

May 2020

# Redeeming Words

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## May Calendar

<b>May 3</b>	Z Worship – Easter 4	9::30/10 am
<b>May 10</b>	Z Worship – Easter 5	9::30/10 am
<b>May 12</b>	Z Stewardship Committee	7:00 pm
<b>May 16</b>	Z Confirmation Class	1:00 pm
<b>May 17</b>	Z Worship – Easter 6	9::30/10 am
<b>May 19</b>	Z Congregational Council	7:30 pm
<b>May 24</b>	Z Worship – Ascension	9::30/10 am
<b>May 31</b>	Z Worship – Pentecost	9::30/10 am

Z = Zoom Teleconference

## Zoom Instructions

The Worship and Music Committee has held several virtual meetings in April, to make plans for live, on-line worship experiences. One of the first decisions was to offer interactive services using a platform called Zoom. While some are familiar with Zoom many are not. So here are some basic instructions.

On your desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone browse the web to locate Zoom.us You will be invited to open a free account by creating a user name (often your e-mail address) and a password. The download should only take a few minutes.

If you wish to initiate a visit or meeting look for a button to *Schedule a Meeting*, where you can set the date, time, etc. You'll also be asked if you'd like to copy an invitation for this session to your clipboard. Say yes, and then paste it to the body of an e-mail to those whom you'd like to invite. And then, when you're ready to start the meeting, click *Host a Meeting*.

It's even easier to Join a Meeting. Most invitations will include an active link (in blue, underlined), that you can click. Or you can copy this link, and paste it to your web browser (i.e. Google). Or you can go to Zoom, and click *Join a Meeting*, entering a code like 813-1138-7052 (CTR worship)

If all else fails on Sunday mornings contact Mark Corwin on the phone: 450-202-1231.

## The Corona Era Church

In mid-March the congregations of our church ceased holding live, in-person worship. And the national and synod offices were closed.

If you visit the Eastern Synod or the Evangelical Lutheran Church you'll see some resources to help us us through these days of quarantine. Susan Johnson, our National Bishop, has posted several messages, including a pre-recorded Children's series. At <http://www.elcic.ca> you can also see a list of congregations offering a variety of worship broadcasts.

<https://elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm>

Bishop Michael Pryse and others from the Eastern Synod have also provided other COVID-19 resources. At <http://www.easternsynod.org> there's a report about a seniors' residence in Kitchener that is managing an outbreak. So far only one pastor in our synod has been struck ill, and he is recovering.

## Worship Notes

During the cancellation of worship at 57 Westpark Pastor Jim is sending weekly lessons, a sermon, prayers, and other notes for those who request them until public worship services resume. Call, text or e-mail to be added to this list.



## Viral Times

At the request of Council we're also publishing a weekly one-page update called *Viral Times*, to those for whom we have an e-mail address. Printed copies can be picked up at the church, but will not be mailed.

## Congregational Council

The elected leaders of Christ the Redeemer are meeting by Zoom these days. Highlights from the April 28 meeting will be communicated through *Viral Times* and the June newsletter.

## Stewardship Committee

A couple of reminders:

Please get your questionnaires about how we might invest and/or spend two major gifts to us by the end of this month. Check your e-mail In-Box for a form. Mail, e-mail, or drop it off in person (letter slot by Anselme-Lavigne doors).

The ministry of the congregation and the pastor continues throughout the quarantine. Please send offerings by mail or drop them off at 57 Westpark.

Several weeks ago you also received an invitation from our treasurer, Andrew Saabas, to consider making offerings to CTR through a Pre-Authorised Remittance. It's like automatic bill payment, that comes out of your bank account once a month. The program we use is administered by the United Church of Canada.

## Bulletin Photos

- May 3 Easter 4**  
Psalm 23,  
shepherd, sheep,  
staff
- May 10 Easter 5**  
Building block,  
cornerstone, door
- May 17 Easter 6**  
Love, Holy Spirit,  
commandments
- May 24 Ascension**  
Jesus to heaven, goodbye, clouds
- May 31 Pentecost**  
Fire, dove, wind, disciples
- June 7 Holy Trinity**  
Shamrocks, threes, triangles
- June 14 Pentecost 2**  
Abraham & Sarah, disciples, harvest
- June 21 Pentecost 3**  
Wilderness, sparrows, sword
- June 28 Pentecost 4**  
Isaac, knife, altar, glass of water



## Under the Rainbow

People around the world have adopted the rainbow as a symbol of hope and solidarity during these dark days. As I walk my dog through our neighbourhood I see this colourful emblem in many homes, including those where children live.

I have a sense that rainbows have been taped to windows by people from a wide variety of cultural and religious backgrounds. For them it is a beautiful sign, sometimes appearing in the sky after rainstorms have passed.



In the month of March St. Patrick's Day leads some of us to imagine a pot filled with gold, making the rainbow a symbol of prosperity.

Not long ago rainbows were adopted by the LGBTQ+ community, in the face of prejudice and violence. Judy Garland's *Somewhere Over the Rainbow* voiced the yearning for a day when all people – represented by a spectrum of colours – might be welcomed and embraced.

But those who read the book of Genesis know another story. Several writers, whose accounts have been woven together in chapters 6 through 9, begin with the description of a harsh, short-tempered God. Having made people (in God's woven image, no less) God was furious with how his creatures were treating one another. Dishonesty, hatred and harm had become the norm, and God decided to wipe the slate clean and start over again.

So that even after Noah has built his ark and gathered his family and animals, weathering a forty-day deluge, God continued to rage. Eventually setting a bow in the sky, aimed from the earth to the sky, as a divine threat. It's almost as if God had a split personality.

If this grown-up story is to be our guide we are the ones who live *under* the bow, protected by a gracious God who warns his judging self not to hurt people ever again. Until our loving God could find another way to deal with our selfishness and violence.

I know that this is not the reason rainbows are hanging in many windows, but as a walk with Lou I imagine that together we are living *under* the God's rainbow, protected by the One who sent Jesus to the cross that the whole of creation might be redeemed from the destructiveness of sin.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Jim

## Spring Cleaning

The first weekend in May is usually when we hold our spring cleaning. Fifteen to twenty people often gather to wash windows, sort out the kitchen, launder the curtains, roll up the winter mats, and clean the washrooms. This year we cannot form a one-day work party. But those who are still moving about the community could come, one a time, to take on a task or two for a few hours. A checklist will be posted. Pastor Jim will let you in if you don't have a key (please call ahead, and bring a mask if you can). Cleaning supplies will be in the hallway closet between the women's washroom and the kitchen.

## Confirmation Class

Two Zoom classes will be held in May. At 1:00 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> we will have the students teaching short sessions on topics of personal interest. These will be our last classes until October.

## Bible Study

Face to face studies are not likely for a time yet to come. We could create an internet group, relying e-mails, Instagram or Zoom. Or I could prepare notes for those who rely on Canada Post. A sheet of comments and questions – perhaps even a little homework – could be distributed weekly. The topic announced last month is not well suited to this exercise, but if others express an interest another simpler topic could be developed. Please contact Pastor Jim.

## Virtual Choir

Mark Corwin and Corinne Verpoorten are working to form a virtual choir for Sunday worship on Zoom (see page 1). After Bruce records the hymns at the start of the week singers will be invited to record their voices, which will be blended together. Please let either of them know if you'd like to join our choir.

## In Loving Memory

**George Corwin**, the father of Mark, died in Victoria BC on March 28.

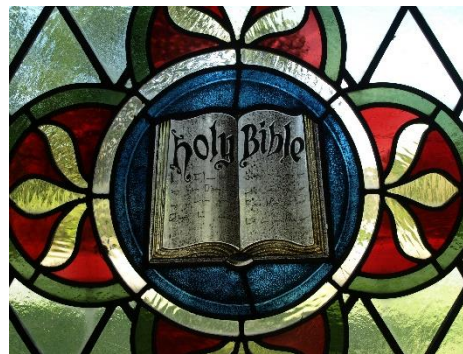
**Jason**, the stepson of Susan and nephew of Debbie Ristimaki, died of COVID-19 April 1.

**Anthony Stanton**, the husband of Helga Kohler, died at the Lakeshore Hospital on April 3.

**Nelson**, the brother of Marie Hoeflich, died in Dollard-des-Ormeaux on

## Lessons

<b>Easter 4</b>	Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, 1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10	<b>May 3</b>
<b>Easter 5</b>	Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14	<b>May 10</b>
<b>Easter 6</b>	Acts 17:22-31, Psalm 66:8-20, 1 Peter 3:13-22, John 14:15-21	<b>May 17</b>
<b>Ascension of our Lord</b>	Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 47, Ephesians 1;15-23, Luke 24:44-53	<b>May 21</b>
<b>Easter 7</b>	Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35, 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11, John 17:1-11	<b>May 24</b>
<b>Pentecost</b>	Acta 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13, John 20:19-23	<b>May 31</b>



## May Birthdays

Pat Pachal	May 3
Simonne Kumar	May 5
Bradley Normandin	May 5
Domenic Raco	May 6
Telford Manroop	May 8
Olivia Raco	May 9
Waltraut Bedrossian	May 11
Dorothea Jonasch	May 15
Grace Saabas	May 17
Charlotte Corwin	May 20
Amanda Haarer	May 21
Nancy Pachal	May 21
Eric Nuss	May 23
Sasha Gunpat	May 28
Stephen Saabas	May 28
Jim Slack	May 28

## Easter Worship

<https://vimeo.com/405448310/8493b957d0>



As COVID-19 reaches every corner of the globe, we're more thankful than ever for your friendship. Your support is making sure the most vulnerable aren't forgotten during this crisis.

**Here's how our partners are already responding:**

**Southeast Asia:** Since the outbreak started, partner offices in Myanmar, Nepal and Laos have been running campaigns in remote and vulnerable communities to provide information about the virus and limiting its spread. In Myanmar, where limited testing is available and undetected spread is feared, Lutheran World Federation is working with over 220 partner communities to respond and to share critical messaging on prevention. CLWR's ongoing work in the country includes providing sanitation and hygiene access to vulnerable families in IDP camps.

**Jordan:** Our partner office in Jordan is working with the UNHCR to rush hand sanitizers to Za'atari refugee camp, home to almost 100,000 displaced Syrians

**Ethiopia:** In Ethiopia, CLWR partners are scaling up water and sanitation projects, and providing protective equipment for staff involved in critical ongoing aid efforts.

**Jerusalem:** As COVID-19 begins to spread in Gaza and the West Bank, Augusta Victoria Hospital moved quickly into emergency operations mode and has been set up as a key facility for testing and treatment of severe cases of COVID-19. The hospital is also helping lead public awareness efforts, while still maintaining critical life-saving treatment for cancer and dialysis patients.

**Refugee camps:** As the first cases of COVID-19 begin to appear in refugee and displaced person camps, partner staff in all locations are increasing focus on hygiene, sanitation and clean water to protect the most vulnerable and the staff administering vital aid programs.

**Here in Canada,** our staff are taking every precaution to help flatten the curve. With your support, we're able to continue operations from our homes and collaborate with partners by phone and online, meaning your support can reach the frontlines of this crisis.

As COVID-19 begins to spread among populations with limited resources and no safety net, your partnership will save lives.



**Thank you again for your partnership and for your prayers.**

As the global situation develops rapidly, watch this page for updates on how we're responding — and consider making a gift to provide relief and hope to the most vulnerable. notice.

### Good News

In the midst of the virus there are good news stories to tell. Lee-Anne is at home filling orders for hand-made face masks, including one presented to Pastor Jim. On Palm Sunday more than a dozen members, as well as several passers-by, came to get branches and crosses. Other palms were delivered second and third hand. Many phone calls and e-mails are making their way through our parish, as expressions of concern and connection. Tell us your stories.



### Condolences

I'll always be a Nova Scotian, and appreciated the expressions of condolence you've sent my way in recent days. Like so many of these kinds of events, the pointlessness of it all is numbing and oppressive.

Keep the people of the province in your prayers as they seek to grieve privately and publicly in the weeks to come.

