

# PARISH PATTERN



THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Church Website:

Easter 2020

## The Rector's Letter

Dear Friends,

Our news reports are filled with updates on the constantly changing situation worldwide with the pandemic. Many people are experiencing layoffs, uncertainty in their workplaces, family members away from home, as well as feelings of isolation, fear and anxiety. Especially at this time, the Easter message is vital and uniting, even as places of worship cannot be open.

The disciples knew that Jesus' decision to go to Jerusalem was filled with danger. As they made that journey together, Jesus even predicted his death. They tried to convince him to change his mind, yet they continued on with him. As they entered the Holy City, they could feel the tension. Soldiers were watching closely, just waiting for any hint of an insurrection. Their fear builds as he celebrates the meal in the upper room and washes their feet. He is preparing them for the time when his physical presence will be withdrawn. The experiences of the arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, his trial and death leave them traumatized. They don't know where to turn or what to do next. They are huddled behind locked doors, fearing the worst.

On the first Easter morning, the message of the empty tomb from the women brought little comfort. They found it hard to understand what had taken place. Even when Peter and John went to the burial site, they find it impossible to fully interpret the evidence of the empty tomb. Later in the day Jesus appears to those who had gathered in that locked upper room. He speaks his word of "Peace". He makes a connection with them that gives them hope. After the coming of the Holy Spirit these same disciples, who had been huddled in fear, move out to spread the message Jesus had entrusted to them. They would face

many dangers and trials in the years ahead but they continued on with confidence, knowing that Jesus went with them. They were never alone.

That confidence and reassurance that God loves and cares for us and will never abandon us, can bring us comfort and some peace in our present situation. Fear is a basic human reaction to a real danger. It protects us by triggering an automatic defensive response. Courage and sacrifice enable us to set aside this automatic response so that we can act for the good of all. One of the best things we can do for others and our country right now is to honour the civil authorities' mandate to stay at home and maintain our social distancing when we have to go out. We can also support one another by picking up the phone and calling people we know. Perhaps a neighbour needs help to get groceries when we have to go out for necessities or a health care worker needs support with childcare if you can. Messages of hope are such a gift to the human spirit. We see and hear musicians, artists and everyday people in Canada and around the world showing compassion and appreciating the gift of life. Perhaps through all of this our human race will care more for others and our environment.

While we cannot gather for public worship, our prayer and spiritual life continues and perhaps will even become stronger in different ways. I have included some prayer resources and links to others. If you would like to talk, please call the office line (902-463-6544). If I am not available at that moment please leave a message and I will return your call as soon as possible. As a church family we can stay connected by phone calls, emails, skype or Facebook. For the health and safety of all, we may be in our own homes for a while but Jesus is within those four walls too. When we are able to gather as a community of faith we can celebrate the joy of "seeing the face of God in those we love". You will be in my prayers in the days to come and at Easter.

Faithfully yours,

Edwin

## **New Parish Website**

Joan Roué has offered the parish a new design for our website that won't have any popups that we can't control. There are additions and adjustments that will

be coming as we provide her with more information. This is another way we can keep parishioners informed during the pandemic. Please check it out at: [holyspirithrm.ca](http://holyspirithrm.ca) .

We would also like to keep in contact with as many as possible by email. Please send a hello to Marie at [marieayotte@hotmail.com](mailto:marieayotte@hotmail.com) .

A helpful update from our Church Administrative Assistant, Marie George:  
“Since there isn’t too much news from any of the committees (except for cancellations) I thought perhaps a question and answer approach might help.

Q. Are there any services or meetings being held?

On March 25th Archbishop Ron Cutler advised all church services and meetings will be suspended for two months. We will try to keep everyone up to date with developments as they occur.

Q. What can I do?

Pray. Call three friends on the telephone every day to keep in touch. Read a good book. Try a new hobby. Bring your photo albums up to date. Talk to your grandchildren, they are isolated too. If you are able, check to see if a senior member needs anything—a few groceries, a prescription picked up, etc.

Q. How do I continue to support my church financially?

Talk to Marie (902-463-4769) about P.A.R. There is a mail slot on the left of the front door of the church. If you are out to pick up some groceries you can drop your envelope in the mail slot.

Q. Is the food bank still open?

No, in consideration of our clients and staff we are not open at this time.

Q. What about the Ham and Scalloped Potato supper?

At the moment it has been postponed. When things get back to normal we will advertise the new date.

Q. What if I need to contact The Reverend Edwin?

A. Please call the office line at 902-463-6544 and leave a message.  
Someone will contact you.”