

March 27, 2020

Dear friends,

Some weeks before we all began to hunker down in our homes, the Sunnyside staff started to read Ruth Haley Barton's *Invitation to Silence and Solitude: Experiencing God's Transforming Presence*. Now it seems a timely read.

For some of you, recent events have brought your lives to a grinding halt. For others, the pace of life has ratcheted up way too many notches. Regardless, the practices of silence and solitude offer a way through our current experiences of social isolation and chaos. Whether life is overwhelmingly slow or fast, we may "be still and know that he is God."

If after Easter we continue in this new - but not forever - normal, I will facilitate an online book club and discussion in which we will seek to be positively shaped during our time of solitude. Email me if you're interested at seniorpastor@sunnysidechurch.ca.

NEW this week: Sunday School for grades 4-6 between online services

This week we will trial online Sunday School for grades 4-6 between services. Thanks to Simon Snoxell for your offer to teach. Please contact familypastor@sunnysidechurch.ca for the Zoom link to 'send' your child (grades 4-6) to Sunday School at 10:15.

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

Two more weeks until Easter! This fifth Sunday of Lent we'll focus on Forgiveness in our series on the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." In a time when blaming and shaming seem on the increase, this is a timely topic.

To receive links for this Sunday's services, please contact 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.

NEW this week: Micro-Groups

Our Community Life pastor, Gilles Doucet, is convinced that a whole lot of friendship, encouragement and growth can happen in what he's calling Micro-Groups, i.e., small groups of 3 to 4 people. [Let him tell you why here.](#)

Please talk with Gilles (communitylife@sunnysidechurch.ca) if you're interested in giving a micro-group a shot.

Let the Phone Calls Continue!

As of this past Wednesday, we've surveyed our congregation as best we can to notice who may have points of connection (through small groups, etc.) and who may not.

Many of you will be receiving a one-time check-in just to see how things are going. Perhaps you feel the need for this. Perhaps you don't. Either way, we hope you enjoy the call. You may let your caller know you're feeling sufficiently connected at this time, if that's the case. Or, you may take a step further to ask *them* how *they* are doing and pray with them if comfortable.

Miranda Valentini (familyministry@sunnysidechurch.ca) is coordinating these connections, so please reach out to her by way of this [form](#) if you hope for a phone check-in or if you have gifts to offer to the community (like food offerings, or other support).

Other Ministries

Youth group will continue to operate via LiveStream, Zoom break-out groups and the Band social media app. Matt Bellefeuille will be happy to answer your questions at youthpastor@sunnysidechurch.ca.

Team members from 20toLife (for ages 20-40) have been reaching out by phone to all current or possible members to see how you are and to invite you to connect through their next Zoom gathering: Friday, April 3 at 6:30 p.m. The link will be emailed out and also available on 20toLife's Facebook page. For more details, contact youngadults@sunnysidechurch.ca.

I will leave you with my favorite reading during morning prayer time this week: "So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God." (1 Cor. 10:31) Every smile and greeting as you walk around the block, every peaceful response in work situations as you trust Jesus, every act of service within your household and without are reflections of God.

Keep going. You are not alone.

With love and prayers,

Pastor Kerry Kronberg (with the whole team)