

February 12, 2021

Dear Friends,

During last week's Sunday scripture readings, we got a God's-eye view of humans. Even the bigwigs are "like grasshoppers." (Isaiah 40:21-23) That's not a put down. It does not undermine human dignity; we were created in the image of God. It just right-sizes us. It's protective. It's damaging to treat another person as though they are bigger than they are; the word for this is "idolatry." It hurts the idolater, and it hurts the one being idolized.

There are some current examples of people who were put on pedestals by other people, and now they're falling hard. Sometimes it's because a secret life is uncovered, and other times it is because of simple incapacity to live up to others' expectations.

My question is: **Who are we following these days?** If and as you feel yourself disappointed by human leaders, take it a step further and recognize that Christians are the people who centre on Jesus Christ as Lord. Jesus Christ, crucified and risen one, humble God, is reliable and powerful to truly change things. May we be the Christ-followers we claim to be, and keep him as our main One, our only One. It will be good for us all.

Sunday Online Worship Gathering at 10 a.m.

This Sunday we look at a tale of two prophets: Elisha and Elijah. Elisha is the junior prophet. Elijah is the senior. In this final Sunday of the season of [Epiphany](#), it will be fun to hear Pastor Matt tell the amazing story of their final moments together (2 Kings 2:1-12). Though Elisha esteems his senior friend highly, it is Elijah's God (his God-given "spirit") that Elisha wants to carry forward.

Please [contact me](#) for links to our Zoom meeting.

*Please join the Zoom meeting after 9:30 a.m. to avoid problems entering.

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.

There will be no Sunday School with Simon this Sunday (or the next). But on February 14, the grades 4-6 Sunday School class will take time during the 10 a.m. Zoom gathering to tell us what they've been up to these weeks. I look forward to learning from them.

Prayer Gathering: February 16 at 11:30 a.m.

You are welcome to [email your prayer requests to the prayer team](#). We will hold you in our prayers.

Ash Wednesday: February 17 at 6 p.m. (In-person OR Zoom OR Both: Stay Tuned!)

We are learning what it is like to be out of control. I don't know what our situation will be next Wednesday, February 17 (Ash Wednesday) so here's what we're going to do. If Ottawa enters the Orange Zone (allowing worship gatherings at 30 percent capacity), you may reach out to the church office to register for the Ash Wednesday gathering (6 p.m.). We will worship through hearing music sung and scripture read, joining in prayer and receiving Communion before going out with the sign of the cross on our foreheads as a "sign of humility before God, a symbol of mourning and sorrow at the death that sin brings into the world." Please take time to ponder the significance of Ash Wednesday and [the Season of Lent](#) which extends up to Easter You may also make use of [this daily devotional](#) through the season, thanks to the Lutherans! If we gather in-person, that service will also be livestreamed at 6 p.m. for those who participate from home. Our gatherings are always in strict keeping with provincial guidelines; you can count on it. Please [contact me](#) for a link.

If regulations do not allow for an in-person gathering, we will have a Zoom gathering only.

Support

Before I go, I want to point to an article from *Faith Today* on [mental health medications and stigma](#) for those of you who may be discerning the use of medication to support your health through this season.

Know that you are dearly loved.

With prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)