



He is Risen!

Easter 2020

On Ash Wednesday when I invited you to give up something for Lent, I never thought we would all be giving up worshipping in the church! Yet here we are, with many of us locked into our homes, living in fear. We have a new reality of seeing shelves bare in our grocery stores, we purposefully avoid people on the street and heeded the Prime Minister's call for all Canadians to come home. This is a completely new experience for me, and I am sure for many of you as well. The thought of not gathering in our beautiful building for our Lenten worship and programs is disappointing but the thought of not being able to sit in our pews, hear the organ blasting Alleluias and receiving the blessing of the Eucharist (Communion) is devastating.

And there is a story just like it from scripture.

When it was evening on that day (Easter), the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20:19-22)

It is a new and different world than it was one month ago. The changes we have adjusted to each day are staggering and yet we adjust. We line up for groceries, we are eating at home a lot more and our hands have never been as clean. And in our fear, isolation and confusion Jesus comes to us this Easter. Jesus comes to us showing the marks of suffering and love and whispers words of Peace. He breathes into us the Holy Spirit and sends us into the world to proclaim the resurrection. Until it is safe for us to go out, we pause and prepare and pray. We have learned about sacrifice, suffering and love. We will use this experience to emerge from our dark places as the newly inspired body of Christ and shout out Alleluias.

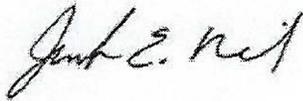
However long this pandemic lasts, whatever the pain and loss it brings, we Christians have a promise in Easter that assures us that death is not the end and that love always wins. We will gather again, we will shake the hand of our friend, we will break bread together and we will sing 'Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! The strife is o'er, the battle done'.

Until that day comes, know that our church is active in many ways. You can join us for worship online – please check our website: www.stpeterserindale.ca for times and how to join via Zoom or telephone. Remember that every time you give up something by isolating yourself, you are protecting others as Jesus would have us do, and call on the clergy if you get overwhelmed.

If your finances are still stable and you are able to continue to support the parish, we ask you to please do. You can join PAR, mail in a donation using the enclosed Easter offering envelope, make an e-transfer or use CanadaHelps. If you have lost your job and are struggling, we understand. If you need to adjust your offerings, you needn't feel bad. This is a hard time and we will walk through it together.

May this Holy Week and Easter bring you a new sense of connection to the living, loving Christ whom we adore. May you and your family be wrapped in peace, in good health, and in hope. May you sing out an Alleluia from your couch, and feel the breath of Jesus inspiring you to action. May you remember always the love that surrounds you.

Your servant in peace and hope and love,



The Rev. Canon Jennifer E. Reid

ONLINE VIRTUAL SERVICE TIMES

April 5, Palm Sunday

8:00 am, 9:15 am and 11:00 am

April 9, Maundy Thursday

7:30 pm

April 10, Good Friday

9:30 am Family/Children's service

10:30 am Stations of the Cross

11:30 am Solemn Service

April 12, Easter Day

8:00 am, 9:15 am and 11:00 am