



The Diocese of Rupert's Land

The Right Reverend Geoffrey Woodcroft
Bishop of Rupert's Land

A Pastoral Message from the Bishop To the People of Rupert's Land Easter 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! And light for all is pouring upon us!

Greetings in the name of the risen Lord! May this find you, and those whom you love, in safety and good health.

Jesus' journey toward the cross, including his trial, came not only with great personal pain, but with a profound exposure of tyranny and corruption in the world. Easter Sunday is a gift God continually gives to the world to show that in spite of the pain and suffering, the trial, and the tyrannical forces, love conquers all. In our loving response to the present state of the world, we have physically distanced ourselves from other community members, we are staying home, we are not going to work places, schools and the like because we do not wish to spread the virus to others, and we wish to protect our health care system from over-load. Our active role, strictly following Public Health protocols, is one of our most important active ministries. We do not know when or how the present situation will end; but we do know that God is leading us.

Certainly this present day shall not be eclipsed by darkness, greed and fear, for God has called us into the fellowship of the Body of Christ to bring continual light and love for all people in all places. As social and economic uncertainty cause more to be cast out of work, as the number of patrons increase in community ministries, and as the most vulnerable of our communities become seemingly invisible, the light of Christ shines to provide a path of safe travel for all. It is incumbent upon each member of the Body of Christ to actively financially support the work for which we have been called. Our generosity is God's generosity and we, a people of light who have so much, must continue to act beyond courage and hope, into faith – and the faithful expression of God through us. There are many ways you and I can continue distributing God's generosity in the world.

We are the Body of Christ, we have become that food which normally nourishes us week by week. We are a sacrament to the world in which we live - healing, caring, crying and laughing within the creation around us. We are a sent people, fully equipped to administer this sacrament of self to all who hunger and all who thirst. This Easter Sunday I will break fast and celebrate The Great Thanksgiving from the Altar of Live from 935. My deepest desire is to draw each of us into one prayer and action, that which expresses God's deep and passionate love for the world. I encourage those whose parishes are also providing live-stream and recorded messages on Easter Sunday to participate fully in the life of your congregation.

I yearn for that day of freedom when we shall meet face to face, feast together again, and greet one another in peace and love. May you know of my deep affection for you; I offer prayers daily for every community in Rupert's Land; I am thankful that God has indeed bound us in spiritual relationship, a Eucharistic people in a time of exile. May you be continually bathed in God's light and love.

May God bless you with new insight, new story, and new opportunity. Amen.

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