Wollaston Congregational Church Easter Letter 2020

Dear Wollaston Congregational Church Members and Friends,

I was doing a little research recently when I came across this quote on the BBC history website: “When World War Two broke out in September 1939, it was not uncommon in Britain to hear the remark, 'It'll all be over by Christmas!' - just as people had said that World War One would be over by Christmas 1914.”

Our current situation is unlike World War I or II in Britain. Even so, when the coronavirus crisis hit and social distancing began, I remember saying to colleagues “wouldn’t it be wonderful if this is over by Easter?” We now know that is an unrealistic expectation and we will need to remain physically distant, many of us isolated at home, for some time to come.

I hope that we will celebrate Easter together whenever the restrictions are over. But before that time, we will need to find other ways to proclaim the resurrection and to sing our Easter hymns on April 12th.

We have moved to online worship for this time of physical distancing and have been trying various platforms. This past Sunday we tried a Zoom video conference, which was quite successful! I am confident that we will become more proficient in Zoom as we continue to use it. I’m sad, though, that online tools are not available to all of us. Fortunately Zoom has a dial-in capability for those who do not have computers or smartphones. And so, if you are in that category, please reach out to me for the dial in number and weekly meeting identification number.

We will continue the Zoom services for Palm Sunday, April 5th at 10 am and Maundy Thursday, April 9th at 7 pm. Each of these services will include communion. You are encouraged to prepare some food and a drink for your communion at home. If you don’t have bread and grape juice, simply substitute something else. We will partake together.

Our Easter morning service will be a partnership with the Quincy Point Congregational Church. This service will be streamed at 10 am on Sunday April 12th on the Wollaston Congregational Church and Quincy Point Congregational Church Facebook pages. There will be beautiful Easter music. Rev. Kim Murphy and Rev. Liz Williams will lead the service together and Rev. Liz will preach. The leaders will practice safe social distancing during the recording of the service.

After the virtual service is over, you are invited to join your WCC friends for coffee hour by Zoom. The web-link and call in number will be sent to the WCC email list. Bring your morning coffee, tea or other beverage. We will not order Easter flowers this year in view of the restrictions and we will find a way to remember our loved ones when we reconvene. In the meantime, your pledges and offerings are needed and will be gratefully received. Please either send your offering checks to the church, or use the online service the link for which is posted on the church website: Wollastonucc.org. Special Easter offerings, noted as such in the memo line, will also be very gratefully received.

And so, even as we are unable to come physically, let us remember that we are bound together by the love of God. The Apostle Paul’s letter to the Roman church reminds believers who are suffering from persecution that:

… neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

*Nor anything else in all creation.* Neither storms, floods, famine, fire, revolution, war, climate change, nor a microscopic virus, can separate from the love of God that is in Jesus Christ our Lord. And because we are bound together by God’s love, nothing, nothing in all creation can really separate us from one another, even when we are physically distant.

And so, I leave you with a poem that has been shared widely in recent days but is semi-anonymous:

And then the whole world walked inside and shut their doors and said we will stop it all. Everything. To protect our weaker ones, our sicker ones, our older ones. And nothing, nothing in the history of humankind ever felt more like love than this.

- CD

My prayers are with you and I send you and your loved ones deep blessings, Rev. Liz