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March 22, 2021

Greetings from the Leadership Team!

We are approaching the time of year in which our Lord Jesus has made the most loving sacrifice for our lives. As we reflect on this past year and all the sacrifices that we have made to keep each other safe. Let's take a moment to remember who we serve and our calling as followers of Christ. We walk with our Lord Jesus through every situation including the pandemic. We know that it's difficult not to be with your church family and we hope and pray for a safe return soon.

This week marks the one-year anniversary since the pandemic begun and us adapting to different forms of worship. We are pleased to see that our congregation has stayed engaged with Grace Church as we work through these times.

Although we had hoped to be worshipping together for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter, we as the leadership team do not feel comfortable resuming in-person Sunday worship at this time. For now, we feel this is the right decision for the safety and well-being of all. We look forward to the time when we can safely worship, sing hymns, and celebrate the Eucharist together.

Beginning during Holy Week, we will be resuming our weekday morning prayer services on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11AM. This will give those who do not have internet access the opportunity to safely worship in-person at Grace. If you would like to attend a weekday service, you must register in advance by calling or emailing the church office. Attendance will be limited to accommodate social distancing and ensure everyone's safety.

We extend a warm welcome to our interim priest, Canon Derek Stapleton, who begins his time with us on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We look for to having him as part of our team. We are thankful for his assistance during Rev. Graham's leave.

Even though we will not be worshipping together for Holy Week & Easter, we have planned some virtual offerings of worship and reflection for our Grace Church Family. Here are the upcoming ways to engage with us virtually during Holy Week & Easter:

- ❖ **Palm Sunday** – Worship service will be livestreamed on Facebook at 11AM
- ❖ **Holy Monday** – “Stations of the Cross” video will be shared on our Facebook page & website.
- ❖ **Holy Tuesday** –Morning Prayer service at 11AM (*registration required, contact the office*)
- ❖ **Maundy Thursday** - Morning Prayer service at 11AM (*registration required, contact the office*)  
We will also be sharing a reflection video on our Facebook page.
- ❖ **Good Friday** - Worship service will be livestreamed on Facebook at 11AM
- ❖ **Holy Saturday** – An “At-Home Easter Vigil” will be shared on our Facebook page & website. You are invited to read through the service with those in your household or together with friends over the phone or video call. *If you would like a printout of the service, you can pick one up during office hours.*
- ❖ **Easter Sunday** - Worship service will be livestreamed on Facebook at 11AM

*Turn over...*

**St. James Cathedral** will also be offering some livestreamed worship services and videos for Holy Week and Easter. Visit [stjamescathedral.ca/holy-week\\_easter](http://stjamescathedral.ca/holy-week_easter) for details.

We would like to thank you for your continued support and generosity during this time of pandemic. If you would like to drop off your regular and Easter offerings, you can do so on **Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>** from 12:00-1:00PM or during office hours Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00AM-12:00PM.

We hope you are able to join us virtually or at one of our in-person weekday morning prayer services this Holy Week and Easter – we look forward to seeing you! Enclosed with this letter is a palm cross, and we hope that it brings you joy and helps you to remember the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. As John 16:33 says “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Have a blessed Easter!

Jonelle, Rachel, Ryan & Pauline