



CANON DAVIS MEMORIAL CHURCH

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June 28th, 2020 — Fourth Sunday after Pentecost —

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:11-18

or Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Romans 7:15-25A; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Dear Friends,

You and I have found ourselves living in a time and place in history which often is pointed out to be amazing, difficult, confusing and very demanding. For many, things are seen differently because of the COVID-19 virus. But it has not been the virus itself that has been responsible for some new perceptions. It has instead been our reactions, our responses, to this nasty bug.

Many people who have been leading 'on the edge' lives have suddenly been invited into a whole new world. A world where they find themselves going:

- from being hyperactive, to confinement at home;
- from freedom of movement, to quarantine or self-isolation;
- from social interaction, to social distancing;
- from warm greetings of loved ones, to far-off handwaves
acknowledging each other's presence;
- from expression enriched conversation, to strained voice loud talk.

We accept doing these things because we know the lives of real people are at stake! And knowing the potential consequences, many do even more to help. We do what we can to compensate for imposed limitations. The church is but one example of how we apply new technologies to overcome our unease, limitations and discomfort. In the place of active services, we are being offered alternative worship and learning opportunities through our internet streaming capabilities. Some churches have virtual coffee hours following their virtual church services. Along the way with all of our limitations, improvements are taking place in some areas. These may come to improve our services in the future.

In all of this, we are being provided a period of time to ponder even more. In my opinion there are some life enriching situations emerging that are very much worth preserving. I think we can expect there to be a new normal. Our way of living may be different in meaningful ways.

For example, our God given earth is experiencing improved air quality because we are driving less. Can we build on this improvement and continue to drive less? Also, while some people are stressed out at being 'isolated', others are finding more

time in their isolation to do those things that they were too busy to do before. A list of some such opportunities could include:

- increasing our reading of scripture and the reading of other books;
- making our heartfelt dreams become our actual life goals;
- making needed repairs;
- time actually being planned for quality time with close ones;
- time dedicated to doing some thinking and contemplation.

In this there can be found a whole range of possibilities, some more suitable than others to each person's situation. This could be particularly true for those who now have made the transition to working from their homeplaces.

In all of this, Jesus says; *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.* (John 13:34-35). Jesus invites us to be open to living the new life of love in him.

A Morning Prayer service officiated by Lay Reader, Ginny Schleihau is offered for the people of CDMC. Ginny does a wonderful job of officiating. This BCP service was recorded on YouTube and can still be viewed online.

Here's the link: https://youtu.be/I91_Mkh2O6M

Our sincere thanks go to Ginny for officiating; The Rev'd Raymond Hodgson for technical support; The Rev'd Greg Jenkins and the people of St. Alban's for the Wednesday evening and Sunday services. We plan to offer more services on the fourth Wednesday of each month. We would appreciate your feedback on the online worship services offered through Canon Davis Memorial Church.

You are invited to go each Sunday and/or Wednesday to:

tinyurl.com/StAlbans-CDMC

That is the link to St. Alban's Anglican Church in Burnaby B.C. Follow the instructions. You will find links to the Rev'd Greg Jenkins officiating at an Anglican church service with a children's focus, church music, readings, prayers and a sermon. Also, St. Alban's offers an Evening Prayer service Wednesday evenings. I hope you will find these services help to deepen your faith. In all of this, do take good care of yourself. Stay healthy and promote the good health of others! God's blessing be upon you and all those you love.

