



The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada

St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2020

Dear Friends,

The outbreak of Covid-19 across the Globe has shaken our understandings and assumptions about the many day to day occurrences that we all take for granted. Many institutions are attempting to discern how to provide the services they do for the communities they serve. Sadly, and reluctantly, but to ensure your health and safety, we have closed our church services physically but are continuing to conduct our worship services online. Because of the nature of this pandemic we are uncertain as to when things might be able to return to normal, so we are revising our position every two weeks in accordance with government guidelines. It is however unlikely that we will be able to hold our regular meetings and church activities in the run up to Easter. We do hope however to keep you updated with our progress as best as we are able.

Without question this is a difficult time for all us, but especially for those of us who are ill or who feel isolated. Crises call us to think of the common good and to think of the other. Please spare a thought for a neighbour or a stranger who might be in difficulty or need at this time, especially if they are older. Please consider helping them in ways that are in accordance with government guidelines. Most of all, please keep hope alive.

As people of faith we are called to be salt and light to our world. But we don't do this alone. The Book of Psalms brings us many reassuring words of comfort and of hope for times such as this. I wish to conclude by quoting that well-known Psalm: Psalm 23: 'The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.'

For any pastoral concerns you might have, please do not hesitate to contact me through the church office.

Your minister and friend, Glenn