

Easter 2021 Letter to the Community of Faith at First+Met!



Greetings and best wishes to you all:

A recent press release allows a few people to gather at B.C. churches, synagogues and temples at specific times this spring, but, at First Met, we will continue to livestream our worship services from an empty sanctuary. This means that on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, the church will still be scattered throughout the Capital Regional District, meeting in homes online via YouTube.

Easter is the great crescendo moment of the worship life of the church, where we shout the good news of our resurrected Lord: "He is Risen, Indeed!" But, as Ministers all over the world are remembering, the first Easter wasn't announced in full sanctuaries, chapels and cathedrals. The news first came in the quiet of the garden. Jesus first appeared only to a heart-broken Mary Magdalene, all by herself, carrying the deep grief of loss. She took the message of the resurrection into homes where disciples were locked away in fear of the Romans who had crucified their Lord. In other words, the first Easter, the disciples were sheltered-in-place. And yet, Jesus walked through their locked doors to meet them right where they were! He met them in their fear and doubt and made it very clear that Jesus of Nazareth, whom the Romans crucified was the Lord of new life beyond our imagining. This Easter, we have an opportunity to worship like those early disciples and find that, while the world has closed the door, Jesus opens the door to new life!

More than ever before, I am eager to sing with you next Easter Sunday, to have coffee in the Fellowship Hall, to hear the chatter before worship as friends greet each other and catch up on the news. I await our return to our sanctuary and halls!

This is our second COVID Easter. It still feels odd and I truly miss seeing you. But in these days, we are learning how to be a living sanctuary. We have been reminded that God is not limited to those strong brick walls and illuminated stain

glass. We carry the presence of the Christ with us everywhere we go. Perhaps the most important thing that has taken place during this crisis is how it has moved us out of the sanctuary to find the presence of God in our homes and neighborhoods, seeking to join God's mission in the world.

We are trusting in that Spirit of Love which blesses us individually and as a community of faith. The decision to stay the course was made in the interests of the safety of all, and not quickly either I assure you! The Board joins me in sending our Easter Blessings and are eager to worship, visit and laugh together in person when it is safe to do so!

Thank you for being part of the family of this faith community and may the blessings of the Sacred Spirit guide and inspire you on Easter and always...

Affectionately,

Shelagh

The Rev Shelagh MacKinnon, Lead Minister




First Met
United Church