

Watch this week's service on YouTube by clicking: [May 9 Worship Service Video](#)

- Join **HeBrews eCafé on Zoom** Sunday at 10am.
<https://zoom.us/j/4639675160?pwd=V09OUmV0VFpMVGJLTWhueGpSekkwZz09>
Meeting ID: 463 967 5160
Passcode: 4F7iE2
phone option: 1 204 272 7920
- Our music staff and online choir present the cantata **Love Divine**. This musical gift will be posted in the coming week and a link will be sent to you.
- **Offering Information at:** www.charleswoodunited.org/donate Thank you for your generous support.

Dear Friends

Welcome to worship for Sunday, May 9, 2021.

One thing has changed since I wrote a worship letter last week. I have been vaccinated. Last Sunday afternoon it was my turn to travel to the Convention Centre and keep my appointment for my first vaccination. In talking to many people from the church I know that it has been a positive experience for many. I was thankful for many aspects of that trip downtown. I was thankful that my turn had come and I was thankful for all those who had gone before me in the preceding months as it is only right that those whose vulnerability is greater should go first.

I was thankful for the people who are working at the site. They were, without exception, exceedingly kind and generous of spirit. The young man who greeted me as I entered the hall where the vaccination took place actually grew up in our church and recognized me through my mask. He has put his research job on hold while he works daily in this massive collective effort. I was thankful for him. The nurse who administered my injection was very friendly, perfectly professional, and a wiz with a needle! I hope she knows how thankful I was.

But it doesn't change very much, does it? I am not supposed to consider that the vaccine takes any effect until 14 days after my injection. There are thousands of Manitobans who have yet to get their first shot including my three adult children. It will likely be another two months before we can say everyone has had their first opportunity. Maximum effectiveness requires a second shot and that is unlikely to take place for a few months. And all the while, the third wave is proving increasingly problematic in our province with daily cases approaching record numbers, hospitalizations rising rapidly, and the virus harming a younger demographic than ever before.

There is hope on the horizon but now is the time to more vigilant than ever. And let us admit that this is the most difficult time to be so vigilant. I would like to believe that faith is a remarkable resource for keeping vigil and something that serves us well in moments of frustration. A key line of Paul's discourse on love in 1 Corinthians is that "love is patient and kind". Patience and Kindness. It doesn't mean that we are immune from frustration and anxiety. These are normal and expected reactions to this difficult moment when things are not changing as fast as we would like. But it does mean that we are in possession of the gifts we need for a time like this.

So I am not trying to be overly optimistic when I suggest that we have much to be thankful for. I simply mean to offer that if we only have faith, hope, and love in the best of times, then perhaps that isn't faith, hope, or love.

The best sermon I have to offer is the one you have heard for over a year now. Wash your hands, keep a distance, and wear a mask. But I still must add - be well, be safe, and be hopeful.

Grace and peace

Michael

- Please enjoy our online worship and feel free to share with others. The link for sharing is: <https://youtu.be/NvAKTU3z5yU>
- For news and events please have a look at **Life & Work**: <https://charleswoodunited.org/media/life-work/>
- Read the scripture lesson for today by clicking here: [Acts 1:6-11](#)