



**An Update from Brendon, End of Week ONE!
Friday, March 20, 2020**

Dear Emmanuel Family,

It's been a strange and strained week. Strange to be coming into our offices daily without programming to engage in through out the day or to look forward to in the evening. Strange that in so many ways, life continues as normal, and yet, for most of us, we are living through the biggest disruption to our lives thus far. Strained in that all of us are concerned about our health and the health of our loved ones. In just a week, we find ourselves with a heightened awareness of our own vulnerability as persons and communities and nations. Strained in the increased levels of anxiety around jobs and finances as well as the loss of physical proximity and personal connectedness. Strange and strained times indeed.

And yet, we serve a God who has promised never to leave us nor forsake us, who has promised to strengthen and sustain us, and who has assured us that he is making all things new. A few weeks ago, one of the online devotionals that I use reminded me that whatever God allows, he redeems. So in the midst of all the strange and strain, I am asking God to deepen our awareness of his presence and power, to assure that he is with us and for us, and to help us discern how he is at work in our current circumstances. May we find ways to remind ourselves of HIM and encourage each other in HIM during these times.

As a staff, we have been working at maintaining connections and facilitating conversations with our church family over the past week and intend to continue that. We are here for you, to engage in pastoral conversations, to help walk with you through whatever anxieties you may be facing. We will not be able to reach out to all of you at once so please reach out to us if there is a need.

As of Monday, March 23, the church office will be closed and staff will be working from home, but we can be reached by phone or text or email. Office voicemails will be checked regularly. If there are needs that we can help with, please don't hesitate to ask.

We will continue to update the weekly bulletin with prayer concerns. You can find it online at www.ebap.ca. If you have a concern you would like to have included, please contact the office. Rob and I will continue to provide weekly resources to our respective gatherings (sermons, liturgies, etc.) to help us stay rooted in Jesus and his love. The text of morning sermon will be emailed out on Sunday mornings and the audio posted to the website by the middle of the week. The Connection liturgy will be sent out sometime this weekend.

Thanks to all of you who participated in the survey. I will email instructions on Sunday afternoon for our Zoom Online Prayer Times, which begins next week, Monday-Friday. We ask for patience and grace as we figure out the right frequency of emails. We want to maintain good communication without inundating you with information.

I am grateful for your faithfulness in supporting the ministry of our church through your prayers and through your giving. If you are not giving online, please consider doing so. You can contact the office (bookkeeper@ebap.ca) for a code to do so. Or you can drop off your envelopes in the

church's mailbox at the front entrance at any time.

Now, may the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

Your brother in Christ,

Brendon