



Sometimes all we see are dark clouds - all the problems that threaten to overwhelm us.

But take another look. The light is breaking in on the darkness and soon, the whole sky will be filled with light.

So it is with God's light and God's love.

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### Service Times for 2021

- 9:30 a.m. – St. Luke's-Knox, Finch
- 11:00 a.m. – St. Andrew's, Avonmore

### Our Online Presence

#### Website:

[finch-avonmore-presbyterian.ca/](http://finch-avonmore-presbyterian.ca/)

**Facebook:** (Avonmore, Finch and Gravel Hill Presbyterian Churches)

[facebook.com/PresChurchAFG](https://www.facebook.com/PresChurchAFG)

#### Youtube:

[youtube.com/channel/UCGrk2bxJdUt-1RmqOWICmKg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGrk2bxJdUt-1RmqOWICmKg)

(if links don't work, you may have to add: "https://www." at the beginning)

## Journey through the Wilderness

*He's back in the land of the living, the man we decided to kill. He's standing among us, forgiving our guilt of Good Friday hill. He calls us to share in his rising, to abandon the grave of our past, He offers us present and future, a world that is open and vast.*

*(Fred Kaan)*

It's hard to believe that it's been almost a year since the first lockdown began, church buildings closed and in-person services ended. It's been almost a year since I've been able to visit you in person and get to know you better (telephones and Zoom calls don't cut it).

Still, we have survived, thanks to God and your continuing support. It's been tough but it's also been a good year in some ways.

We've been forced to take a bit of "Time Out". Even if we are still working, there's been fewer distractions – fewer places to go and do other things and fewer people to visit. How many of us spent more time with God? I know I have.

It's almost as though God said, "I'm tired of your busy schedules and all the things you have to do that keep you away from me. I didn't create the pandemic but am certainly going to use it to try to get your attention." Did he?

As we begin this year's Lenten journey heading to Good Friday and Easter, we remember the suffering that Jesus experienced – the loneliness, the betrayal and abandonment by his friends, fears of having failed, seeing the suffering of others and not being able to make everything "all right", and fear of what was to come.

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This year, perhaps we can identify with those feelings a bit more easily as we've struggled with our own loneliness – sometimes feeling trapped and abandoned – our own fears for the future, and grief for those whom we could not help.

But our story doesn't end with the cross on Good Friday. It continues through to Easter Sunday when Jesus rose from the dead – all those fears and “downers” transformed by the power of God.

Our story doesn't even end at Easter, however. It continues today. We are part of God's story of bringing light into the darkness, a ray of hope in the midst of pain and confusion, and the promise of God's love and eternal life for all God's children.

Happy Easter,

Rev. Cheryl

(P.S. – if you would like to talk, I'm only a phone call away!  
1-613-918-0506)



**Calling Young People – Good Friday Service**

Avonmore's young people have usually done a special service for the last Sunday in Advent or for Christmas Eve. In 2019, many also participated in a special Good Friday Service. Last year, however, they couldn't because of the pandemic and lockdowns.

What about in 2021? **Do the youth want to do something special for the Good Friday service – either in-person or via Zoom?** Do you already have ideas for a special service? Let me know.



**Easter Services**

Communion – Feb. 21, 10:30 a.m.

**Time / Place to be decided**

Good Friday  
Easter Sunday

**Easter Services**

This year, Easter services are still up in the air. We are continuing with virtual Zoom services through February, and will decide about in-person services in March and April later as COVID numbers hold steady, decline or increase.

What we know for now:

- Virtual Zoom Communion Service, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 a.m.
- Good Friday Service, April 2<sup>nd</sup> (in-person or via Zoom)
- Easter Sunday Service, April 4<sup>th</sup> (in-person or via Zoom)

Pre-recorded services with hymns will continue to be posted on our Facebook page and Youtube channel. If you need help finding them or logging onto Zoom, please contact an elder (or me) for help.



**Annual Meeting**

No, you haven't missed them. Our Annual Meetings have been postponed until April.

We hope that we will be able to hold in-person meetings, with social distancing and masks.

Stay tuned for more details.



**Online Bible Studies**

We have two Bible studies of sorts – both virtual.

Our **Wednesday morning** "study" is on Facebook Live. I explore one question about the Bible each week, ranging from "What do we mean by saying the Bible is inspired?" to "Who was Mrs. Cain and where did she come from?" Questions can come from anyone and, I hope that people will start to tune in and we can have actual online discussions (down the road).

Our **Wednesday afternoon** (2:00-3:15 p.m.) Zoom Bible study is exploring the *Book of Revelation* during Lent. It's a 6- to 8-week Zoom study, starting on Ash Wednesday (Feb 17<sup>th</sup>).

All are welcome and you don't have to be Presbyterian to attend!

**Pastoral Care**

**Pastoral care is available.** If you want or need to talk, turn to an Elder you know or call me (1-613-918-0506). You can text me, message me, email me – or even Zoom or Facebook me! Contact information is at the left.

**Upcoming Birthdays**

Our apologies for all the birthdays we've missed – but getting your birthday info is one of priorities (not the top though). Help us out by letting us Rev. Cheryl / your Elder) know your date of birth (not year!)