

How the Virus Stole Easter

*May the world see hope when it looks at God's people.
May the world see the church is not a building or steeple.
May the world find Faith in Jesus' death and resurrection,
May the world find Joy in a time of dejection.
May 2020 be known as the year of survival,
But not only that -
Let it start a revival.*



These few words are from a longer poem recently written by Kristi Bothur entitled “How the Virus Stole Easter”. (The link below takes you to the entire poem and I highly recommend you read it.) This is a Holy Week and Easter that I, and I am sure most of you, have never experienced before. We are in uncharted territory. But what this experience has cast on us, is the time, necessity and ability to re-evaluate. The world, as we knew it a few short weeks ago, seemed to run on adrenaline all the time; no respite, no slowing down, pursuit, pursuit, pursuit... for what, actually, I don't think we were ever sure. It was if we were on the merry-go-round that never paused and it was virtually impossible to jump off.

Then it stopped, almost instantaneously, without warning...no time to prepare, no where to go. We are stuck in place looking back on something that seemed so long ago and looking into a future that is opaque, uncertain and unknown. And this is a very uncomfortable and unfamiliar place to be particularly for those of us who like to be in control. The outcome of which breeds depression, fear, despair and anxiety, all of which can overwhelm and paralyze one's ability to 'live'.

But know this, this was not “done to us” as some have suggested. God did not do this to punish us or remind us “who is boss” as I read from some conservative Christian writer. We may never know or fully be able to comprehend the how's and why's of having to live through this moment of history. However, as people of faith, in the midst of this Holy Week, we find ourselves walking the journey that Jesus took. We are sandwiched in the state between life and re-birth, the transitional moment where the mistakes of our past can be excised from our future. We are living between Good Friday and Easter; the in-between place finding darkness, fear and despair yet with the glimmer and light of hope and resurrected life illuminating our way. The promise of Easter is that in the midst of the death of Good Friday, new life will emerge, a new way of living and loving will be found, and hope restored. In faith, we live with this promise of God that “All will be well, and all will be well, and all manner of things will be well”. (Julian of Norwich)

Easter Poem

How the Virus Stole Easter, from the blog *This Side of Heaven* [You can read it here](#)



Live streaming Sunday service at 9am

To join this Zoom Meeting, click on the link we sent in the email.

Lighting of The Easter Candle

This Sunday we invite you to join us as we light an Easter Candle together. Michael will symbolically share the flame after he lights the candle. You can then light your own candle and spread the hope and joy of Easter.



GOOD TO KNOW:



For our younger Incarnation family

A member of Incarnation, Penny, has a niece Lucy who is a kindergarten teacher in Leeds, England. She made this video of Jesus' story for her class to watch. We thought you could show it to your kids as a way of celebrating this Easter weekend
<https://youtu.be/bECZhhNDDI>



Coffee, Conversation and Connection

Beginning next Wednesday morning, I invite you to join me for a 'virtual' coffee and conversation. It will be a chance to connect, chat and share thoughts and feelings about what we are dealing with these days. This will be a good way to connect with our community and catch up. There maybe opportunity to reflect on readings, poetry or other inspirational pieces.

A new link will be sent every week



On-Line Bible Study via Zoom Meeting – starts Thursday, April 16, 2020

THE 'SERVANT SONGS' OF ISAIAH

Thursday afternoons from 1:00-2:30pm for five weeks starting April 16th. Please register with Mervyn at forsythe1003@gmail.com or 905 845 3250

Meeting link will be sent next week

[Click here to download the course outline and study sheets](#)



COVID-19 information updates

[Updated information from Halton Region](#)



Food Banks need help

The most effective way we can help is to donate money directly to any of the following:

- [Fare Share Food Bank](#) remains open and is accepting monetary donations
- [Kerr Street Mission](#) is continuing to distribute food and is accepting monetary donations and donations of necessities.
- [Food4Kids Halton](#) is taking monetary donations and will continue to feed children in the community by mailing grocery gift cards.
- [Food For Life](#) has cancelled some in-person programs. At this time, they are asking for monetary donations to continue feeding the most vulnerable in our community.

COMMUNITY NEWS



NOTES FROM THE DIOCESE

[Pastoral Letter from Bishop Susan](#), March 26

Bishop Susan will be leading the following diocesan services for Holy Week and Easter

- April 9 - **Maundy Thursday**: Livestreamed on [Facebook](#) at 7:00pm and posted on [YouTube](#) by 9:00pm.
- April 10 - **Good Friday**: A multi-voice worship service will be posted at 9:00am on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).
- April 12 - **Easter**: Livestreamed from Christ's Church Cathedral on [Facebook](#) at 10:00am and posted on [YouTube](#) by 2:00pm, with a homily by Archbishop Linda Nicholls.



The Anglican Church of Canada

A Selection of articles provided by Christian Resources

[Hope, Gratitude and Solidarity: A Message to Canadians from Religious Leaders in Canada in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), *Canadian Council of Churches*

[German cathedral dusts off relics of St Corona, patron of resisting epidemics](#), *Reuters*

[Supporting good mental health, pdf download](#), *Church of England*

[Resources for children](#), *Anglican Family Hub*

THIS & THAT



As more of us are practising social distancing or self-isolation, huge numbers of small businesses in our local communities are feeling the impact. Do you have a favourite one you'd like us to support? Send us the name and we'll feature them each week. There are ways you can help — even if you are stuck at home:

Shop locally: Many small stores are still open. If you can leave your home to buy some goods, think of your nearby stores. And if you can't get outside, many local shops have part of their inventory online and they will deliver to your door.

Buy gift cards: Purchasing a gift card from a local business is a way of getting money to store owners now, when they need it the most.

Order takeout or delivery: Some restaurants and shops are offering options like home delivery or easy pickup service. Consider ordering at least one meal a week this way.

Tip more: It's a bad time to be a coffee-shop worker or a delivery driver because they are likely working shorter hours and getting fewer tips because of fewer customers. If you can afford it, think about giving a bigger tip the next time these workers serve you.

Urge government action: Email your local mayor, provincial MPP and federal MP and request they consider reasonable assistance for small businesses.

Say thanks: At a time when all of us are stressed, it may ease the anxiety of local business owners just a bit if they know their customers appreciate all they have done for their community.

LOOKING TO VOLUNTEER?

We have lots of ways you can get involved. Positions include: altar prep, greeters, readers, hosts and coffee preparation. Youth can gain volunteer high school hours. Training will be provided. Contact Julia Lockhart if you are interested.



Plus, a very special birthday wish to Winkie Macdougall who is celebrating an extraordinary vintage year!

A Message from the Corporation:

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

Over the past years, the Incarnation community has continually provided generous financial support for the parish and our activities, and, in many ways, has been a leader when compared with other churches within the Diocese. Along with so many other people and organizations during this pandemic, however, we are anticipating greater financial pressures to arise from both reduced revenues (rentals and weekly collection plate donations) and, in some areas, increased expenses (such as community outreach). As a result, we are asking for your continued financial support to Incarnation.

For those on pre-approved payment (PAP), we thank you for your ongoing support. For those of you who give on the collection plate, you can choose to give through one of the following:

ONLINE:

A donation to Church of the Incarnation through Canada Helps. To securely donate online [please click here](#) and follow the instructions. There is a drop-down menu for you to choose where you would like to direct your donation: our general fund (we apply where it is most needed), the geothermal fund, or our newly created Easter Remembrance fund (more details below) If you would like your donation directed towards a designated fund other than general, geothermal, or Easter, please indicate this in the message box.



MAIL

Cheques can be mailed to:
Church of the Incarnation
1240 Old Abbey Lane
Oakville, ON L6M 3Y4

E-TRANSFERS

We hope to have this option available soon. Thanks for your patience as we navigate technology!

We also want to mention that if you are in a position to increase your giving, we thank you. As per Michael's message during his first "virtual" homily March 22nd, we will continue to support each other and those in need.

Ed, Julia, Mary and Bob