

## *Easter Greetings 2020*

**“Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.” (Matthew 28:5-6)**

As I write my greetings this year, the excitement of moving into the season of spring is in many ways hindered by the Covid-19 virus, precautions that we all have to abide by, and isolation from others... something that feels strange to most of us because we are social beings. Not being able to have worship services, affects not only the spiritual aspect of our lives, but also the social aspect of our gathering together each week.

We are encouraged through many avenues to be “careful but not fearful” when it comes to living our lives within the atmosphere of “The Virus”. I know that it is easy to say “do not be afraid” but not so easy for many to live out. We all have our “fears” and we live them out in certain different ways.

To “not be afraid” is found over 70 times in the Bible. In the Gospels and New Testament, it started with Joseph and Mary being told by an angel, “do not be afraid”, before the birth of Jesus, and continues to and right up to the words to the women at the tomb, and Jesus words to his witnesses. “Do not be afraid.”

All who chose to think of and believe in the Resurrection Story of Easter, have the opportunity to recognize the celebration of, and the abundance of life, as portrayed for us through Jesus’ resurrection. Easter is about “new life” in our midst. And it is as much about new life on earth, as it is in heaven. I am sure that many of you have noticed a marked change in human interaction that wasn’t as present before “The Virus” came into being. Exchanging pleasantries in a distance-isolating lineup, expressing solidarity with people by singing from your balcony in Italy, banging pots and pans to show support for healthcare workers, to the offering of online music concerts from music professionals.

All of this points to a “new life” presence on earth, which is heralded by the New Life story of Easter.

And for those who are currently facing death, as well as for all of us who will someday, the Easter experience of “New Life” will be for us that movement from earthly life, to eternal life, the resurrection of the spirit to that place we call heaven.

Easter will be quite different for many this year with no worship services or family gatherings. Both of which are so important to many. “Do not fear”. With everyone’s diligence this virus will be controlled and life will get back to normal, but what we might see is a “new” normal.

I am providing online worship services to people who would like to avail themselves of such. If you want to be included in online presentations just send me an email and I will add you on the list.

There are also various options being provided to make or continue your generous offerings to our churches during this time. Posting donations in the mail, and online donating are possibilities for continuing to support the work and ministry of the churches. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

As you journey into the season of Easter, may the spirit of the living Christ, be renewed in your spirit. May the promise of new life be birthed and rebirthed in you. And may the Holy Spirit infuse your heart and soul with the love of God to carry you through your days.

Easter Blessings,



Reverend Jamie York, [piperrev@gmail.com](mailto:piperrev@gmail.com)

Hastings Roseneath Pastoral Charge, The United Church of Canada

Web: [www.harpcharge.com](http://www.harpcharge.com) Email: [hastingsroseneathpc@hotmail.com](mailto:hastingsroseneathpc@hotmail.com)