

Watch this week's service on YouTube by clicking: [August 23 Worship Service Video](#)

Dear Friends

Welcome to worship for Sunday, August 23.

I am thinking of our friends and fellow Manitobans in Brandon this week. Our province's second largest city is a place that is quite familiar to many of us. It is a charming and friendly place to live and always a fun place to visit. But Brandon is struggling a bit these days as a cluster of Covid-19 cases has emerged there. And daily we are witnessing what happens if a critical mass of people become infected in any given place. How quickly it can spread and how swiftly fear and anxiety can return. Brandon isn't any different than us. Indeed, Brandon is just like us.

There are some people who are tired of taking precautions and no longer wish to be vigilant in adhering to the best advice of health authorities. That is unfortunate, because vigilance and adherence are the secret ingredients to the pandemic coming to an end as quickly as possible. The root of 'vigilance' is 'vigil' and that is something many of us know about first hand. Keeping vigil is a spiritual discipline wherein we accompany others often not knowing how long our companionship may be required. I have seen many families keeping vigil, letting go the grasp of time and learning the blessed gift of simply being.

It serves us well to remember that the things we are asked to do are not simply for our own protection, but for the well-being of others. We are truly in-this-together in deep and profound, inter-connected, and long lasting ways. We may also wish to recall the wisdom of Paul in 1 Corinthians 13: ***There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope, its endurance.***

As we continue on through these challenging times we are pleased to offer a video service on YouTube. Written and audio worship resources will resume at the end of summer. Please enjoy and feel free to share with others. The link for sharing is: <https://youtu.be/TcFoXY2mcgM>

DID YOU KNOW ...?

- ❖ The Life and Work of our church is updated by Janet weekly? Please have a look at the Life & Work insert: <https://charleswoodunited.org/media/life-work/>
- ❖ Our Student Minister, Laura Rousseau, began her second practicum with us last week? You will see Laura in worship leadership beginning this week
- ❖ Another Yazidi Farmer's Market is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 13? Details will be available in the weeks ahead
- ❖ And finally, most of our expenses continue through the summer? If you would like to support the ministry of Charleswood United Church please visit: [www.charleswoodunited.org/donate](http://www.charleswoodunited.org/donate). Thank you to all those who have continued to contribute regularly.

Grace and peace,  
Michael