

On March 12th 2020, I finalized my President's Report for the Region and sent it off to be included in the Annual Report to the Annual Meeting. Little did I know that two days later, the world that I had addressed would change forever.

I wrote about transformation as we lived into our new structure. Well, we had transformation all right. As we lived into a new reality brought about by the COV-SARS2 coronavirus. Some of the transformation has been amazing. Some of it has been incredibly sad. Still more has been awesomely enlightening. I feel safe in saying most of it was hard – even the good stuff.

After years of suggesting to congregations that we had to get out of our buildings and reach into the world, we suddenly found ourselves outside of our buildings. They were no longer safe places to be. Some of us floundered for a bit, wondering what to do. Some were up and running within days, looking for the best outlet for me... Facebook? YouTube? Zoom? As well as other platforms.

People met in their cars and worshiped together thanks to FM transmitters and others found worship in their mailboxes and had the time to sit, read and ponder, question and discern. Some found their spiritual lives expanded as they worshiped in St John's in the morning and Toronto in the early afternoon and BC later in the day. People found community in parking lot coffee parties and Zoom social hours.

And in those rare moments when we could sing, we sang quietly, masked to protect others and when the music was taken away, we learned to sing in our heads and our hearts.

I found myself still President. When our ability to gather opened, I was there and when it closed again, I looked for someone to stand for me. I met and got to know people on Zoom that I might never have known under different circumstances and I thank God every day for the opportunity to know and be known.

So, here I sit. It is February 19th and the one year mark is approaching and I wonder... is there anything from my message last year that could possibly apply to the year we just experienced. I was so surprised to find this...

“If I have learned nothing else from our time together, it is that God is at the centre of all we do. That if we continue to focus on the place that God has in the creation, if we continue to focus on following the way... the path that Jesus has shown us, then, well, what can possibly go wrong.”

Hallelujah!

As a year like no other comes to its conclusion, all I can say is... we must continue to focus on the places where we find God in our lives and in God's good creation, and if we continue to focus on following the Way... the path that Jesus has shown us, then, well, we will be faithful through it all.

Blessings!

Audrey