

April 6, 2020

Easter Greetings,

As we look out our windows, we can see signs of spring. The ships are being filled with western grain, the sound of water bombers practicing in preparation for fire season, the pavement revealing itself and the crocuses peeking out as the snow slowly recedes in the northern areas. The sap is running, the geese are gliding in to land on the barely open rivers, and the robins are returning home after a long winter. The snow is slowly leaving and we look forward to the ice leaving our lakes in the next month.



From our window our spring is coming on schedule. However, this past Lenten season will be remembered for decades. For my generation and many others, we have never experienced such a socially transforming event. This year, most of us will celebrate Easter in our home. Worship will happen in our home and through various forms of media, but we will not gather in person as a community. This will be a new experience for many and social isolation is a struggle for many of us. However, regardless of how we gather this Easter, we are still the Church. Our message of the gospel is alive. We see it in our community, we see it in our hospitals, we see it in our front-line workers, we see it in the sacrificial act of our grocery clerks who go to work daily to ensure access to food. We see it in our Church leaders, reaching out to our communities of faith in new and old ways.

This past week, via regional town hall meetings of Church leaders, people described reaching out to folks through phone, mail, video, Facebook, Twitter and most of all, prayer. We heard stories of groceries being left at doors, food banks and outreach ministries finding new and creative ways to continue their ministry, in a safe way, within the context of Covid-19.



This Holy week, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday, we will gather. We may gather as one, three or more in your home. You may gather online, over the phone, via video, Facebook, email and through prayer. Regardless of the fact that our buildings are closed, our communities of faith are not closed. Our communities of faith, our Church, The United Church of Canada are alive and our Church, along with many other communities of faith across Canada and the world, will celebrate resurrection this Sunday morning. We share a message of hope!

Please click on this link to view a video message to you:

https://united-church.zoom.us/rec/share/_PFsP7H5xH1OTrPp9XrbercLAKfDT6a82iYa_6EFzBuZk6NNQvI1Odo90ItAvVXT

As we gather as people of Faith, we celebrate Resurrection!

In Christ,



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