

## **November 22, 2020 – At Home Worship**

Last Sunday a number of parishioners remotely joined our sanctuary gathering via the Zoom program. We provided a link to connect from your computer or device, and also provided a list of phone numbers you could use to call in to the service if you did not have internet. I am thankful we tested that facility because, as I put this worship service together, there are rumblings of Waterloo Region moving to Stage Red and my understanding from Council Executive is: **if our Region moves to Stage Red before Sunday worship time, in-person gatherings in our sanctuary will stop.** We will continue to do the zoom worship as long as Heide is willing to facilitate (connect after 9.50 am on Sunday mornings), as well as make worship available by email and snail mail. Zoom is still in “experimental” stage for us, so if you do plan to join that way, please bring your grace and patience with you to the gathering. Details for zoom connection are available in the post-amble. However you choose to worship, we are just thankful for all worship is to God’s glory ☺

The following Adult Study opportunities are also being made available, with details for all studies available in the post-amble:

- Our online writing group began on Google Meet on Monday November 9<sup>th</sup>, and continues for Monday November 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm. Please email Avery, [arobin17@mail.uoguelph.ca](mailto:arobin17@mail.uoguelph.ca) to join us.
- Our Bible study of the Gospel of Thomas on ZOOM was rescheduled to November 25<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7pm. Please email Heide [emrichheide@gmail.com](mailto:emrichheide@gmail.com) to join this study.
- We plan for in-person Bible Study using the Daily Discipleship study resource to prepare for Advent: November 19<sup>th</sup>, November 26<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup> – start time is 2.30 pm at Art Room at church.

Today we celebrate our first communion as a congregation since COVID. Bridging this celebration across the variety of means is another learning curve in our worship practice. Those of you who are at home, whether listening live or to a pre-recorded link, are invited to have ready your bread or cracker of choice, and your wine or juice of choice. When we get to the prayers, pray along, and consume your sacrament at your pace. Reading along if you do not have listening/internet capability, and taking the sacramental elements when you get to that point in the reading is just fine – we depend on the mystery of Holy Spirit to connect us, and Jesus has gone ahead to prepare that way for us so we need not be afraid.

A big thank you to all the work that Lorre & Brad put into the hymn and video for remembering our loved ones who have died. We are using the video online as well as in person today for our Hymn of the Day.

We also wanted to share this reminder about Redevelopment updates:

“In an update from our latest Lamplighter posting, we met with an Indwell representative in October and were able to ask some questions, exchange thoughts, and share ideas. While we digest the information gathered from that discussion, we are looking to arrange similar meetings with other like-minded organizations to compare resources and interests. Please be advised that no deals or agreements have been made or money spent toward official phase two processes as of yet.”

- Dave Berg of Redevelopment Team

If you need to know how to attend in-person worship, please read the post-amble which follows this pre-amble! Please also check the post-amble for Adult Study offerings, and a zoom link for today’s service! As always, if you need a phone call or distanced visit, please do reach out by email or phone: [pastor@st-peters-cambridge.org](mailto:pastor@st-peters-cambridge.org) or 519-653-4721 ... It is not my intention to neglect pastoral visitation ministry during this time, sometimes my shins just need a swift kick ☺

Have a blessing filled week, and please do be in touch if you have any queries around in-person worship or any other stuff!

- with love, in Christ, Pastor Janaki.

## **Post-Amble Notes: Zoom Link, Worship Requirements, Adult Studies**

### **Link for Zoom worship on Sunday:**

Heide Emrich is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting: St Peter's Sunday Worship November 22, 2020.  
Time: Nov 22, 2020 09:50 AM America/Toronto

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82560381777?pwd=ZDZGVGE2YzJlM0hDWjhHcjl4Q0tTQT09>

Meeting ID: 825 6038 1777

Passcode: 184575

Telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location, long distance charges may apply) Canada: +1 587 328 1099 or

+1 647 374 4685 or

+1 647 558 0588 or

+1 778 907 2071 or

+1 204 272 7920 or

+1 438 809 7799

**If you are thinking of attending worship in the weeks to come, please read through this page of notes carefully so you know what to expect when you come to church. Our approach at St Peter's is based on protocols taking every possible precaution which include these ... You will need to arrive early for the entry protocol, and come to the Church street accessible entrance, at which you will be asked four assessment questions by an outside Greeter. A face covering is required. These are the assessment questions, and a self-assessment is advisable at home:**

- 1. Have you travelled outside of the province or country within the last 14 days?**
- 2. Have you tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days?**
- 3. Have you been in contact with anyone that has exhibited symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19 virus in the past 14 days?**
- 4. Do you have any of the following symptoms that are unusual for you: fever, new cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, chills, headache, new loss of taste or smell?**

**If you answer 'yes' to any of these questions, then you will be asked to return home. Otherwise, you will be allowed into the building, and an inside Greeter will check your temperature (if above 100°F or 37.8°C, you will be asked to return home) and ask you to sanitize your hands. You will be seated by an usher to ensure social distancing in the pew. Families will be seated together. Seating will be assigned from front to back in the sanctuary. All volunteer disciples also want to worship, so please arrive early to ensure seating can be completed in time for 10 am start of worship.**

### **Adult Study Offerings this week:**

#### **In-Person Daily Discipleship:**

For many of us, meeting in person is still the preferred way, and the Art Room is set up for in-person gatherings of up to 10 people. Everyone inside our church building needs to wear a face covering for the entire duration of their time inside the building. I am not sure how many are interested in meeting for Bible Study with face coverings, but I want to make this offering available for those who would like to try this. Access to the church building will be at the Church Street Door, and I will be there at 2.15 pm on the listed days, to let folks in with the protocols in place, so that we can begin our study time for 2.30 pm.

We will use the ELCA Daily Discipleship study resource, and our dates are: November 19<sup>th</sup>, November 26<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Sarah Glinski, one of our newest members and a student from Seminary will be my co-facilitator.

As the room is not able to accommodate more than 10 people, please consider calling the church office to indicate your intention to join so we have an idea of numbers. This is not a requirement – just a strong recommendation ☺

### **Writing Group:**

The things of these times have given us lots of food for thought, and sometimes it is hard to even pull a thread of thought and follow it through with all that is going on. Writing, whether journaling or for sharing, is a really good way to follow these threads of thought and even prayerfully reflect on the things we have experienced, and the things we anticipate.

Avery Robinson has agreed to be our technology host for an online meeting of a Writing Group. We plan for three Mondays in November: November 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, to gather on Google Meet. Our sessions will aim to be an hour long, and will include three small writing exercises:

- A journal writing exercise, where, provided with a reflective prompt, each participant receives some time to write their thoughts, experiences and feelings followed by a time for optional sharing. This first writing exercise looks back and at our current experience.
- A creative writing exercise, where, provided with a creative writing prompt, each participant receives some time to write a short creative piece, followed by a time for optional sharing. In our last session, we will have an online writing editor, Jacob, join us to offer some input to our written offerings.
- Finally, a journal writing exercise, where, provided with a reflective prompt, participants will write about something they are looking forward to in the future, and why. Again, time will be provided for optional sharing at the end.

All you need to join this class is to send your email request to Avery, [arobin17@mail.uoguelph.ca](mailto:arobin17@mail.uoguelph.ca) to be included in the meet invitation. I will prepare the content, and Avery and I will co-facilitate.

### **A Taste of Thomas on Zoom:**

Before COVID, our in-person Monday Bible Study was studying the Gospel of Thomas. This gospel was not included in the Bible, and gave us a good opportunity to consider the political and social context which framed what got included in the canonization that formed the Bible, and what got left out. By looking at where there were close parallels between the Gospel of Thomas and Biblical material, and looking at where there were departures, we could imagine together the contexts for inclusion and exclusion of material.

The “Taste of Thomas” study will take a few of the Gospel of Thomas teachings and examine them in tension with the parallels from the Bible. Our discussion allows us to examine the whys of the differences between the canonical and extra canonical writing, as well as share our observations on meaning and nuance. If you have ever wondered about why some items are included in the Bible, and others are not, this study will feed your wonder!

With the help of technology, we are able to offer a small taste of the Gospel of Thomas study, which we will do over two Wednesday nights in November: November 25<sup>th</sup> and December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm. Heide Emrich will host the Zoom meeting, and I will facilitate the teaching part. If you are interested in doing this study together, please contact me or Heide. (Heide’s email is [emrichheide@gmail.com](mailto:emrichheide@gmail.com) ). If you do not have Zoom, but would like to join, get in touch ahead of time and we will try to organize for you to have print of the study material and the phone number for the call, so that you can dial in. Please invite friends from other contexts than church to join you – this is a study to be shared amongst believers and non-believers alike ☺

**Please take a few moments of silence, prepare your heart, centre yourself for worship.**

**Prelude: Land acknowledgement with Brad’s creative composition ☺**

**Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9Zar8-GeUs>**

**Greeting:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, in your home and in mine.

**Prayer of the Day:** God of all unity, scattered though we are across time and space, you gather us up into one communion of saints through your Son, Jesus. In his body and blood, time and space fade away, and all that remains is your eternal love, power and authority. We are thankful for all you do for us through Jesus, and ask you to strengthen us with today's word and meal, strengthen us into ever-growing discipleship. Amen.

**The Lesson: John 17:20-23 ... Jesus praying for the disciples before his crucifixion:**

"I'm praying not only for them  
But also for those who will believe in me  
Because of them and their witness about me.  
The goal is for all of them to become one heart and mind—  
Just as you, Father, are in me and I in you,  
So they might be one heart and mind with us.  
Then the world might believe that you, in fact, sent me.  
The same glory you gave me, I gave them,  
So they'll be as unified and together as we are—  
I in them and you in me.  
Then they'll be mature in this oneness,  
And give the godless world evidence  
That you've sent me and loved them  
In the same way you've loved me." [The Message Translation]

This is the Gospel of Jesus. **C: Thanks be to Christ.** \*

**Gospel Acclamation:** Bless the Lord, My Soul, Taizé; Bradley Moggach, Synthesizer and Bells  
**Click Here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wi38m9haMno>

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**The Holy Gospel according to John 14:1-7.****C: Glory to you O Christ.**

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know<sup>[a]</sup> my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."  
[NRSV]

**This is the Gospel of our Lord: Thanks be to Christ.**

**Sermon (by Pastor Janaki):** <https://youtu.be/yIDY0aZNOCY>

In my Father's house are many rooms ...  
a room that is this sanctuary – a physical place that offers so much beauty and tradition ...  
a room in which Heide's computer hosts a Zoom meeting, connecting us by technology ...

a room in which there is no technology – yet God is there and Spirit unites us ...

a room where Bonnie and Stuart are celebrating this Sunday ...

a room where the Bergs are gathered ...

a room where Don & Virginia are sitting ...

a room for each person we cannot see here today ...

a room for each person and family I do not name out loud ...

a room impervious to pandemics and propaganda ...

a room where your beloved loved ones are at peace ...

a room that accommodates every circumstance and condition ...

a room that is completely accessible,

a room that connects us to all knowledge,

all power, and the complete glory of God ...

Our beloved Jesus prepared the room ... He went ahead and now it is ready for us.

That room is available right now, in this moment ...

It is the room of complete presence with Creator ...

That room never becomes unavailable ... although sometimes we choose to wander from it.

Sometimes our feet and hands and bodies are in that room ...

But our thoughts, words, and deeds are elsewhere ...

In the world of Thomas who doubts:

“I do not know where the heck you are going Jesus ...

How can I know the way?”

Sometimes our thoughts, words, and deeds abandon the room that is made ready for us ...

Abandonment happens: in the things we have done, and the things left undone ...

We confess of this abandonment ...

We confess of our fears ...

We turn, anticipating the room of light and love that Jesus made ready for us.

The way, the truth and the life is not a way of fear ...

It is not a way of abandonment ...

The way of love is filled with mercy and grace, abundant in joy and unifying all diverse elements.

The way of love celebrates differences.

The way of love gathers all into one harmonic whole.

We know this way of love.

We taste and touch and live this way of love.

And we give thanks for the way, the room, the example, the presence of Jesus today:

Gathering us up into one communion of saints,

In the life everlasting.

Amen.

**Hymn of the Day: For All the Saints, ELW 422; Bradley Moggach, organ**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwezIPVjCg0>

Text: William W. How; Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams; Tune Name: Sine Nomine

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The main wording of the prayer below came from a Thanksgiving message sent out by the Interim Executive Director of the Cambridge Shelter Corporation, Anne Tinker, in an email to staff and volunteers. Anne's message was not worded as a prayer – but her words sounded prayerful and appropriate to me. It captured so well the many things we have to be thankful for, that, with some additional intercessions, edits and Anne's permission I share some of her words in our prayers today.

**A Thanksgiving Prayer:**

All-powerful God: You bless us in countless ways,  
Thereby showing your authority, your grace, your mercy and your boundless love.  
We are thankful for the many blessings you give us:  
We are thankful that we can turn on a tap and have clean water to drink, shower, or wash clothes, when so many in the world do not.

We are thankful for food in our cupboards and in our refrigerators when so many go hungry.

We are thankful that with a flick of a switch we have light or heat when so many have neither.

We are thankful for roofs over our heads, warm beds to sleep in, and a place to call home when numbers of those experiencing homelessness are climbing everywhere.

We are thankful to be part of an organization that works to serve others and to make our little corner of the world a better place.

Holy God:

Help us to remember to respond to your generosity mindful that we are created in your image and likeness.

Help us to make love our pandemic of choice: make us vectors of infectious love.

Where these times sow fear and insecurity, help us to sow faith, hope and joy.

Make us your instruments of justice, grace and mercy.

Rid us of judgmental attitudes and replenish our reservoirs of compassion.

Help us to live safely; reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and in solidarity.

We pray that you would also keep us in good spirits, as we feel the colder weather coming,

And as we contend with the reality of rising infection rates ... please keep us in your care.

We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Let us share the peace of Christ:**

The Peace of Christ be with you always, in your home and in mine, and throughout God's creation. (If you have others around you, share a sign of peace in a non-infectious way)

**Thanksgiving at the Table: <https://youtu.be/-RnRfJoYmjs>**

We come to God's table with thanksgiving for the unique and mysterious way in which Spirit connects us through the simplest of things. We come with thanksgiving, remembering all who have gone before, and celebrating the power of Spirit to join us in one communion of saints:

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.  
 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Holy God, we give thanks for the meal you provide: to nourish, sustain and unite us, bringing us closer to you, through your power – not ours. Amen.

### **Lord's Prayer:**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
 thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread;  
 and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. AMEN.

**The Body of Christ is given for each one of us. (consume your bread or cracker)**

**The Blood of Christ is shed for each one of us. (consume your wine or juice)**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Emmanuel, God with us,  
 you grace us with life and breath  
 and give us bread for the journey.  
 Send us out in service to this world that you love,  
 telling the amazing news of your coming  
 to be Savior and Lord of all.  
 Amen.

**Sending Hymn: A Mighty Fortress is Our God ELW 503, Rhythmic or Peculiar Version, Bradley Moggach, Organ**

**Click here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmYG9uX-9oE&feature=youtu.be>

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### **Blessing:**

May God bless us and keep us.  
 May the face of God shine upon us with grace and mercy.  
 May God look upon us with favor  
 and give us ☩ peace.  
 Amen.

**Dismissal:** Go in Peace, Go in Hope. *Thanks be to God.*

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