

Dear Friends

The declaration at the end of last week that Manitoba is in a State of Emergency for 30 days probably means that we will not be together on Easter Sunday this year. There are far more important things to worry about right now than whether or not there will be church on April 12 but I have to admit that the realization of missing Easter disappoints me.

Certainly I had begun to think what a wonderful thing it would be if our first Sunday back was Easter. What an awesome display of life and joy that would have been! I am going to miss singing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" overly loud and a little off key. (Maybe some of you won't miss that) I am going to miss preaching to a full church twice, and taking 20 minutes to serve communion. I am going to miss taking my place in the Hallelujah Chorus with the mass choir, organ, and trumpet. At least, I won't get lost in the middle this year.

But the truth is, Easter doesn't arrive at a set date and time. We may celebrate it on the calendar but the revelation of the power of Life over death, the unsurpassing victory of Love, the restoration of Hope, the awesome display of God's Grace, everything that Easter represents comes to us as we require, not as we schedule.

Like the arrival of Christmas despite the Grinch's best efforts to steal it, Easter will come in ways mysterious and wonderful. After all, the capacity of Light to defeat darkness is not something we create. It is given, as a gift. And someday soon, be it in April, May, or June we will be singing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" a little too loud, and slightly off key. I promise.

Grace and peace,

Michael

P.S. We are going to be sending you a link to an audio file for your Sunday use later this week. We are also working on a way of delivering a service by video hopefully next week.

Thanks to all who are phoning, emailing, messaging, and otherwise staying connected. Please reach out to one another and let us know if you become aware of any pastoral concerns.