

Timothy Topics

Newsletter

April 2020

St Timothy's Presbyterian Church
2400 Alta Vista Drive,
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www.sttimsottawa.com

Sunday Worship Service 10am

Fun Fact!

Ever wonder why God made viruses? Not all viruses are bad! Bacteriophages, found in the mucus membrane lining in the digestive, respiratory and reproductive tracts, are viruses that infect and destroy specific bacteria.

Minister's Corner

Almost every piece of written communication I have received in the last two weeks, as the world is unified in its battle against Covid-19, ends with a warm wish like: stay healthy, keep safe, stay positive, be strong.

I appreciate every one of those phrases and the good intentions behind them. But I can't help but think, that should the worst hit us here in Canada, like in Italy and Spain, those phrases won't carry us far. They will not help our world stay together and not collapse. In every tough situation, besides the practical measures we need to implement, we need some kind of spiritual and/or intellectual framework or glue to keep all the pieces together so we can stay whole and not crumble. At this point, it would be easy to suggest a few Biblical verses to highlight God's faithfulness and nearness; but I will not do this. Why? Because the Biblical testimonies, in tough times, take a different route. When things become really bad, unbearable, and the worst fears come true, and because faith is concrete and original, we see people lamenting and grieving. Almost one third of the Book of Psalms, is designated to personal and group lamentation. Lamenting is our human way to say: we are not in control, we can't win and, we can't understand why this is happening. Hear the psalmist say: O Lord, You have seen it; do not be silent. O Lord, be not far from me (Psalm 35:22). And in Psalm 22:1: My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Why are You so far from saving me, so far from my words of groaning? Of course, we remember these words spoken by Jesus on the cross. N.T. Right says: 'The mystery of the Biblical story is that God also laments.'

As long as we are on this earth, regardless of our power or knowledge, we still need a shoulder to cry on from time to time. God doesn't only give us encouragement in tough times, but he also lends us a shoulder to cry on. So, I pray you stay safe, and that you find God's shoulder to cry on when you need it. Rev. Reine

It's a Virtual World!

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed our world. We can no longer meet, hang out, chat over coffee. We can no longer play in a game of basketball, softball or street hockey. We can no longer eat out, go to the cinema or go to a party. We can no longer go to church.

Yet, humans are very adaptable. Thanks to technology, we've embraced, willingly or not, virtual encounters. According to collinsdictionary.com, virtual objects or activities are generated by a computer to simulate real objects and activities. It also means that something is so nearly true, that for most purposes, it can be regarded as true. With the use of computers, software and the internet, we can meet, hang out and chat over coffee via Facetime, Zoom and Skype to name a few apps. With gaming software, we can play all sorts of games with others while at home on their computers. And yes, we can participate in a worship service!

Rev. Reine and her husband, Rev. Firas, will lead worship services every Sunday morning: a virtual service. It isn't a filming of a minister conducting a worship service alone in an empty church. It is a visual representation of a worship service, full of pictures and music. It has all the elements of worship: praise, prayer, Scripture and lesson. It also has a Children's Ministry. To participate, go to www.sttimsottawa.ca and click on the video available under "Coming Events"; or access it from our Facebook page. Rev. Reine hopes that we "gather" as a Church at 10am on Sunday morning. Note that we will also have a Good Friday service at 10am.

Though we may be meeting in a virtual church, our Church is real!

Our Building May be Closed, but our Church is Active!

Don't forget to practice physical distancing and wash your hands. But physical distancing does not mean ignoring one another. If you are able, please consider your fellow Christians, and reach out. A 5-minute phone call can really brighten one's day. An email is a simple way to touch base and let someone know they are missed. Perhaps someone needs help with some errands. Rev. Reine has been reaching out via email or by phone offering fellowship and prayer. If you are in need, please contact your Elder or Rev. Reine at 613-255-6787.

All church groups and events are cancelled until further notice. That's because we can no longer meet in the building. But our Church is still active. Pastoral Care is active. Session meets via Zoom. Bills are paid. This latter is a reminder that we need your offerings. They can be submitted one of 3 ways:

- o Donate via the website (www.sttimsottawa.ca)
- o Enrol in PAR by contacting church office and requesting an enrolment form (613-733-0131)
- o Mail cheque made out to St Timothy's Presbyterian Church at 2400 Alta Vista Drive, Ottawa, ON, K1H 7N1

I am the Church, you are the Church, we are the Church together; all who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we're the Church together!

Virtual Worship Services

Palm Sunday Worship	Apr 5, 10am	Sunday Worship	Apr 19, 10am
Good Friday Worship	Apr 10, 10am	Sunday Worship	Apr 26, 10am
Easter Sunday Worship & Communion .	Apr 12, 10am	Sunday Worship	May 3, 10am

St Tim's Pictorial

Celebrating
birthdays at
Café
Connections



Youth
hosting
Coffee Hour

