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Dear Friends at First Baptist Church,

Holy Week, 2020

*"The happy ending has never been easy to believe in. After the Crucifixion the defeated little band of disciples had no hope, no expectation of Resurrection. Everything they believed in had died on the cross with Jesus. The world was right, and they had been wrong. Even when the women told the disciples that Jesus had left the stone-sealed tomb, the disciples found it nearly impossible to believe that it was not all over. The truth was, it was just beginning." (Madeleine L'Engle)*

In these days of disorientation and seeming defeat, we're praying for eyes to see what God is doing in our midst and seeking as a community of faith how we are to live as faithful people who believe that Jesus is truly Emmanuel -- that yes, God is still with us (Matthew 1:23).

As a community we have lived through times of crisis that can help us understand something about the time in which we're now living. Some of us have heard firsthand stories about the ways in which disease, war, or severe weather led to disruptions in ways of life for Edmontonians, Albertans, and Canadians. The era of COVID-19 echoes the challenges of these previous eras. As in other times, we retreat from routine and seek connections with others. We seek answers about the future even as we satisfy ourselves with the limited knowledge we have. And as it was for previous generations at First Baptist Church, we find meaning and solace in our faith in times of crisis, and perhaps especially on Sunday mornings, when we hear the gospel message again, the assurance that Christ is in our midst and is making all things new. We can take strength from the promise that God is with us when we gather as a community in the sanctuary, over the phone, or on the ZOOM screen!

As we move towards the 50-day season of Easter, here are some ways we can believe -- in each other, and in the power of our God who, in spite of what it may feel like, is still at work in the world, fashioning a new creation (Isaiah 43:18-19; Revelation 21:3-5).

- ☞ We hope you can join us for the livestream services in the days ahead. We're working to improve our delivery of the services so that you can experience the gift of live worship at FBC! Join us for our Maundy Thursday service (8 p.m., Thursday, April 9), a special Good Friday service (10 a.m., April 10) and of course, our Easter Sunday service at 11 a.m. on April 12. These will be enriching and encouraging times of worship for us.
- ☞ Believe that the Holy Spirit is empowering us and leading us as we support each other in these days. The Church photo directory and phone directory are available by contacting the church office ([office@fbcedmonton.ca](mailto:office@fbcedmonton.ca)). Let us phone, e-mail and reach out to each other and encourage each other with kind words and good deeds. Our world needs goodness and hope in these times of isolation and struggle.
- ☞ Is there a new work or a new idea that we might bring to life in the Easter season? Maybe it's an online prayer group, or bible/book study, or seeking each other out as spiritual friends and companions. If there's any way that ministry staff, or church council or a fellow church member might help, let it be so! Encouragement and inspiration are just a text or e-mail away.

*(turn page over)*

And if you are able, please remember to give generously to the work we do together. So many people are grateful for the way that FBC sustains their faith and their belief in a living, loving, abiding God. Your gifts are significant in these days and many are blessed by your financial support.

***Special EASTER offerings can be mailed to the Church (see the donation card & envelope included with this letter), debit/credit card gifts can also be made by appointment/phone call to the church office. Or use the PayPal "donate" button on our website, [www.fbcedmonton.ca](http://www.fbcedmonton.ca).***

Your faithful prayers and your "cheering on of the saints" are needed and felt. The Church Council and Ministry Staff are so grateful for your love and devotion.

Believing together in this Easter season,



Dr. Marco Adria, Moderator



Rev. Dr. Ryan Sato, Senior Minister



"He Is Not Here" by He Qi

**Yes, I would like support the "Peace and Well-being Ministry" of FBC Edmonton!**

Please mail this completed form using the enclosed envelope.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/PROV: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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**My Gift and/or Future Gifts:**

I would like to make a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become a monthly donor, and I authorize FBC Edmonton to withdraw from my credit card or bank account (please attach void cheque) on the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Authorization may be revoked or changed by calling 780-422-2214 with 30 days notice.

(optional) This gift is in honour of / in memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Payment Options:**

Enclosed Cheque  
(made payable to First Baptist Church Edmonton)

OR  VISA  MC

CARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON CARD \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

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**Support FBC through Estate Planning or Planned Giving:**

I would like to learn about ways to contribute a gift through my will, estate planning, RRSPs, RRIFs and Securities.

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First Baptist Church, 10031 – 109 Street NW, Edmonton, AB, T5J 1M1. For more information please call 780-422-2214. Your gift is tax deductible. Receipts are sent annually. INTERAC/CREDIT donations can be made at the church office.