

Worship con't

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18
Taizé Service in the Chapel, 6.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19
Lenten Chapel Service, 12:30 p.m.
The Rev. J.S.S. Armour
Light lunch in Kildonan Hall, 1:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22
Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney

THURSDAY, MARCH 26
Lenten Chapel Service, 12:30 p.m.
The Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney
Light lunch in Kildonan Hall, 1:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29
Palm Sunday, 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney

THURSDAY, APRIL 2
Maundy Thursday, 6:00 p.m.
The Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney
Tenebrae and Holy Communion

FRIDAY, APRIL 3
Good Friday, 11:00 a.m.
Passion narrative according to Matthew with reflections

FRIDAY, APRIL 3
Evening Choral Service
Mass in B minor by J.S. Bach
7.30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5
Easter Sunday Service, 11:00 a.m.
Sacrament of Holy Communion
The Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney &
The Rev. Dr. Victor Gavino

SUNDAY, APRIL 12
Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. J.S.S. Armour
Chapel Communion, 12.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15
Taizé Service in the Chapel, 6.30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19
Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney

SUNDAY, APRIL 26
Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.
The Rev. Dr. Kay Diviney

Pastoral Letter

A message concerning our Minister

Dear Friends,

About a month ago, we spoke to you during Morning Worship about The Reverend Veenstra's health, and the unexpected circumstance of his prolonged illness, outlining as well how as a congregation we might continue to carry out our mission. By this letter we update you as best we can about The Reverend Veenstra's situation, in keeping with the comments we presented to the congregation on Sunday January 18.

A Word from the Associate Minister. Since early December, when Rev. Veenstra was diagnosed with cancer of the gallbladder, the people of our church fellowship have been holding him and his family in our thoughts, in our hearts, and in our prayers. While the intervening weeks of continuing recovery and medical evaluation have brought many challenges, throughout this difficult time Jeff has benefited from the attention and skill of a talented medical team. We take comfort in knowing that he continues to receive the care and treatment that he needs, and that he recently began to receive chemotherapy.

In my visits with him, Jeff has told me how meaningful the support he has received from the people of the church has been for him: appreciated — indeed cherished — and also necessary. It is his ardent wish to be back among us, leading us in worship, mission, and the communion of Christ. And he continues to crave the prayers of our people, which are of great and sustaining value to him.

My own desire is to be of service to Jeff, his family, and this congregation in whatever way I can be through this challenging period. I do so taking heart from the loveliness of the people of this community, and keeping close to the hope offered to us in Jesus Christ, that “The eternal God is our refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms” (Deut. 33: 27 [AV]).

A Word from the Clerk of Session. For my part, as your Clerk of Session, I understand that Jeff is building up his strength preparatory to having chemotherapy treatment. As a non-medical person, I cannot, and should not, give you the details, a diagnosis, or a prognosis of what is to come. We are truly blessed with individuals in the congregation who have stepped forward to ensure that he has excellent doctors, in some of the best medical facilities in Montreal, and that he is receiving quality and much appreciated care.

Concerning the Congregation, The Rev. Dr. Diviney very ably provided a recent Session meeting with an update on how we are adjusting to this unexpected situation. The church will continue its operations and activities with the same philosophy and enthusiasm as when The Reverend Veenstra was both in his office, and out and about. Therefore, the worship services, chapel services, Bible Study and Taizé will continue as planned — a schedule has been prepared through April, indicating which ministers will preach and readers identified. Committees will continue operating normally. The Reverend Diviney will be present at as many meetings as she can attend, in whole or in part. Receptions and community events will also go ahead as planned. In working with the Presbytery, Presbyterian College, and Dr. Armour who has generously and willingly stepped forward to help, I believe Dr. Diviney has strong ministerial support. It is important that in turn each and every one of us provide her with equivalent support.

What else can you do? One of the things The Reverend Veenstra has mentioned is that he finds the cards and various messages of support he has received have really given a boost to his morale. Almost 500 messages have come from around the world. Please continue to let him know that you are thinking of him, praying for him and his family.

As a result of the Way Forward Committee, we have all agreed that our church be a truly welcoming one, reaching out into the community, providing tangible support to those in need. We propose to carry on with this goal. Your presence and active participation in worship services, special events, and community outreach activities would also be an excellent way to show your support for our Senior Minister. Be generous in your kindness to others, as he is.

Please continue to keep The Reverend Jeff Veenstra, his family, The Reverend Dr. Kay Diviney, the Session and this Congregation in your thoughts and prayers.

In shared ministry,

The Reverend Dr. Kay Diviney
Associate Minister

Donald Walcot
Clerk of Session