

## February 2024 - Lenten-Easter Letter

*Jesus told his disciples, If any wish to come after me let them deny themselves take up their cross and follow me. Those who want to save their life will lose it, those who lose their life for my sake will find it. Matthew 16:24-25*



Friends

Whoever said life was easy has never been to a funeral, has never visited a hospital, has never known someone with chronic illness, a terminal illness, has never known someone who was treated as invisible, other, unworthy, simply because of how they were born into this fragile and beautiful world. And yet... I still meet people much cleverer than me, with more experience than me, who ask "how could God allow this to happen to me" because they are suddenly staring down a difficult diagnosis, encountering resistance as they fight for justice, or experiencing challenging relationships, or no relationship at all. Life can be brutally tough. Like you, I often question where God is in the quest for justice. I have landed on Martin Luther King's assertion, "*The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.*" But in spite of that firm belief, I also know mortality, none of us escape death or hardship.

I believe in resurrection. I believe in life and love eternal. But in this lifetime, we are called to live "*on earth as it is in heaven*", no matter the consequences. That means, often, the hardest thing and the right thing are the same thing. Taking up our cross means hard decisions, hard conversations (for us, as well as the other), hard choices. My theme this Lent-Easter season is "**doing the hard thing is often the right thing**".

Join me this Lent for our **Faith Study** every Tuesday (except Holy Week) **February 6<sup>th</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>**, **Good Friday March 29<sup>th</sup> 7 pm** and **Easter Sunday March 31<sup>st</sup> 10:30 am**.

A recent survey of United Church of Canada members revealed the most cherished symbol, words, actions, of our church in our nearly 100 years of existence was...The New Creed, "*We are not alone, we live in God's world...*" As we travel through Lent, toward Easter, know you are not alone. The hard thing is often the right thing.

Peace, Kevin

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