



Dear Friends at St. John's,

April 28, 2021

I believe spring has sprung despite our snowy, icy Easter morning! We are still in the great 50 days of the Easter season and I pray that the risen Jesus has been powerfully with you in this time. The days are warming and it had been my hope that we would be in a different place with respect to limitations and restrictions by now but it seems destined not to be. In consultation with the Parish Council at its April meeting, it was decided that with cases again on the rise and virus variants in our midst, we would continue to take a cautious stance on relaxing any of our protective measures in the parish. This has proved to be the right decision, since as of today, April 28, we are back in a temporary circuit-breaker lockdown and religious gatherings are prohibited until at least May 12 and potentially longer if case numbers warrant.

So we are back to online worship only. A reminder that our pre-recorded zoom worship is available every Sunday at 7:45 a.m. on the parish website. (www.stjohnstruro.ca) Worship can be accessed by clicking on the blue webcast button to the right side of the main page. And remember that the website has an archive of every service we have recorded since March of 2020. All meetings, programs and events are suspended unless they can take place on zoom. The parish office will be closed until further notice and Angela and I will be working from home again. The parish answering machine will be checked regularly for your messages or you can email or call us directly. Offerings can continue to be dropped into the secure mail slot on the crypt door as they were during the last lockdown.

I'm sure all of you are now aware that our **Rev. Dorothy Tay** has been given permission by Bishop Sandra Fyfe to take a leave of absence from the parish. This leave begins on May 1 and will continue until the end of the summer. During this time, Dorothy will be giving thought and prayer to her future in ordained ministry. She and Warren plan to continue to worship with us online and in person when we are allowed again and whenever their names are drawn so we will see her. I am sure that you all join with me in thanking Dorothy for her years of priestly service to the parish and in wishing her a restful and soul restoring summer. We will be watching and waiting to see what God has in store for your future, Dorothy.

Jane Magrath has officially finished her student placement time at St. John's. She and Wendy were with us for a final Sunday on April 18. At that time, the parish presented Jane with an English Oak tree as a reminder of her time of growing and learning in our midst. I'm sure that you, like me, also did some growing and learning from having Jane as part of our parish family. **Good News!!!!** Negotiations have been finalized as of today with the Diocese and A.S.T. making a summer placement for Jane here in Truro this year a reality!!!! We will be very happy to welcome her back in June!

All of this means that we are entering a time of transition in the parish with respect to leadership. For the first time in about a dozen years, I will soon be the only ordained leader in

the community. That will take some getting used to! Our Licensed Lay Ministers and the small group of LLMs in training who have been learning with me since before the pandemic have met with me in the last week to look at how we will manage our worship in this transition time. This is a great resource team of leaders and I have no doubt that we will have sufficient leaders in place when we return to in-person worship whenever that may be. That having been said, we will still have gone from three ordained leaders to 1 in the space of this Covid-19 year, so there will be changes to our worship and programming as a result. I see the next few months leading into the summer as a time of settling into this new reality and during that time, I don't anticipate starting anything new. We will have a better sense of where we are in terms of personnel and ability to deliver programs by the fall of 2021.

On the outreach front, Our **Water of Life** campaign for 2021 is underway, having kicked off on April 11. It will run until May 2. You can check out Placide Chiasson's homily introducing the 18th year of the project which he gave online and in church on April 11 by going to our parish website and clicking on that Sunday's services. As usual, you can donate over the offering plate, in the water jug at church, by dropping off your donation at the office, or by donating directly to Life Water Canada. If you are making out a cheque to the parish, please write it to St. John's and put Water of Life in the Memo line. We will forward all donations to Life Water Canada at the end of the project. Remember, it takes \$3000 to dig a well. Please join with us and with others in our community to support this worthwhile cause.

Up and Coming Worship Opportunities:

May 30 – Ecumenical Rogation Service – in celebration of the gifts of the earth and in blessing of the land and the new crops being sown. This event will begin at 2:00 p.m. at John Calvin Christian Reformed Church on Glenwood Dr. as we bless the community garden there. The group will then proceed to the former River Run Golf course in North River; the site of the Grow Hope, Truro fields for prayers and blessing there. Join us in this unique spring service of prayer which has deep roots in our Anglican tradition.

June 13 – Sung Evensong – we are planning another of our popular Evensong services. This one may be online or in-person or a combination of both depending on where we are with the virus by then! Either way it will feature our micro-choir and perhaps other voices recorded in a quiet, evening time of worship and prayer. This service will then join our other evening offerings of Compline and Night Prayer which are available on the parish website and which many are using every evening as a way of drawing their day to a close.

I think that is all of the news for now. Let me leave you with a reflection and a prayer for the on-going Easter season taken from the resources provided for our recent Clergy Quiet Day (March 28). The reflection comes from saltproject.org and the prayer was written by Christine Sine.

Easter is a Start – Easter is a start, not a finish. It is a triumphant day – a triumphant 50 days, actually – Easter to Pentecost – but only in a sense that in Easter we can catch a glimpse of God’s greater triumph to come. It is a foretaste, a promise, an encouraging word, a sign of what’s around the corner. Jesus’ rising means: he is not dead, he is with us still, and he has triumphed and will triumph with us and in us and for us in the end. His rising is the “first fruits”, the decisive but still only the inaugural sign of the great transformation now underway. Easter points beyond itself to the end, precisely to provide us strength and hope for the road ahead.

*Walk with us, risen Lord, through all the twists and turns of life,
walk with us when the clouds obscure the way,
when what seemed close is now so far away.
Walk with us, risen Lord, until we trust in you.
Lead us to the centre of your love.*

In hope and peace and newness of life,
Rev. Lori