

Good Morning, Emmanuel Church,

As we wake up on this Sunday morning, we may find ourselves feeling a bit disoriented and even lost without our regular routines of getting ready to gather with our church family for worship. Finding ourselves in unprecedented times, we gather in a different way today. Trusting that by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit we are always connected as Christ's Church. *"He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."* (Colossians 1:17)

Without a physical building to meet in, there is an uneasy feeling that the church has closed its doors, at a time when the doors should be swung open wide, as a place of refuge and help, in this time of great uncertainty. And although the leadership of the church has made the decision to close our physical building, rest assured that the church is not closed. *"For the body (of Christ) is not one member, but many."* (1 Corinthians 12:14)

As the many members that make up Emmanuel Church, we are not confined to 3020, 51st Street SW Calgary. Because we are a body of believers, a group of God's image bearers - that gathers - being formed and shaped by the Word in order to be sent out to be a reflection and participant of the Living Word in our neighbourhoods and communities.

If we look closely at the Person and Work of Jesus Christ, we notice fairly quickly, that God did not confine him to one place. Jesus did not stay only with those he gathered, but shared life and created spaces where church could happen in the midst of one's every day. *"Where two or three gather in my name...there I am with them."* (Matthew 18:20)

As we find ourselves in these unprecedented times and struggling to understand how God's kingdom will come through all of this, we have an amazing opportunity as Christ's church! Learning to be the Church in unprecedented ways!

This morning, we want to encourage you to stay connected, with those in our church family and with those God brings into our midst. We are fortunate to be living in a time where we have the technology available to keep us all connected in a variety of ways. And as we continue to discern the best ways forward, may each of us, continue to swing the church doors open, cultivating an awareness of our neighbour. As we seek to join with God in what He's already doing in and through this pandemic.

Wherever you find yourself today, go with God's peace, and may the Lord who gave water to his people in the wilderness pour out upon you the fullness of his blessings. May your faith be grounded upon the rock which cannot move and your love be as

bountiful as the love which sustains you each and every day. We pray this, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

May there be many spaces of worship today. Here's a link to a song that we can all be singing and praying together.

Send Us Out... <https://youtu.be/pYPac4F9bmk>

Blessings,

Pastor Cari