

From the Pastor's Desk: Autumn, 2020

Psalm 150

***Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!
Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!
Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp.
Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with clanging cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!***

Summer is trying to hold on as I write. It has happened before and it will happen again. But the event of these days is pretty unique in our lifetime. The Covid 19 remains the main event in our lives and in our times. We do not even know when it will end. The vaccine we are waiting for (the whole world, too) may be available to us all only by next summer, and that is a long time,,,

It is now the eighth month of disruptive full/partial lockdown for the world, our nation and our state. And... there is still the danger of a new wave of the affliction. It may have started one year ago around this time in Wuhan, China. Ironically, it looks back-to-normal in that city today while our cases and deaths from the disease continue to rise at an alarming rate. Tragically, some of us here in the US of A still believe that it is all a hoax.

For my family and our church in Canada, the truth has almost been fatal. One couple got the illness in March, were hospitalized, but are now both recovering. Another couple got it, as well, but are also recovering. There were scares and positive test results but with few or mild symptoms. My sister and brother-in-law in the Philippines were hit hard, had to be hospitalized, but are now recovering. That's the good news --- the bad news: it is for real; it is not a hoax.

And it is not too difficult to be safe from infection --- wear a mask, keep a safe distance from others when outside one's residence, and wash hands frequently wherever you are. There is no guarantee that we will not catch it but the percentage of not contracting it goes close to the 90s (%) when these simple acts are done.

We did have a break from isolation, though, through the efforts of Carla and her crew. We had one worship service together at the backyard of our parsonage, and we thank them all for that. Carla and Art Furman have been instrumental in our worship services (albeit virtual), and Art and Pam Newman have made the virtual worship services come true as he tapes, edits and posts all these at our website for all to watch on Sundays and available at your convenience.

Thanks to all who have assisted and contributed their fair share in these undertakings that have kept our congregation alive and will continue to do so (pls pray for them) until you and I are again able to be with one another in person to fellowship and worship together.

This, too, shall pass. That is a promise for God never allows overwhelming trials and challenges. And we can be sure that God is ever-present in our lives and in our beings.

Instead, let us take this time to reflect on all these things, even as we are confined to our homes. There is a message for everyone and most, if not all, have already realized and appreciated it. To those who are able to move about – Be Safe! We have been acting as a Telephone Brigade and doing Drive-Bys for some folks and get in touch with as many of our members (give us a call if you want one)

We (Bless and i) miss you all very, very much!

**“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.”
Halleluia! Amen.**

