



Sunday worship each week is livestreamed at 10:30 AM using Zoom. Details regarding how to connect to this platform will be emailed each week to those on our contact list. If you are not on our contact list and would like these details, contact James (james@rhuc.org). Following the online service, a recording of the full service will be posted on our Facebook page. Follow this link: facebook.com/RichmondHillUnitedChurch/. In addition, the weekly message will be posted on the [RHUC Blog](#).

To access the home based worship resource so you can use to follow along or take time for personal reflection, follow this link: [Home Prayers](#). You can find an at home "Discovery Time" with children here: [Discovery Time](#)

In this challenging time, it is important that we look after each other. If you are able to pick up groceries and other supplies for those who are homebound, please contact the church. Equally, if you are in need of this support, call the church or email office@rhuc.org. If you are in need of pastoral care or spiritual support, please contact Rev. James Ravenscroft. Call him at 647-705-2754 or you can reach him by email, james@rhuc.org.

We are grateful for all those who are able to support the ongoing ministry of Richmond Hill United Church. If you would like to make a contribution, you can do so through CanadaHelps.org. <http://www.rhuc.org/donate.html>

May we continue to keep each other and world in prayer, especially those who are most vulnerable, those who are grieving or struggling, and all of those on the frontline putting themselves and their families at risk to keep all of us safe. We will get through this together.

Minister's Message: On Saturday night and into Sunday morning, the unthinkable happened - 22 people fell victim to gun violence, and then following an armed encounter with the police, the gunman was also killed. We are told it was Canada's worst shooting incident but that detail offers little aid. Even one person shot and killed is too many. Our instinct is to try and make sense of what happened. We will turn on the TV and seek details, forgetting how doing just that when COVID-19 first put us all into lockdown left most of us feeling less secure rather than more so. Sadly, there are no answers for what happened in Portapique and beyond. A lone person, filled with anger and hatred opened fire and too many innocent victims paid the price. So what can we do in the face of such violence? There are practical responses, like working for even greater gun control, advocating for stiffer sentences for assault (it was reported that the perpetrator had a history of violence), pushing for more funding to help people manage anger. But in the end the only thing any of us can really do is seek to be a source of peace in our lives. The peace we seek in the world can only start within us. And beyond that, we live each day in love, treating others as we wish to be treated, especially in this moment by letting the people of Nova Scotia know that we stand with them. So place a lit candle in your window, sharing pictures online, and be sure to let the people you care about know how you feel in the knowledge that you may not have another opportunity to tell them. I wish I had other wisdom to offer. But in the end all we can do is do is be a person of love and peace in the world. I suspect that doing that is enough.

worship and music

Sunday, April 26: We continue to reflect on the Easter stories, shifting from Jerusalem as a focus to Galilee where the Jesus' movement began. In this story (John 21:1-14) we meet up with Peter, James, John and other fishers as they return to what they know best. Jesus appears and invites them to cast their net on the other side, restoring their hope and commissioning them to once again follow him.

Sunday, May 3: We pick up the story in John 21. Jesus asks peter three times if he loves him, thus inviting Peter to recommit to him and the way of love he taught them (John 21:15-25).

Worship Notes: During this time of self-isolation and physical distancing, we are not able to come together to worship as we are accustomed. Some people will connect online through Zoom, others will watch a recording of the service when it is posted on Facebook in the early afternoon, and some like to use the prayers that are posted on the website. It was recently suggested that others would prefer more of a DIY approach to worship. To this end, in this space for the next while, we will list possible hymns that go with the readings for a Sunday. The next 2 Sundays are John 21:1-14 and John 21:15-25. Hymns that are appropriate for these two Sundays are "This is the Day That God Has Made" (VU 175), "Let Us with a Gladsome Mind" (VU 234), "O World of God" (VU 258), "Jesus Calls Us" (VU 562).

Sunday offering: RHUC, like other churches, depends on donations and rentals to pay our bills. Our building continues to cost money even while closed and we continue to keep our employees working, albeit in ways that are different from normal tasks. We appreciate those who use on Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR) and recognize some may have to reduce their donation until the lockdown is over and we hope others can increase their donations to make up for those reductions and the reductions in rental income. For those not PAR, please consider making sure you get your weekly envelope money in and we hope as well you will consider some extra to compensate for the loss in income. You can use e-transfer to office@rhuc.org, **Canada Helps**, (<http://www.rhuc.org/donate.html>), or give post-dated cheques to the Church, 10201 Yonge St., Richmond Hill, L4C 3B2. We are keeping in touch with the United Church of Canada and governments to ensure we get what bridge funds might be available to us during physical distancing.

church news

Grocery Home Deliveries: Do you, or someone you know, need groceries delivered to your home? RHUC has a team in place to respond. We can shop on your behalf for food, prescriptions and other basic needs, in local stores, and deliver to your doorstep.

How does it work? Call June, Doug or Donna at the numbers below. One of our Callers will get in touch with you, take down your list, and let you know how it works. One of the Drivers will then shop for you, and deliver to your home. You will have your delivery within a week – most likely just a few days. You pay for the groceries as usual, but the shopping and delivery are free.

Callers: Donna Byres, Donna McErlain, Bill and Joanne Fotheringham, Penny Fabbro, June Blanchette, Sandra Loughton, Nicole Moore,
Drivers: Heather Hartung, Marise Blanchette, Amy Hammer, Doug Loweth, Rob Spence

June Blanchette 905-780-0048
Donna Smith 905-884-6307
Doug Loweth 416-553-8706

We'll get through this together!

A Request for Help: As the self-isolating protocols continue, there is an escalating impact on our economy. Money is going to get tight for some, including friends, neighbours and members of RHUC. To this end, we invite you to help out if you can by donating grocery cards. When you order your grocery card (still a fundraiser for our church, BTW), donate a card to help someone who needs assistance. Contact Deb (office@rhuc.org) for more information.

A Message from the Board: As part of discussions during the Board meetings this past week (Wednesday, April 15), there was good discussion about the pandemic and the necessity of doing things differently by accessing technology, reaching out with phone calls, using social media more. There is much that we are learning that we can carry forward as a congregation once things regain a semblance of normality. To this end, James is calling together an ad hoc team of folks who will make a note of what we are learning and make recommendations for the future. If this is a task that interests you, please email James (james@rhuc.org).

programs for all

Pub Theology: We meet online once again to discuss faith, spirituality and life's big questions. The online gathering is on Friday (April 24) at 7:30 PM. Contact James for the meeting log-in information.

Lenten Bible Study: Thank you to all who participated. We will take a break during Holy Week and Easter. Let James know if you would like to continue exploring themes.

Shalom Seekers: Although we are not meeting physically at the church during this COVID-19 crisis, we will continue to check in and visit with each other on Monday mornings at 10 a.m. via video chat on Zoom for those who can join us. You can also call the phone number listed in the e-mail if you don't have the Zoom app on your device.

If you can't join us on Zoom, please continue to send your check-in on Sundays or Mondays by email, or just call someone in the group to chat! Please look for an e-mail on Friday or early Monday morning that will include a link to join the call which will be initiated by Peg Hiscoke. We hope you are doing well and can join us with your coffee or tea on **Monday, April 27th**.

Sandra Loughton & Peg Hiscoke, Co-Facilitators

RHUC Book Club: As we continue with physical distancing and staying at home, I hope you are able to get some reading material to help pass the time. I have dropped off nine different books to a few people, so if you are really desperate for something to read, please get in touch with me and I'm happy to lend some of my books out. I can drop them off with no contact.

In order to stay connected, we had a Zoom meeting at the end of March. I am going to set up another meeting for **Wednesday, April 29th at 4 p.m.** for those who would like to join us on Zoom. (I apologize that it didn't happen for April 22nd.) You can also call a designated phone number and be connected by phone with the others who are on the computer screen so you don't need to have the Zoom app or even a computer to take part. You will get an e-mail from me before or on the 29th with instructions and a password to join the on-line meeting, as well as the phone number to call if you aren't joining via a computer, tablet or cellphone. Stay well everyone. ~ Sandra Loughton, Facilitator

Prayers Shawls: Finished knitted/crocheted shawls are given to people who are unwell, grieving, moving away and also to celebrate a birth, joining our church or other special occasion as a way to show the church cares with a hope that the warmth of the shawl will bring comfort and joy. **Even though the church building is closed, please continue to make the shawls at home.** Donna Smith, Coordinator, 905-884-6306

keeping up our spirits

As we look to the coming days and weeks of "sheltering in place" it is important we keep our spirits up. Each week RHUC Reflections will include some ideas, reflective words, poems, recipes (send to Deb at office@rhuc.org), etc. to help in this challenging time.

Like a thief in the night
 We didn't know it was coming
 Death suddenly summoning
 Fighting fear with all our might

Precious hugs of hello and goodbye
 Sunday family dinners, TV nights and dinners out
 Birthday gatherings, especially for those old
 Freedom sold to a devil
 Locked in our homes
 Alone

Like a thief in the night
 If only we knew it was coming
 Death suddenly summoning
 Fighting fear with all our might

The beast taking the young and especially the old
 Old friends, mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers
 Did we really protect them?
 Our tears in a mask we fold
 No comfort for those dying alone

Like a thief in the night
 We didn't know it was coming
 Death suddenly summoning
 Fighting fear with all our might

Weddings on hold, grand-kids online
 Time stolen
 The beast unloving and unkind

Like a thief in the night
 A beast we could imagine
 Death suddenly summoning
 Fighting fear with all our might

The world suddenly awakened to appreciation
 Evaluating the things we assumed were ours
 Understanding that what we had was a beautiful flower

Like a thief in the night
 If only we knew it was coming
 Death suddenly summoning
 Fighting fear with all our might

Always say you love them
 Spend time while you can
 Hug them and tell them how precious they are
 The beast is never far behind

Like a thief in the night
 Death suddenly summoning
 Love each other
 A hard lesson learned.
Kathleen Martino

Online links for your information:

Online grocery shopping links
https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2020/03/grocery-delivery-online-toronto/
 Grocery hours for seniors
https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2020/03/grocery-stores-toronto-seniors-hours/
 Farmers Market Deliveries
https://www.blogto.com/eat_drink/2020/03/order-food-farmers-market-delivery-toronto/
 HARDWARE stores: Open for curbside pick-up + delivery
Canadian Tire: **website issues call Sheppard store: 416-226-4411
Home Depot:
[Home Hardware](#)

National Institute on Aging:
[15 minutes workout](#), a [20 minute workout](#), and a [60 minute workout](#) for older adults.

YMCA's online fitness classes everyday, for the whole family:
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/YMCAGTA/videos/>

10 Ideas for Physical Distancing through Nature:
<https://naturecanada.ca/news/blog/10-ideas-for-social-distancing-through-nature/>

ENTERTAINMENT/CONCERTS/MUSEUMS:

Things to do in Toronto while social distancing
<https://dailyhive.com/toronto/14-things-to-do-in-toronto-social-distancing>

Virtual Museum Tours
<https://hellogiggles.com/news/museums-with-virtual-tours/>
<https://www.everythingzoomer.com/arts-entertainment/2020/03/19/musicians-to-museums-arts-culture-covid-19-pandemic/>

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre: 6 online plays – with supporting resources

<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/watch/#free-youtube-premieres>

Metropolitan Opera: <https://www.metopera.org/>

Choir Choir Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOKte42xsXIT80UzG1jotiw>

Museum Art collections:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/partner>

ToLive: <https://www.tolive.com/livingrooms>

Social Distancing Festival:

<https://www.socialdistancingfestival.com/>

British Museum -visual timeline of the worl:

<https://britishmuseum.withgoogle.com>

Russia's Hermitage Museum Video Tour:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49YeFsx1rlw&feature=youtu.be>

Melbourne Zoo Live Streaming:

<https://www.zoo.org.au/animal-house/>

One man quartet: <..\..\..\..\Music\April 26.mp4>

Please keep the ideas and stories coming. It is a lovely way to feel connected.

outreach activities

Minute for Mission: Dalhousie University Multifaith Chaplaincy in Halifax, Nova Scotia, offers students a safe place to get a meal on a Monday night. Your gifts to Mission & Service have created this “sanctuary on campus.” The chaplaincy feeds between 40 and 60 students each week, many of them international and exchange students. “They enjoy the opportunity to share safe space and to meet other students,” United Church Chaplain the Rev. Robyn Brown-Hewitt shares. “Food insecurity is huge among students in Halifax.” Robyn goes on to share, “The other predominant part of what I do here is private one-on-one counselling. Students suffer from a wide and intense variety of mental/spiritual health challenges.” Robyn wants to make sure everyone knows that she and the Chaplaincy Committee can’t do what they do without Mission & Service support. Thank you for creating through your gifts a place of welcome for Dalhousie students. University can be lonely, and your gifts make these students feel like they are not alone.

To unsubscribe, please write to: office@rhuc.org, and put “unsubscribe” in the subject line. Published by Deb Fratin. Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.