



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 22, 2020

FROM THE WORSHIP & MUSIC TEAM



The other day I turned a calendar page and saw a reminder that I was to serve as a “greeter” this week. It underlined a dramatic change in a way of life I have known since childhood. Sundays have changed for all of us.

Although we’re not gathering for worship among friends and mentors, there’s still activity at Bridge Street United Church on Sunday: the lunch-time meal program continues to minister to our community’s needs. Perhaps it’s not a stretch to suggest that feeding people honours one of the earliest traditions of Christianity.

The Bridge Street congregation has supported this vital effort for some 30 years, beginning back in 1990.

Through the dedicated efforts of our Intentional Interim Lead Minister, Rev. David King, the religious needs of our congregation have not been forgotten.

Each week, from the time communal gathering was suspended, Rev. King has generated programming for our spiritual needs. Recorded telephone messages have been gratefully received by many, and although Rev. David has expressed his frustration about the technical limitations which have made "virtual services" difficult to sustain, he has sought other ways to provide the leadership we all desire.

This edition of News from the Bridge contains details about how to access our electronic Worship for the Week service as found on the internet.

I understand as well that there will be a virtual Sunday School program at 11:30 a.m. this week too. Please check this publication for current information.

To say that the need to find new ways to worship is "challenging" is an understatement. The resources available for so-called "virtual" communion are a surprise, aren't they? Check what is available, on the internet, from The United Church of Canada: <https://united-church.ca>.

Finally, be well.

Bob Freeland, Team Lead

(edited from the original for currency of information)



The choir wishes everyone a very fond "hello".

Since the Covid19 lockdown, the choir has been meeting online to check in with each other and rehearse. It has been a huge learning curve for me, as with most of us, to find ways to connect, teach, rehearse, record music, and find and learn to use computer programs that will help achieve those goals.

Last week you heard at the beginning of the service our singing of "Per Crucem".

That was the culmination of much practicing of parts at home, as well as online rehearsals. Then, after sending out an accompaniment to the choristers, they recorded themselves singing at home, and then sent that recording back to me. Next, I sent these components electronically for editing to a third party.

I want to thank everyone in the voice choir and bell choir for their patience and understanding at this time. We are working with different programs that will only become easier for us to use the more we work with them.

One result of using a new piece of technology called “A Capella” is the piece you will hear this Sunday.

It was recorded by myself and mezzo soprano, Kathryn Humphries, who lives in Victoria. She is an extremely talented operatic singer, and also plays harp. I am so thankful for her willingness to participate in our services.

As I was listening to worship last Sunday, it dawned on me that some of you may not know that if you listen with headphones or earbuds, the sound quality improves exponentially - especially for the quality of music, but also for listening to David and the reader. You may wish to try this.

Finally, as a personal past time, I have been recording various hymns and posting them to YouTube. Search “Mitchell Cox Hymns From Home” to locate them, and enjoy!

FYI, I do take requests, so if there is a hymn you would like recorded, contact me at mitchellcoxstudios@gmail.com.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Mitchell Cox, Music Director

(edited from the original for length)





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 receives (in patient) blood dialysis at a Kingston Hospital in advance of an intended liver transplant.
- 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.
- His wife, Gail, and the family of the Late Bob Cruickshank, who passed away recently.
- Rev. David as he celebrates the birth of his great-niece, Mylah Rae Connolly, on Wednesday of this past week.
- Those whose challenges have yet to be conveyed to us and yet are so very real.

Rev. David welcomes news of others for whom we can pray. *Please reach out and advise.*



FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 24, 2020

AVAILABLE ONLINE beginning THIS Sunday @ 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/V4vEByizhKg>

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):

Lord our God,
you have raised your Son to be with you,
and so we sing to you in joy.
Send your Spirit, as he has promised,
to free all people from hatred and from fear,
and so give us the Peace of Christ in our
in our loving and our living.

For we ask it in Jesus' name.
Amen.

VU #395 - Come In, Come In, and Sit Down

Refrain:

***Come in, come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.***

- 1** ***You know the reason why you came,
yet no reason can explain;
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,
for we are a part of the family. R***

- 2** ***God is with us in this place,
like a mother's warm embrace.
We're all forgiven by God's grace,
for we are a part of the family. R***

- 3** ***There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,
but we are a part of the family. R***

- 4** ***There's rest for the weary and health for us all;
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.
So come in and worship and answer the call,
for we are a part of the family. R***

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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.**

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**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 honour your will.**

As your people, this we are confident 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,
may we live and love in new and renewing ways,
ever mindful of the possibility and promise provided by the Holy Spirit..

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

Hallelujah!

Amen.

A Musical Interlude:

"As The Deer Pants For The Water"

Kathryn Humphries, singer/harp player
Mitchell Cox, Pianist

A Reading from Scripture – Judy McKnight:

Luke 24:44-53

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

You are witnesses of these things.

And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in

the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.

While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Thoughts Along The Way...

Insights, Ideas & Inspiration for living faithfully and fully

MV #145 - Draw the Circle Wide

***Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.***

***God the still-point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms.***

***Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.***

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Video-based Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer:

VU #691 - Though Ancient Walls

1 Though ancient walls may still stand proud
 and racial strife be fact,
 though boundaries may be lines of hate,
 proclaim God's saving act!

Refrain:

*Walls that divide are broken down;
Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
Christ is our liberty!*

- 2 When vested power stands firm entrenched
and breaks another's back,
when waste and want live side by side,
it's Gospel that we lack. *R*
- 3 The truth we seek in varied scheme,
the life that we pursue,
unites us in a common quest
for self and world made new. *R*
- 4 The church divided seeks that grace,
that newness we proclaim;
a unity of serving love
that lives praise to God's name! *R*
- 5 This broken world seeks lasting health
and vital unity.
God's people by God's Word renewed,
cast off all slavery! *R*

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Enjoy the week ahead...

***The next edition of
News from the Bridge
becomes available
Friday, May 29, 2020***

WATCH FOR IT!

