

April 9, 2021

Dear Friends,

This morning, our bookkeeper and I read from Acts chapter four in our biweekly Zoom check-in. It was a story of Peter and John being questioned in custody by the rulers and elders and legal experts about the recent healing of a man in the community who hadn't walked since birth. Now he was "walking and jumping and praising God." (3:8) The healing of this man threatened the egos and the authority of the political and religious establishment. Their desire for control drove their inquiry about the power behind the healing event. The answer was: "It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed."

As our vision team has discussed Sunnyside's legacy and unique gifts, the word "healing" has come up many times. The previous senior pastor, Brent Russett, used to talk about us being a church in which people were safe to heal. I concur and desire to see us build on this legacy.

The story of Peter and John connects healing to the crucified and risen Christ. Ponder the kind of healing that comes through him. It's not only cure, though cure is amazing. Christ's healing work in our lives results in wholeness, renewal, empowerment, and blessing received so that blessing may be given. The healing of God through Christ puts us actively back on our feet. It's all-encompassing, described as "salvation," that is, total rescue and well-being, body, soul, and spirit. We may experience this in part now; and fullness is our future hope.

We are seeing some major changes in the face of our church. There is much action behind the scenes. Here's what I know: God is setting us up for all good things, for increasing wholeness. I believe God's healing mandate is unfolding in and through us. Please keep your eyes open and your prayers active as we wait on God for wisdom and direction during this time of transition.

#### **Sunday Worship Gathering by Zoom at 10 a.m.**

Pastor Matt will lead us in week two of our 7-part Vision sermon series. Our vision team was impressed mid-year 2020 by this thought: love for Christ is our first priority. As we are enamoured with Jesus Christ, vision will unfold in a way that honours and reflects him. On Sunday, we will consider the story of the disciple Thomas' doubt and belief in encounter with the risen Christ (John 20: 19-31). Eventually, Thomas recognizes who he is talking to, and responds, "My Lord and my God!"

Please [contact the church office](#) for a Zoom link.

\*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**

We will take a pause from Sunday School this week, and will resume on Sunday, April 18.

That's all for now. I will be taking a break this week with my husband who is a teacher. I look forward to returning to you refreshed and ready to go as we Sunnysiders continue to seek the Lord for our present and our future.

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)