

Dear Friends:

April 2020

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.” Psalm 118:1

Our next letter to the parish was not scheduled until the end of April but we find ourselves in extraordinary times with a need to reach out to our parish family sooner than anticipated. It is hard to believe that it is just over a month ago that we gathered in joyous celebration of Michelle's Ordination to the Priesthood. The current closure of Anglican church buildings across the province of Ontario has us longing for a time when we can return to conducting worship together at 4 Elizabeth Street North. We are learning to be church in a new way - that is outside the building.

Corporation has been meeting (virtually, of course) on a weekly basis and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future as we navigate through the choppy waters. That said, we have so much to be grateful for. Our Lord Jesus Christ continues to fulfill His ministry on earth – through the faithfulness of the members of Christ Church Brampton. Indeed this is a letter of thanksgiving.

HOLY WEEK AND SUNDAY WORSHIP

We are grateful for a team that has quickly ramped up to deliver our services on-line. In many cases, thankfully, the folks helping out are still working. On top of increased work and family demands, they are willing to provide their spare time and expertise to bring church services into our homes. You can well imagine it is a steep learning-curve and we are so thankful. Everything you need to worship with us is available:

- a. On our website at: www.christchurchbrampton.ca Weekly service bulletins are also there. Or...
- b. Directly on our YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/christchurchbrampton>



Palm Sunday - April 5
10:00 am

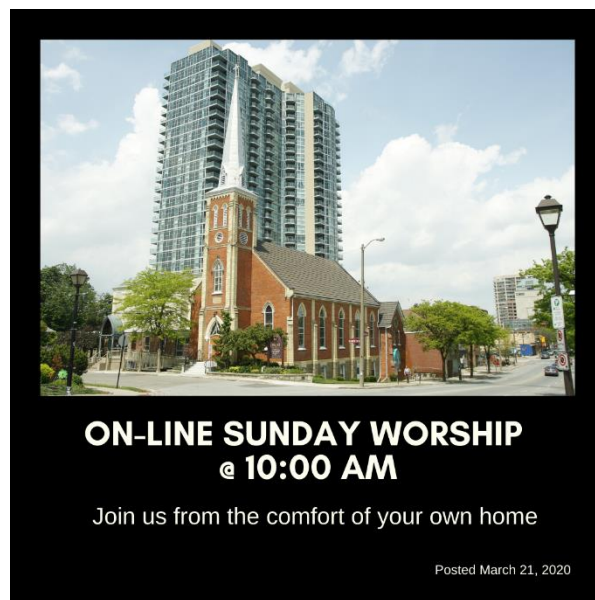
Maundy Thursday - April 9
(7:00 pm Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar)

Good Friday - April 10
10:00 am Commemoration of Our Lord's Passion
7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday - April 11
7:00 pm The Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Sunday - April 12
10:00 am

All on-line | All are welcome | All are invited
No Experience Required



The added bonus is that these services have close-caption and are available beyond the stated times. Thank you to all those who have provided an encouraging word to those on the “production team”.

PARISH CALLS

Under the direction of the clergy, a team of volunteers has been contacting our parish families by telephone. With 250 households to contact, we are grateful for these volunteers who are providing a vital link. A wonderful 2-way contact has been established to see how people are coping; and to provide a listening ear, and information on what is going on in the parish. We have heard that these calls have proved very meaningful by both those making and those receiving the calls. If you have not yet received a phone call, it may be that we do not have your most current telephone number. **Please do call the office if you have not received a call and we will ensure that you do!**

OUTREACH

With a number of food banks closed and/or on restricted hours, our ministry partner Regeneration Outreach Community has quickly re-tooled themselves to become a food bank operating out of their Thrift Store location on Queen Street (the Thrift Store is currently closed). We give thanks for the spirit of generosity and helpfulness that is emerging from our parish members at this time. During our parish phone campaign we have had a number of our people offer to make shopping runs for anyone who is unable to get out to shop. There is a genuine desire expressed by many to help those in less fortunate circumstances. Making a food donation might be something you might want to consider.

Just a reminder

**Our food bank is open
Wednesday's & Friday's
12pm-2pm**

**Located at Regen Thrift Store
253 Queen Street East
2nd entrance
*No registration required***



**Food Donations are accepted:
Monday through Friday**

**8:00 am – 8:00 pm
253 Queen Street East
(south side of Queen Street between Hanson &
Rutherford)**

We have a number of our people playing an active role at Regeneration in various dimensions of the ministry: housing, thrift store, food recovery and distribution, food bank, daily feeding program and governance. This is a great way for a mid-sized church such as ours to work in partnership with others to make a larger impact on our community.

DISCIPLESHIP

- While this year's group of youth who were looking forward to being Confirmed at the Easter Vigil have to wait until the Church is able to gather together in one place, it has not stopped them from meeting together virtually with Rev. Michelle. Confirmation classes are continuing via Zoom.
- Tina is working hard caring for the social/spiritual needs of our children and youth. Families with young children will engage this Easter in a unifying act of "baking together" in their own homes.
- Suffice it to say that the young people in our parish are a tight community. They value each others' company and are very happy to be sharing time together – any way they can. Youth Nights will continue to be held, facilitated by Tina with the help of Zoom.

- The Lenten Study groups continued via conference calls and virtual meet-ups all the way through Lent.
- Staff are brainstorming innovative ways to create and maintain connections amongst the Christ Church family in the weeks and months to come.

We are cooking up something sweet to do this Easter for families of all shapes and sizes.

What you will need:

- 1 cup of chocolate chips
- white vinegar
- 3 eggs
- Salt
- White Sugar
- A ziptop bag
- Wooden spoon
- An electric mixer or hand blender
- Tape

Further instructions will be released on Maundy Thursday (April 9) @ 5:00 pm on our website: christchurchbrampton.ca

Name This Sheep!



Our kids have been challenged and our first submission came all the way from India!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Under the direction from the College of Bishops, Corporation Worship was suspended effective March 15, 2020. With just over 50% of our general offerings being received by the way of envelope holders versus those on monthly Pre-Authorized Remittances, you can well imagine our financial concern. Many of our households have either dropped off their offering or popped it in the mail. We thank you for your continued and intentional support. In mid-March, the Diocese of Toronto asked the churches for a financial forecast for the months of March and April. The combined results of the churches resulted in an announcement of a 2-month Jubilee ~ you cannot imagine the collective relief and joy that was felt. Below captures this gift:

“As a family, and in response to this time of great crisis, I can announce that the Diocese of Toronto is proclaiming a Jubilee – a time of generosity and forgiveness. For the months of April and May 2020, parishes will not be required to pay their allotment to the Diocese or to pay the costs of clergy remuneration (stipend, housing and associated benefits). It is my hope that this measure will alleviate the financial pressure that many of our parishes are under, freeing them up to carry out their ministry and to prepare for the day when their doors will open again.

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil
Bishop of Toronto
March 27, 2020”

In our weekly meetings we are actively and prudently reviewing our financial situation in even greater detail. We are exploring all options available to us so that we can weather storm and be fully prepared to open the doors when we get the green light.

STEWARDSHIP

These are challenging time and it's a time when we might consider giving our giving an overhaul. As stewards of God's resources, it's important that we check in with Him from time to time to make sure that our generosity is being channelled in the right direction. One-off donations are great, but now, more than ever, the certainty of regular financial support will be a lifeline as Christ Church struggles to meet expenses in the face of Covid-19.



While we realize that some of you reading this may be facing severe financial uncertainty, we know that many people are living and giving sacrificially. This is a rare and precious thing in our society. So often our culture tells us we need more, that we need to look after ourselves first and that only by putting ourselves first will we truly be happy. As we face the impact of Covid-19 in our homes and families, feelings of self-preservation may, for some, have never felt greater. Equally, this may also be a moment in history where community, fellowship and the hope of the Gospel step forward to reveal where true happiness can be found.

It can be so easy to feel that when we give money we are going to lose some of what is ours. But when we commit to regular financial giving, it can be a sacred act that brings us into a more healthy relationship with our possessions; with what we are most passionate about; and ultimately with God. Right now the mission of the Church is more in need of financial support than ever before.

In the early church, generosity often welled up in the face of severe trial and extreme poverty. It is no different now and we been truly amazed at the acts of generosity these last few weeks. Parishioners have been mailing or dropping off their donations; making arrangements to convert to Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR); or using our On-Line Giving option.

Right now, in our time and place, Christ Church is active in mission. We are ministering to the needs of our Parish Family and beyond. We are providing ministry and support, connection and community to those who are hungry and open to the presence of God.

We are so grateful for the intentional, purposeful and sacrificial gifts of our member households that enable us to invite, welcome and connect all of us together with Him who abides with us in all times and circumstances.

- If you are not on PAR (pre-authorized remittance), now is a good time to do so. If you wish to go on PAR call the church office and speak to Martha or leave a message and she will return your call at her earliest convenience. Martha can be reached at:

Office: (905) 451-6649 / Phone or Text: 416-420-3765

- There are also other ways to give:
 1. You can donate electronically using your credit card through the Christ Church Brampton website. At the top of the homepage – click “Online Giving”.
 2. You can drop off your church envelope in the mail slot at the church.
 3. Very soon, we will have the capability for e-transfer directly on our website. We are working with our bank to make this happen.

OUR THANKS

“O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.” Ps. 118: 29

May you and your family lean into the steadfastness of our God this Easter season.

We remain faithfully yours.

Stan Szepesi
Rector's Warden

Jonathan Tyner
People's Warden

Rachel Brown
Deputy Rector's Warden

Shumaila Desrochers
Deputy People's Warden