behind the scenes work to make this all happen. Gwen, although working from home, is happy to receive any prayers, recipes, stories and/or pictures that you would like to contribute to enrich our website: office@holytrinity.mb.ca. Our website will be richer for your contributions.

Our parish family is a rich multi-faceted treasure of faithful people. We come from every corner of Winnipeg. The Spirit works through us and we, like pebbles dropped in a pond, create ripples that circle outward in all directions. May our faith and loving action be deepened and broadened in this Holy Week. May our circle of care expand, and, even though we are physically distant from each other, may our sense of belonging together in the Body of Christ grow. Please be in touch with each other and share your prayer concerns with us.

In Christ, your sister

Cathy

revcathy@holytrinity.mb.ca



Cathy's Note March 27, 2020

Dear Holy Trinity Parishioner and Friend:

Here we are, in our very topsy turvey, unsettled COVID time of social distancing, about to enter the familiar territory of Holy Week. This Sunday, Jesus enters Jerusalem to an enthusiastic welcome from palm carrying crowds. By Friday he is dead – publicly executed, surrounded by criminals, Roman soldiers and jeering crowds



outside the city gates. It is a profound testimony of God's presence and steadfast, no holds barred, compassion, with us and all of creation. Jesus experiences betrayal, abandonment, torture and the loneliness of great suffering. He enters the fullness of the depths of the human condition. Every Holy Week we are invited into this journey *either* as the suffering one *or* as the ones who cause the suffering and turn our backs to the suffering of the world. In truth, even as silent bystanders, we are always a mix of both. This is a week to enter with an open, prayerful heart, trusting in the love and guidance of the Spirit. And so today we can pray together, as we do each Sunday:

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all desires known and from you no secrets are hidden.

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That we may perfectly love you, and

Worthily magnify your holy name...

Trusting in the presence of the Spirit, we enter this moment in our lives [individual and collective] and follow Jesus' path deeper and deeper into the heart of God's love for this beloved world. May this be a blessed week for you and all those you love.

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In Christ, your sister

Cathy

revcathy@holytrinity.mb.ca