

April 3, 2020

Dear friends,

How are you? **What are you thinking about these days?**

I am reminded of the Apostle Paul's poetic reminder: "And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable." (Phil. 4:8)

If you are anything like me, you can get stuck on the little train tracks in your head; I have some well-worn thought patterns that do me not one bit of good.

The epitome of what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely and admirable is Jesus Christ. As we make our way through this Palm and Passion Sunday and take the final journey toward the cross this next Holy Week, may we fix our thoughts on him. He stabilizes us. He saves us.

You will find our next few gatherings deeply Christ-centred. Your links for Good Friday and Easter gatherings will be available by contacting me next Thursday at [seniorpastor@sunnysidechurch.ca](mailto:seniorpastor@sunnysidechurch.ca).

**This week is Palm and Passion (meaning "suffering") Sunday.** We will begin the service at a high point with story and music reflecting Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The crowds went ahead of him shouting, "Hosanna (meaning "save us") to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

*How quickly things change.* Out of the same mouths, days later, came the words, "Crucify him!" How fickle we humans are!

**Sunday Online Services: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.**

In our second last sermon in The Lord's Prayer series, we will hear from Chris Barrett about situations with which Jesus was well acquainted: temptation and deliverance from evil. From his own experience and confidence in "our Father in heaven," Jesus taught us to boldly pray: "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil."

To receive links for this Sunday's services, please contact [seniorpastor@sunnysidechurch.ca](mailto:seniorpastor@sunnysidechurch.ca) preferably no later than 8 a.m. on Sunday. Please indicate which service (9 a.m. or 11 a.m.) you wish to attend.

**Week Two: Sunday School for grades 4-6 between online services**

Last week's Sunday School for grades 4-6 between services was a hit! You may send your child to Sunday School, taught by Simon Snoxell at 10:15 on April 5th. For the Zoom link, please contact [familypastor@sunnysidechurch.ca](mailto:familypastor@sunnysidechurch.ca).

**Further Links**

- [Listen to Faith Today's podcast titled \*Canadian Churches and COVID-19: Three Churches Respond\*](#). Sunnyside is one of the featured churches.
- You may be interested in an article theologian N.T. Wright wrote in Time magazine this week titled [Christianity Offers No Answers About the Coronavirus. It's Not Supposed To](#).

This, says N.T. Wright in the article above, may be a time to “recover the biblical tradition of *lament*. Lament is what happens when people ask, ‘Why?’ and don’t get an answer.”

We are in good company as we make the final leg of our journey to the cross. We walk with and toward the Crucified One, Jesus Christ our Lord, who cried the words from his Jewish prayer tradition as he died: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Psalm 22:1, Matt. 27:46) He is the “man of sorrows...acquainted with grief.” And, it turns out, he is the way to a hope-filled, raised up life.

**We have hope.**

Last evening, a Sunnyside small group that I’ve been part of wrapped up. We’d spent eight weeks considering the connection between faith and mental health. One of the final quotes in the book we discussed was this: “The only God who can help us is a God with some scars” (David Finnegan-Hosey, *Christ on the Psych Ward*).

It turns out that the God revealed to us through Jesus Christ is “the God with some scars.” *This God* is the one who, as we will hear on Sunday, delivers us from evil.

**May I encourage each one of us to pay careful attention to our story right now.** Set your mind on Jesus Christ. Ponder him in your heart. And the God of peace will be with you.

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)