

*On the way Jesus asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.'*

**(Mark 8. 27-29, NRSV)**

Easter 2021

Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

This time in 2020, we did a quick pivot from in-person Worship to Online Worship. Palm Sunday was to be the last time we worshipped separately. From Easter Sunday onward we have gathered, faithfully, each week at 10:00 am, Mountain Time. So much has happened in the past calendar year and the past liturgical year.

We have had the opportunity to celebrate a baptism, a wedding and have gathered as we are able to remember several souls who have died. We are experiencing many things for the second time...a second Holy Week and Easter online. A second Easter without a family gathering. A second Easter with little, if any, travel.

We are also experiencing many firsts...depending on your age, you may have received your first dose of the COVID vaccine. The provincial government is allowing limited outdoor services in person. For now, and for the foreseeable future, we are going to remain with worship online only. It's not forever, it's for now.

Easter Day falls on the 4th of April, which is a first Sunday, which means we will be celebrating Communion together. For the first time, we will also be able to receive Communion by Car following Worship. For those who wish to participate in Communion online, you are most welcome to do so. For those who wish to receive Communion in person, you are invited to attend Knox United Church REMAINING IN YOUR VEHICLE. Please ensure you are wearing a mask, and after putting the windows down, turn off your car engine. Reverend Andrea will greet you after sanitizing her hands and will give you bread only (regular or gluten-free wafer) with a pair of tongs, while wearing her mask. When she has stepped back, please start your vehicle and drive away, allowing the next person in line to receive Communion/Eucharist.

Your Worship Committees will be looking at celebrating either Pentecost or Trinity Sunday outdoors...weather and provincial guidelines permitting. More information will follow.

"The Church" has been scrutinised greatly during the lock-down as there are certain denominations who have launched lawsuits against the government and Churches who are opening in defiance of provincial rules. We WILL support our Denominational leadership and government officials. We WILL do as we are asked, and as we are told. Safety comes first. We have learned, what we all have known, that Church is not the bricks and mortar. It is the collection of people, both near and far, who gather for Worship.

When Jesus asked his disciples who they thought he was he asked who the community thought he was first...and none had the correct answer. When he asked the disciples who they thought he was, only Peter was brave enough to answer. He was correct, and yet told not to tell anyone.

It is similar today in who we are as "Church". Many people in the community have no idea who we are or what we do. And if they base their opinions on what makes headlines, we are in deep trouble! God knows who we are and what we do. We know who we are and what we do. And so, rather than following Jesus' advice to tell no-one, I believe we should tell everyone who we are and what we do.

We are the Church. We love and serve God as well as our neighbours. We delight in sharing the messages of love and inclusion in the Gospel. We invite everyone to join us, whether they are people of faith or have no experience at all. Whether they live in the Elk Valley or somewhere else; all are welcome in our Community of Faith. No matter who you are or where you come from, all are welcome!

Attached to this letter is a list of services from Palm Sunday, through Holy Week and to Pentecost. Please feel free to share the Worship Link with anyone you wish. All are welcome!

From my home to yours I wish you a blessed Holy Week and a very Happy Easter. See you at Church!

Your servant,

*Andrea+*