

“So do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” Matthew 6:34

As I write this, all of Canada, and much of the world, is in fear and anxious about the COVID-19 virus, commonly referred to as the coronavirus. We are facing the same thing our great grandparents faced at the turn of the twentieth century, well over one hundred years ago, when the Spanish flu became a worldwide pandemic.

Your church, our community of faith, takes seriously this threat to our health, and have suspended the gathering of the faithful on Sundays. We must adhere to what government and health officials are calling on all Canadian citizens to do: regularly washing our hands, maintaining a safe physical distance from one another (even our family and neighbours), and staying at home. These measures help not only keep us healthy, but also protect people in our community who must continue to work to provide essential services to us all. We appreciate our health care workers, police officers, fire fighters, sanitation workers, and all those working to keep our grocery stores and pharmacies open.

We can look to the holy scriptures for advice on what we can do while facing the dangers of global pandemic. We are to love God and love our neighbours. We are to pray for one another and work as a community of faith, not allowing fear to overtake us. We are to keep in touch with one another and serve one another, which will give us the courage and strength to overcome this present danger to our society.

Current technology gives us an advantage that past generations did not have! Our ability to stay in touch with family and friends is easier with cellphones, computers and television. These tools help us to know that no one is alone. Praying together, staying in touch with one another with calls and emails, and adhering to the advice of government and health officials will all see us through this current global crisis.

Being home allows us the time to meditate, pray and read holy scripture,

which all strengthen our faith in our ever-loving God. Continue to support your community of faith with prayer. If it is feasible for you to continue with your financial support, please do so. Although we have had to temporarily close our doors, the financial obligations of the church have not ceased.

Keep faith, and believe in what the holy scriptures tell us: “Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:35-37-39)

Your Pastor Jukka