

March 20, 2020

Dear friends,

How are you feeling?

If you are looking for connection points, hopefully this note will offer you some concrete ways to find support and a place to belong during these uncertain days. May we grow as an empathetic, listening community as we take it one step at a time together.

I came across a book this week titled *It's OK that you're not OK*. In other words, disorientation makes sense right now. That's how I see it. This is a season when you may wish to crack open a bible and allow the poetic words of Psalm 91 to fuel your prayers. The Psalm begins: "Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the LORD: he alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him." The psalm goes on to get very, very honest about the circumstances.

The church is a people who live in love with Jesus Christ. How can we be the church these days? There are multiple ways.

### **Sunday Worship Gatherings (by Zoom through the internet or your phone)**

For now, we chose Zoom because it allows us to set up an interactive community-style meeting centred on Jesus. Those who use the online forum see each other's faces. Last week, approximately 180 people engaged our Sunday gatherings by Zoom. A toll-free number has been set up for a few who choose to phone in.

This coming Sunday you'll be welcomed by Matt Bellefeuille, hear scripture read, be encouraged by Paul Racine, see the kids in action, pray together and enjoy some local musical talent as we zero in on the theme of God's total provision in the next edition of our Lord's Prayer series. ("Give us this day our daily bread." Matthew 6:11)

To receive links for this Sunday's services, please contact [seniorpastor@sunnysidechurch.ca](mailto:seniorpastor@sunnysidechurch.ca) preferably no later than an hour in advance of the meetings though I will do my best regardless. Our online gatherings will remain open for a half hour at the end so if you want to unmute, stick around and chat with others, you may!

Like last week, on Sunday afternoon we will be in touch with families with some "being the church at home" resources. Keep your eye on Sunnyside Parents' Facebook and the general Sunnyside Facebook pages. If you'd like to be included in the "church at home" communications and are not yet, send an email request to [familypastor@sunnysidechurch.ca](mailto:familypastor@sunnysidechurch.ca).

### **Giving and Receiving, and General Pastoral Care**

To give or to receive, or both, please contact [familypastor@sunnysidechurch.ca](mailto:familypastor@sunnysidechurch.ca) for a form through which you may indicate your need or ability to give or receive food, phone check-ins, or technological support. We will do our best to mutually care for one another.

We hope that pastoral care will happen naturally through existent small groups.

Also, we are working to identify those within our community, seniors and other adults, who may have no point of contact. Please feel free to self-identify. Though not all will feel the need for a check-in, we will take the initiative and then respect people's wishes.

### **Small Groups and Evening Prayers**

Some Small Groups are staying in touch by phone and a few have met by Zoom online. This may be the way of our immediate future! If you are a Sunnyside small group leader and wish to be set up to lead through Zoom, please contact [office@sunnysidechurch.ca](mailto:office@sunnysidechurch.ca).

And, if you aren't in a small group, next week I will facilitate an Evening Prayer gathering on Tuesday, March 24 at 7 p.m. for less than an hour. For a link to join online, please contact [seniorpastor@sunnysidechurch.ca](mailto:seniorpastor@sunnysidechurch.ca).

### **Sunnyside Youth**

This past week, Sunnyside Youth went totally digital. Going forward this will continue. Tuesday meetings begin together on YouTube for a LiveStream at 6:45 p.m. This coming week the LiveStream will be followed by Zoom break out groups for further interaction with your youth leaders.

Our youth leadership team have also launched Band, a social media app for Sunnyside Youth. For more information about this group for youth (gr. 7 to 12), please reach out to [youthpastor@sunnysidechurch.ca](mailto:youthpastor@sunnysidechurch.ca).

### **20 to Life**

In this ministry to young adults (for ages 20-40), the leadership team are planning for weekly check-ins with Sunnyside young adults whether they attend 20 to Life or not – to see how individuals are doing, offer help and prayer. They will be moving their gatherings online via Zoom. Dates and times will be communicated soon. Please reach out to [office@sunnysidechurch.ca](mailto:office@sunnysidechurch.ca) for details.

May I encourage us all to draw near to God. He loves us as we are. May we not just know his love intellectually; may we experience deep in our beings the comfort of his presence and grace.

As time passes, we will have opportunity to dream and discuss: from God's standpoint, what is most important now for our flourishing? What needs to go down in our lives? Lent is the perfect time to let some things die in our lives that aren't serving us well. My prayer is that we may be deeply discerning these days. God is with us.

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with Pastors Miranda Valentini, Matt Bellefeuille, Gilles Doucet, Jesse Duncan)