



## CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH

An inclusive church welcoming everyone

61 Dundas Street, Dartmouth, NS  
www.christchurchdartmouth.com

April 20, 2020

*“Jesus Wept”* -From John 11:35

Dear Friends in Christ,



Quite possibly the shortest sentence in the Holy Bible, these two words “Jesus Wept” highlight the human nature of Christ, as he began to process the death of his dear friend Lazarus of Bethany. Once Mary and Martha sent word, Jesus arrived too late to see his friend pass, but not too late to see him rise.

The events of yesterday’s tragedy make no sense. Multiple people have died, lives were broken, hearts are aching, and tears are shed. Tears. Tears. Tears. We in Nova Scotia can hardly fathom the situation we find ourselves in now.

What makes this even harder for us is the fact that we continue to isolate amid the COVID-19 pandemic. At this time, I am calling on our parish to draw itself together in prayer for the victims of this violent and senseless act. Within our own Christ Church family, we have several parishioners who work in emergency services. Pray for those on the front lines, for first responders, our police, paramedics, firefighters, homecare workers, doctors, nurses, mental health practitioners, all those who contribute to building up the human spirit as it seeks to find new life.

As we are a close-knit community, many of us will find ourselves connected in some way or another to those affected by yesterday’s tragedy. Please know that you can reach out to our Pastoral Care team at any time by contacting the parish office. I, Rev. Bonnie Baird, the Rev. Canon Dr. Jody Clarke, who specializes in grief and trauma, are here for you. Resources for children can also be requested through the office. Below are additional numbers that you can call if you are in need:

Nova Scotia Provincial Mental Health Line: 1-888-429-8167 (toll-free)  
Kids Help Phone is available 24/7, by calling 1-800-668-6868 (toll-free)

One of the things we might not feel right now is strength. But as we walk this journey, we will gradually regain our footing. We will rise again. Out of the depths into the glorious light and loving presence of God, we will rise again.

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kyle Wagner".

The Rev. Kyle Wagner  
Rector, Christ Church, Dartmouth  
Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI  
Anglican Church of Canada

#### **A Prayer for Our Community:**

*O God our strength in need,  
our strength in trouble:  
stand with us in our distress, support  
us in our shock, bless us in our questioning,  
and do not leave us comfortless, but raise  
us up with Jesus Christ,  
Amen.*

#### **A Prayer for First Responders**

*O God of comfort, send down  
your blessings on these your servants,  
who so generously devote themselves  
to helping others. Grant them courage when  
they are afraid, and wisdom when they must make  
quick decisions. We give thanks for those who protect  
us and keep us safe. We ask this through Christ our Lord,  
Amen.*