

Trinity Musings: Rev Brian Goodings (self-isolating in my office at Trinity UC)
April 6, 2020

This is hard. My hands have never been so clean in my entire life and my dog hides when I put my walking-shoes on now. We are all realizing that this weird way of living is going to be with us for sometime now. I fully expect there are going to be reasons to live like this for a couple of years because the virus isn't going anywhere anytime soon. Even if we chase it back to a manageable number of infections, whatever that is, it is going to cycle up and down. As disappointing as this might be to hear, I believe we are in this for the long haul. This is a marathon not a sprint.

I have stopped listening to the hourly news because the minute to minute updates were a bit crazy-making. It is a bit like being in the car heading for Vancouver with an annoying kid who, even though you just told them we haven't left Ontario yet, keeps asking, "ARE WE THERE YET?" The answer is "NO! QUIT ASKING!!!"

Not to stretch this analogy too far, you might also tell them, to look out the window and enjoy the drive. That's sort of what we need to do now. Never mind when we are going to "get somewhere", try to appreciate where we are right now.

Think back to a month ago...when was the last time you saw or talked to your neighbour? When was the last time BC, (Before Covid), you saw them banging on a pot or ringing a bell at the end of their driveway? You might have called the police to report them a month ago, now it's normal. As Dorothy said in the Wizard of Oz, "*Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore*". None of us are.

But, and I believe this is the best news, we are staying together. Years ago lots of us read William Golding's book Lord of the Flies or watched the movie. It was a horrifying story about how quickly a group of school boys marooned on an island without social structure or constraints, became the worst version of humanity. It was chilling to think that our civility and social structures, that we really cherish, would disappear in a flash given the wrong circumstances. I know there are periods of even recent history that support the thesis of the book, but there are more stories that don't.

We are part of a better story that is being told right now. I know there will always be people who panic or build walls against others but our centre of being a caring-society is holding. There are more people coming to care for each other than not. I was listening to a person on CBC radio (not news) who was talking about the need to plant “Victory Gardens” like people did after the World Wars. These are vegetable or fruit gardens, intended to produce food for the growers and the neighbours too. I can only imagine how many zucchini recipes are going to be passed around in August of this year!

So yeah, this is a hard time and none of us really know where we are going to end up. But we are, metaphorically, sticking together. Let’s not “let go”, rather let’s bang a pot or ring a bell at the end of the driveway to make a joyful noise. Nice to know we are in the right company even if the road is long.

