

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

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December 22, 2020

My Good Friends:

As I look out the window and see no snow, it doesn't look much like Christmas. Does it feel like Christmas? Well, that depends on your perspective. Premier Ford gave us an early Christmas present by informing us that we face a province wide lockdown on Boxing Day, December 26th starting at 12:01 am. "Some Christmas presents!" you say. I say "Some of the best Christmas presents we receive may be the ones hardest for the giver to give and for the receiver to accept." This lockdown may be a bitter pill to swallow, but it is necessary. As we have watched the numbers of those diagnosed with Covid-19 soar in recent days, it has become obvious that something had to be done to slow the pandemic.

A province wide lockdown may seem like a draconian measure, but thankfully we have provincial officials with the backbone to make this difficult decision. Already there are those who are crying out in protest. Yes, it means more uncertainty going forward but, in this battle, there will be no gain without pain. Previous generations of Ontarians survived two World Wars and the Great Depression, as well as the great influenza pandemic of 1918-1920. Surely, we are not made of such poor stuff that we cannot survive and thrive in a lockdown that is designed, not to punish us, but for our own good. I believe that this lockdown will save lives and give our healthcare system a chance to recover.

My main reason for writing this letter is to let you know that as a church family we are going to be affected by this lockdown. Church services in the sanctuary are cancelled beginning with this Sunday, December 27th. There will be no gatherings at the church of any kind and no meetings of Session or the Board of Managers until further notice. However, you will continue to have each Worship Service delivered to your door, sent to you by email or available on our church website. Our worship of the Lord our God will not cease.

I remember reading of a man who experienced business failure. When others would mention his failure to him, he would say: "I am coming back, and I am coming back strong!" I believe that we will survive this lockdown and that we will be able to say: "With the Lord's help, we are coming back and we are coming back strong!"

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Stephen Dunkin



"... a place to belong!"