

DAYSRING DAYBOOK

Monthly Newsletter of Dayspring Presbyterian Church, 11445-40 Ave, Edmonton, AB, CAN, T6J 0R4

April 2020

COVID-19, SNOW, and EASTER

What has this virus done to us? Here it is, Easter time, and there is still snow on the ground!

What is the world coming to?

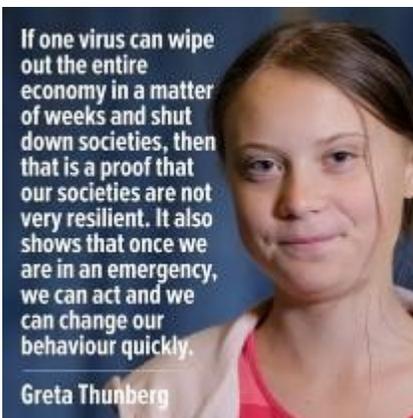
As the psalmist sang (in a completely different context, but one just as disastrous as COVID-19) - "How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land!" (Psalm 137)

Did anyone think, in early March, that we could continue to be a church - to worship together - to serve our Lord and the community without being able to be together physically.

And the snow is just the "icing on the cake" (pardon the pun).

But we have learned to use the tools we have to be together in worship. And we will keep doing better at it. And we will also learn how to serve God better in caring for persons and our world using those tools. Some may not see it my way, but I was inspired by a comment from the teenage social activist, Greta Thunberg.

Here it is.



We may learn something from this experience of physical distancing. Actually, we can't help but learn something.

We have learned that the message of Easter lives even in events over which we have no control.

The efforts of public health officials and researchers will eventually result in defeat of COVID-19. Spring will eventually come. And we will know that "we can act and we can

change our behaviour quickly" - as Greta says.

Resurrection capability is built into the very fabric of our being by God our Creator. Jesus' resurrection, which we celebrate during the Easter season, reminds us of that. And our experience reminds us that, in a post-Easter world, there might be some new ways of doing the things that we do as a church and as a people of God out in the community.

What I have written is not intended to minimize the pain and suffering that many have experienced. It is simply intended to contextualize this experience which we are in the midst of, as part of a larger narrative.

John Carr



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Once we have seen something, we cannot "unsee" it.

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FROM OUR MINISTER: New ways of community - virtually, though

During this season of Lent and Easter, Spring, but also of COVID-19 caused by a novel coronavirus, we are once again reminded of what Jesus said in one of his many parables, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches" (New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Matthew 13:31-32).

The nature of God is to continuously bring forth growth, similar to the magnitude of the growth seen in the mustard seed when it becomes so large that it is the "greatest of shrubs, becoming a tree."

Perhaps this parable of the mustard seed growing into a shrub, a tree, could be an antidote for quite easily falling prey to negativity and despondency from physical distancing. Physical distancing doesn't stop us from being socially in touch with one another. There are measures put in place to "flatten the curve" instead of "spiking intolerably." We don't want to see our hospitals being overburdened uncontrollably.

We are finding new and unique ways — through virtual connections — to build our community of faith. I have found my workload to have increased, as I redirect my energy into taking care of the "pastoral flock" that has been entrusted into my care. I take this seriously. The art of delegating becomes ever more important. For this same reason, our Pastoral Care Team and Elders on Session are doing their utmost to be there for you. We are making a concerted effort to reach out to as many of our Dayspringers as possible, as it behooves us.

Followers of Jesus Christ seem hard to put down. When growth appears to be stifled, growth can't but take on a new strength, fueled by the power of Jesus' resurrection.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heinrich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pandemic

What if you thought of it as the Jews consider the Sabbath—the most sacred of times?

Cease from travel.

Cease from buying and selling.

Give up, just for now,

on trying to make the world different than it is.

Sing. Pray. Touch only those to whom you commit your life.

Center down.

And when your body has become still, reach out with your heart.

Know that we are connected in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.

(You could hardly deny it now.)

Know that our lives are in one another's hands.

(Surely, that has come clear.)

Do not reach out your hands.

Reach out your heart.

Reach out your words.

Reach out all the tendrils of compassion that move, invisibly, where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—for better or for worse,

in sickness and in health, so long as we all shall live.

—Lynn Ungar 3/11/20

<http://www.lynnungar.com/poems/pandemic/>

More Voices from the Pews

- *We have really enjoyed the services over the internet with Zoom.* -Warren and Vicky
- *I am deeply appreciative of being able to enjoy the Dayspring services online. It is always uncomfortable to learn a new way, to change the familiar way; yet it is a pleasure to watch that new creation emerge. A big thank you to those at Dayspring who have been committed to bringing us the services which have been lovely and can only get better! The fellowship time at the end is really heart warming.* -Kristin
- *I've enjoyed our online worship which has been somewhat surprising to me, I've always very much enjoyed face-to-face communications. However It seems to help you focus on the words, the prayers and the message to a whole new level. Also, I'm very happy we chose Zoom as our online vehicle because we get to see a bit of each other instead of one-way communication such as live streaming.* -Heather

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ALERT

Normally, the General Assembly (GA) of the PCC meets during the week following the first Sunday in June. The location is determined by a system that factors in relative costs and a belief that GA should meet outside of Ontario at least once every three years—moving back and forth between East and West.

However ... The GA planned for June 2020 has been cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This means that many important issues, including the remits concerning sexuality, will not be resolved until June 2021.

Fortunately, there are policies in place that authorize Boards, Committees, and GA Staff about many issues, following certain GA-established principles, about what might be regarded as routine matters.

One of the effects of COVID-19 is that, early in March, the department of International Ministries recalled all PCC personnel who were working with mission partners outside of Canada. This was a very difficult decision - and most of our missionaries had only a few days to pack up their belongings, say "Goodbye," and leave. As you can imagine, this was very difficult for our mission personnel, their families, and the mission projects in which they were involved. One of our mission personnel, reflecting on this experience, expressed their deep concern about the people they were leaving - who do not have the resources that we have in Canada to cope with COVID-19.



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DayBook Deadlines

3rd Sunday of September, October
and June
2nd Sunday of November, December,
January, February, March, April, and
May

SESSION

Moderator: Heinrich Grosskopf

Session Clerk: Gina Kottke

Deputy Clerk: Iris Routledge

Roll Clerk: Jim Jeatt

Other Elders

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Hostensia Bineba (on leave) | Samuel Mforteh |
| Bill Davis | Jan Ray Moncada |
| Jane de Caen | Nick Nation |
| Darlene Eerkes | Laura Patterson- |
| Peter Eerkes | Fortin |
| Carina Grosskopf | Todd Shipman |
| Ransford Kusi- | (on leave) |
| Menkah | Heather Tansem |
| Sam Malayang | Mary Waugh |

MINISTER

The Rev. Dr. Heinrich Grosskopf

CHURCH STAFF

Church School Coordinator: Lynn
Vaughan

Youth Coordinator: Saúl Carvajal

Worship Arts Coordinator

Gordon McCrostie, B.Mus., M.T.S.

Pianist: Binaifer (Binu) Kapadia, B.Mus.

Alternate Pianist

Darolyn McCrostie, B.Mus., P.D.A.D.
(Education)

Administrative Assistant: Linda

Custodian: Jim