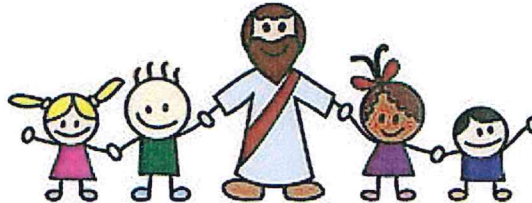


NEWS from the BRIDGE

Life at Bridge Street United Church (Belleville, ON) during COVID-19
An initiative brought to you by the Transition Team.

Friday, May 15, 2020



A NEW WAY TO ENGAGE OUR YOUNGER CONGREGATION

At a time when gathering in person is impossible, and doing so electronically has its inherent challenges, Cheryl Bough and Elizabeth Ewashki have nevertheless risen, and are rising, to the occasion!

By way of the online meeting platform, Zoom, these 2 Christian Education teachers are occasionally gathering their students together virtually after BSUC's weekly worship broadcast. A session is planned for this Sunday too!

With supplies and assistance from their family, students hear biblical stories, participate in lessons, pray, and do crafts.

To be sure, faith is being imparted, fun is had, and memories are being made.

A great big 'tip of the hat' to Cheryl and Elizabeth for their good work!
Thank you!



OUR CHOIR RETURNS...

Ever since BSUC's premises were closed to non-essential staff and volunteers, as per the provincial Emergency Order, our Music Director, Mitchell Cox, has been working online with both the voice and handbell choirs.

This Sunday's worship will include the voice choir's recording of Per Crucem, the lyrics of which translate from Latin to English as "By Your cross and passion, deliver us, O Lord."

From Mitchell's introductory note: "In typical Latin religious music, there are few words... repeated in different ways."

We are fortunate indeed that our worship will be enhanced by the choir's contribution; thank you to all who were involved.



INSIGHTS INTO ONLINE WORSHIP...

At its Zoom meeting on May 12th, the Transition Team had conversation about the offering of worship in a format never utilized before at BSUC.

Noting that the YouTube platform was new to him too, Rev. David shared some of the delights and the challenges that accompany this new approach to leading and presenting worship.

Chief among his observations regarded how appreciative worshippers were for the chance to gather in community and to be focused on faith. Others commented on Mitchell Cox's lovely music, David's spiritual messages, and the array of images that add visual appeal.

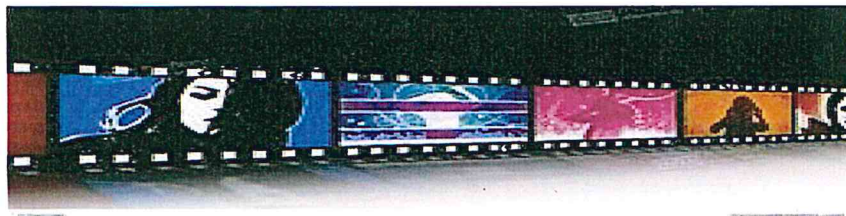
Of the challenges, David highlighted the additional time required per week. Whereas preparing the liturgy, drafting his sermon, and leading 'in person' worship usually accounts for 15 hours a week, now that number has climbed to 20 hours, in part because of the tasks relating to 'taping' content.

David further offered that while there is much that he and Mitchell are able to provide (and are learning to do even more), uniting the various video and audio clips into a whole must be done by an individual with that specific competence. Indeed, image editing, sound mastering, and broadcast optimization require a high degree of expertise. Given this, external help has been retained.

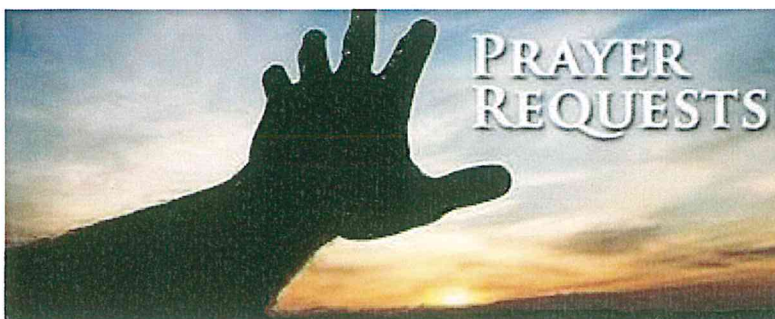
Costs are being kept very low as both Mitchell and David have outside 'sources' who are willing to support charitable enterprises.

The fee for post-production video work is \$100 per Sunday; the audio editing and track overlaying related to this Sunday's choir piece will cost an additional \$100. These figures represent a deep discount when compared to what the marketplace presently commands. We are very fortunate to have folks who will perform this quality of work at a such a reduced rate.

To quote David, "As of this Sunday, Bridge Street Church will have produced 5 ever-improving weekly videoed worship experiences; I believe they are supporting a lot of people on their spiritual journey; our videos are generating between 100 and 216 views on YouTube... That's awesome outreach! I think it's certainly worth the time and investment."



Life at Bridge Street United Church (Belleville, ON) during COVID-19
15 May 2020



Of the many activities that contribute to the life of the Church, surely prayer is a prominent one.

Praying for one and another has long been a practice that communities of faith engage in at times of celebration, sorrow, uncertainty, and fear.

It is our privilege to pray for the well-being of our sisters and brothers the world over.

Sometimes the local church becomes aware of life-events that call for our prayers in support of fellow parishioners.

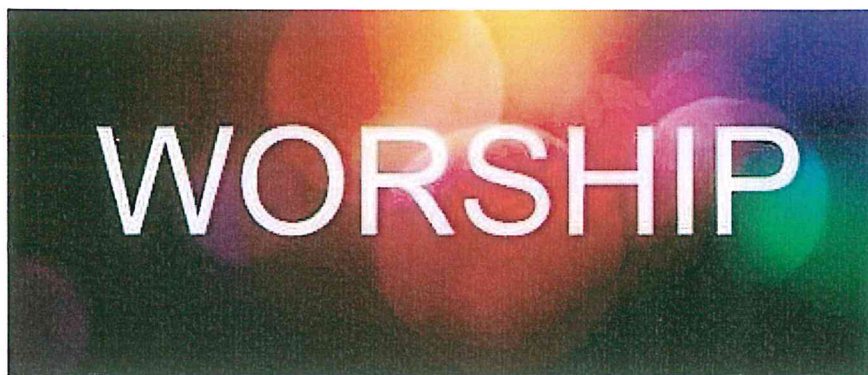
And so we do!

We pray for their strength; we pray for their souls' to be comforted; we pray for a better future than is the current reality.

This week you are invited to add to your prayers:

- Marilyn B. as she is in a Toronto hospital for issues related to her liver.
- John A. as he continues to address blood and kidney issues.
- Karen C. as she grieves the death of her mother.
- Ruth M. as she mourns the passing her sister, Jill.
- The family of the Late Bob Cruickshank who died on May 11, 2020.
- Those whose challenges have yet to be conveyed to us, but are nonetheless very real.

Rev. David welcomes news of others for whom we can pray.



AVAILABLE ONLINE beginning Sunday, May 17 @ 10:30 a.m.

LOGIN IN DETAILS:

Please copy (ctrl c) and paste (ctrl v), or otherwise place this link into your browser and press enter:

<https://youtu.be/N4hsH9Kvn2I>

On being redirected to YouTube hit 'play' and join us!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The Greeting (responsively):

The compassion of Christ, the love of God,
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

AND ALSO WITH YOU

The Call to Gather (responsively):

From here,

and from here;

in this sanctuary,

and in our homes;

we gather across the ether to be with one and another.

We gather across the ether to be of common purpose.

And what be that purpose?

To ponder; to pray; to praise God for the goodness of life.

So come then, let us worship God as made known to us by the teachings of Jesus, and by the influence of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn: # 333 (VU) "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.
- 2 Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
- 3 Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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The Payer of Reconciliation:

**Merciful God,
we confess that we have erred against you,
in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with all our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**For these we are truly sorry.
By your immeasurable grace, watch for us to try anew
to live and love as Jesus,
such that we may walk in His ways and bring honour to you.**

As your people, this we are bold to pray. Amen.

The Affirmation:

Hear this and believe!

The past is behind us; the future is before us;
the moment of new beginnings is now!

Having acknowledged our humanity,
we are committing to live and love in new and renewing ways.

For it is by this that we are made right with God.

Hallelujah!

Amen.

A Reading from Scripture:

John 14:15-21

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.

This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.

In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.

On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me;

and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

A Musical Interlude: "Spirit of the Living God"

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Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer:

Gracious God, we your people are here.
Perhaps not unlike Jesus' first disciples, we come to you a little fearful, scattered,
grateful for our encounters with the risen Christ — but troubled and unsure what to
do next.

**As we continue to worship in our separate spaces, we long to be together,
gathered in our church.**

In our anxiety over the duration of this pandemic and in our worries about the
many and long ramifications of this trying time, we want desperately to believe in
you and believe in Jesus.

We pray for an outpouring of your Spirit.

Send the Comforter, our Advocate, to show us the way, remind us of the truth and
grant us abundant life.

**Lord, we have questions. We know there are lessons we should know well
but cannot seem to recall.**

We feel upended by so much change and so little control.

**We need to be honest about our misgivings and doubts, and so we share
with you all that troubles our hearts:**

We are troubled by the mounting deaths caused by COVID-19.

**We are troubled by the growing numbers of lost jobs and economic
turmoil.**

We are troubled by our inability to be close to the ones we love when they need us
the most.

We are troubled by children missing out on their education, those who wonder when they will next eat, those with no place to find shelter.

We are troubled by the people wrestling with addiction, those suffering from mental illness and those languishing in loneliness.

We are troubled by pain within and without, the violence inflicted on the innocent, the cruelty perpetrated on the vulnerable, the scarcity that belies your generosity and abundance.

Gracious One, we come to you, aching to be given a place to rest and a space to set our burdens down.

We come to you because we believe in you, your grace, your mercy, your compassion and your power.

You promise us spaces of rest, inexplicable peace, joy not dependent upon our circumstances.

In you we find our home. You set us free to do your work in this world.

Grant us the courage to name how we feel, lament what we see and then turn us toward the people who need their hearts put at rest.

Make of us living stones who create buildings of relief, shelters of compassion, tabernacles of mercy.

May our faithful reliance on you ease our troubled hearts and perpetuate the love of the One in whose name we pray, as it was Jesus who provided these words:

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn: # 401 (VU) "Worship The Lord"

Refrain:

*Worship the Lord (worship the Lord)
worship the Father, the Spirit, the Son,
raising our hands (raising our hands)
in devotion to God who is one!*

- 1 Raising our hands as a sign of rejoicing,
and with our lips our togetherness voicing,
giving ourselves to a life of creativeness,
worship and work must be one! R
- 2 Praying and training that we be a blessing,
and by our handiwork daily confessing:
we are committed to serving humanity,
worship and work must be one! R
- 3 Called to be partners with God in creation,
honouring Christ as the Lord of the nation,
we must be ready for risk and for sacrifice,
worship and work must be one! R

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***Have a blessed week...
join us again
beginning next Sunday at 10:30 a.m.***

