



CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH

An inclusive church welcoming everyone

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

May 1, 2020

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” - Psalm 34:18

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In [the Lord’s] hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.” - Job 12:7-10

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Lord has Risen! Alleluia! These words still speak truth to us as we navigate our grief and sorrow. Collectively we lift our province, and we bind ourselves together as we live in a pandemic world. We remember the lives of those who have gone before us, and we recognize the sacrifice the men and women of the Royal Canadian Navy make to keep us safe. Today we pray for the six victims of CH-148 Cyclone helicopter crash in Greece as part of our commitment to NATO.

As we sit and watch the news, as we feel somewhat held hostage by the boundaries of our dwelling place, I hope you have the ability to seek some refuge in God’s creation. Lord knows I need the exercise! Finding a place to meditate and pray outside is a great way to reflect the goodness of the world. *Just breathe.*

As I said in my letter of April 20th, we are a close-knit community, and many of us find ourselves connected in some way or another to those affected by the senseless loss of life. Please know that you can reach out to our pastoral care team at any time by contacting the parish office. Rev. Bonnie Baird, the Rev. Canon Dr. Jody Clarke who specializes in grief and trauma, and I, can support you.

In the last few days, I have had to have a conversation with my son about what happened in our province. Such discussions are not what any parent or guardian enjoys. For resources in supporting children and people of all ages, the following links can provide some support:

American Psychological Association: <https://www.apa.org/helpcenter/mass-shooting>

PBS Helping Children with Tragic Events in the News:

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/thrive/helping-children-with-tragic-events-in-the-news?fbclid=IwAR2udfKuldNQ5x8avPOPVihEqY-8B9veECrCcl5XlmzbKfk6zDlqF4u9t70>

You can also call the numbers below as previously provided:

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 topics I had planned on writing to you about last week was the environment. As you may know, Earth Day was April 22nd. First celebrated in 1970, Earth Day is a worldwide day that reminds the world about our responsibility for environmental protection and justice.

Some of us may have read in the news that the world is somewhat “resetting itself.” Some are suggesting that because humans are less mobile during the pandemic nature has had a chance to renew itself. In some cases, this may be true. There are reports of the Venetian water canals being clear because of less tourist traffic, and other high traffic areas in the world, are being somewhat transformed. There certainly will be changes due to our absence, air pollution and emissions will drop.

However, we should also understand that over the last few years, we have seen a dramatic increase in emissions. And the previous five years have been the hottest on record. Our climate is changing, and it is a crisis of immense proportions. As we wait for the economy to reopen, we need not forget God’s creation. We all have a role to play, and perhaps in this time of the pandemic, we may radically change as a society for the better.

Recently I was having a conversation with a parishioner about climate change and how my family has embarked upon an environmental endeavour. After sharing details with the person, I was asked if I would share the decision Julie and I have made. This spring, when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, the Wagner household will be going completely solar. Since I met Julie I have admired how she loves nature, and as a scientist is able to explain nature to me in a ways I never thought possible. Energy conservation has long been a goal of Julie’s. She has for a long time, been exploring available options.

Come the spring, 48 solar panels will be installed on our property, and we will be generating enough power to offset our carbon footprint. I must admit that I am a little nervous about this new technology, and a project of this size can seem scary at first. However, I trust the science, and the benefits for the environment. Julie is the expert on all of this, and I’m just trusting and placing my faith in the process so that this can be a contribution towards a greener earth. It will be an action, not a hope. Active steps for change become a reality, and not a dream.

As I say this, I do recognize that not all people or families are in a position to be able explore alternative forms of energy. And as we know, there are many ways we can help reduce our environmental impact on the world. Our diocese is quite active in taking steps to be good stewards of God’s creation. For more information on how Anglicans in our diocese are making a difference, please visit:

<https://www.nspeidiocese.ca/ministries/environment-network>

As I close, I see the snow fading. As we move through easter, and as we admire new life springing forth in our gardens and on our walks, let us be reminded of Jesus Christ's first steps out of the tomb. Movement after a long journey, and an undertaking for the renewal of humanity, creation, and our daily lives.

With Easter blessings, faithfully yours in Christ,

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

The Rev. Kyle Wagner, BA, MDiv, DMin.
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