

January 15, 2021

Dear Friends,

### **Comfort Precedes Courage**

We need comfort in unsettled times. A colleague pointed out to me that, in scripture, God offers comfort to set us up for courage. Comfort often makes us think of being comfortable, wrapped in a cozy blanket with a warm drink. We all need to hide under a blanket once in awhile. But God's comfort (e.g., Isaiah 40) prepares people to live with courage.

### **Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.**

This is the second Sunday in the season of [Epiphany](#). We will (re)acquaint ourselves with a story about Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-20). Samuel is a boy who does "not yet know the LORD," but that doesn't stop God's revelation to Samuel. This story takes place in a time when "the word of the LORD was rare [and] visions were not widespread," just like ours.

Please [contact me](#) for the Zoom link.

When I mentioned in last Tuesday's prayer gathering that we were about to talk about Samuel, one senior member of our congregation asked me if I knew of [Hushed was the Evening Hymn](#), a song about Samuel's encounter with, and response to, God. I really like organ music and hymns; you may or may not. Either way, please give this song a listen and pay attention to the words as we make our way to Sunday.

For this week's scripture readings and other announcements, go to [Sunday's bulletin](#).

### **Sunday School for grades 4-6 at 11:15 a.m.**

Please contact our [family pastor](#) for a link to 'send' your child to Sunday School (grades 4-6) at 11:15 a.m.

### **Tuesday Prayer Gathering**

You may [email us](#) with your requests for prayer.

### **Gifts from our Housemates**

When we aren't living through stay-at-home orders, we actively share office space in the house beside the church with Union City Church (UCC) and The Navigators of Canada. Each group has a gift to offer Sunnyside right now.

UCC offers us the chance to join *Alpha* online, an 11-week course that creates a space for people to have open, honest conversations about faith and what Christianity is about. It will be on Zoom and involves watching a video together followed by a chance to discuss it. This free course will run on Thursday evenings from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. starting January 21 and ending April 1. [Please register here](#).

The Navigators of Canada invite us to join this month's *Discipleship Lab* on Tuesday, January 19 at 8:30 p.m. Chris Barrett will talk about *Encountering Jesus Together with Curious Friends*. [Please register here](#).

### **Kitchen Dance Parties**

I leave you with a song to support your kitchen dance parties: [Whenever God Shines His Light](#) by Van Morrison.

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)