



St. Mark's Anglican Church

155 Memorial Drive, Brantford, Ontario N3R 5S5

Office: (519) 752-6451 · Email:

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March 26 2020

Dear sisters and brothers of St. Mark's

As we continue to live considerable uncertainty, may we each claim and cling to Jesus' promise to his disciples in Matthew's Gospel as he commissions them: 'And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age' (28.20). In whatever is happening, God is God Emmanuel – God with us in order to be God for us.

Thanks to Canon Bob Schroeder and Dan Walker for their assistance with our first virtual worship experience at St. Mark's last Sunday, to those who viewed it and to those who offered feedback. Shared worship is one of God's pre-eminent ways of connecting us, even as we remain physically distant from each other. Even if you are not able to, or prefer not to, access the recording, I strongly encourage you to find ways of continuing to worship and pray as the faith community of St. Mark's. You will find resources on our COVID-19 hub on our website – stmarks.on.ca/COVID-19. You will be able to access our service of Morning Prayer for this Sunday (the Fifth Sunday in Lent) any time after midnight on Sat Mar 28 (for those early-birds!) You will see that we have incorporated some changes based on your feedback (hint... listen for Alison!)

Some of us have begun gathering remotely via video-conferencing to say Morning Prayer together. One of the great things about video-conferencing is that there is always room for more! If you would like to join us in praying the Daily Office, please let me know – tim@stmarks.on.ca. No prior experience required! I would love to send you the link. We have scheduled Mon Mar 30 and Thurs Apr 2 both at 9am for the coming week.

I am also deeply grateful for your collective response to the care network we now have in place. Our particular thanks to those who have agreed to be callers and to those who have since volunteered. It means we will be able to expand our call list to include those whom we see less frequently. Our parish nurse Debbie Belowitz will have oversight of the network. I reiterate that if you are in need, please be in touch immediately with your caller or with Christine at the office – 519.752.6451 or office@stmarks.on.ca.

In order to facilitate ways of keeping in touch with your parish community, we are in the process of setting up a page on our website where you can post messages, photos and even short video clips (up to 20 seconds). If you have any other ideas, please feel free to share them with us. I remind you that the COVID-19 hub on our website remains our 'go-to' place for latest updates and resources.



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I know that some of you will be wondering about Holy Week and Easter services. I refer you to Bishop Todd's most recent pastoral letter: <https://diohuron.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/March-24-2020-Update-from-Bishop-Townshend.pdf>. The short answer is that in order to protect the most vulnerable all gatherings have been suspended until further notice. The Diocese is working on services for the Easter Triduum or the Great Three Days which I am hoping we will be able to access. Please be assured that we will do our utmost to offer you rich and meaningful worship experiences via your screens as we figure out what it is to be church in these unprecedented times.

We as a family feel so blessed and privileged to be part of the St. Mark's parish community. Thank you again for all the ways in which you are embracing God's call on our lives to be salt of the earth and light to the world.

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Tim+