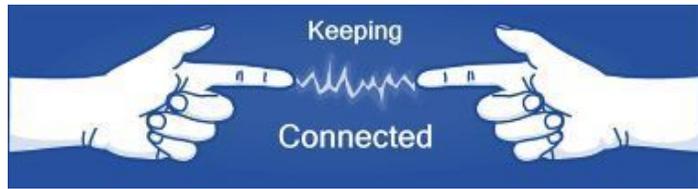


[View this email in your browser](#)



For Sunday April 25 2021

Easter 4



See us on the [WWW](#) - [Facebook](#) - [YouTube](#)

Office: office@stpaulsalmonte.ca Rector: jonathonkouri@hotmail.com



Earth Day 2021

Our service this Sunday will focus on God's creation, with a special liturgy. The words of this liturgy will be available on our web site, in *What's New* to help you participate fully.

A Message from Rev. Jonathon Living In Uncertain Times

The announcement of the latest provincial stay-at-home order - and its subsequent extension until at least May 20th - has created a variety of reactions in people. There

is concern and even fear that the number of new cases and hospitalizations is increasing to levels previously unseen during the pandemic. There is frustration and anger with the government for their actions. Some are frustrated that the government waited too long to enact these new restrictions, while others feel that there are now too many restrictions.



Then there is frustration with the pandemic in general. It seemed as if we were gaining the upper hand. Then (apparently all of a sudden) we were told that things were getting out of control. There is frustration with the lack of supply of vaccines. There is a sense that if we could only get more people vaccinated more quickly, we wouldn't be in this situation. There is a desire to return to a more normal way of life, yet there is also a hesitancy to rush into things too quickly.

New developments - whether good or bad - are happening every single day. It can be challenging just to keep up with the latest news and to understand what the implications are. Many people are weary of the ongoing pandemic and have just had enough.

In summary, we are living in uncertain times. It is easy to understand the fear, anger, and frustration that people are feeling with the situation. These are all very natural reactions to a very difficult and stressful situation.

There are four things that I always try to do when faced with any difficult or stressful situation, and the pandemic is no different. First, no matter how difficult or bleak the situation is, I always try to look the positive aspects to it. With news of so many people getting sick and dying, I am thankful that I have made it this far without getting sick. And I am grateful that I am still alive. I am thankful that I am still employed when so many others have lost their jobs and their businesses. I can also see that there is an end in sight to all of this. There should be enough vaccines for everyone to be vaccinated by the summer, and that offers hope.

The second thing that I try to do is to put things into perspective. I remind myself that we have been able to live with the pandemic for over a year now. It should only be another two and a half months until there are enough vaccines for everyone. And so I tell myself that if we have been able to make it this far, we can surely make it another few months.

The third thing that I do is to try and make the most of a difficult situation. Rather than sit idly by and wait for things to improve, I am trying to make the most of this time, no matter how difficult it may be. I try to find new ways and new opportunities to be creative and productive, when our usual ways of life and work and leisure have been so disrupted.

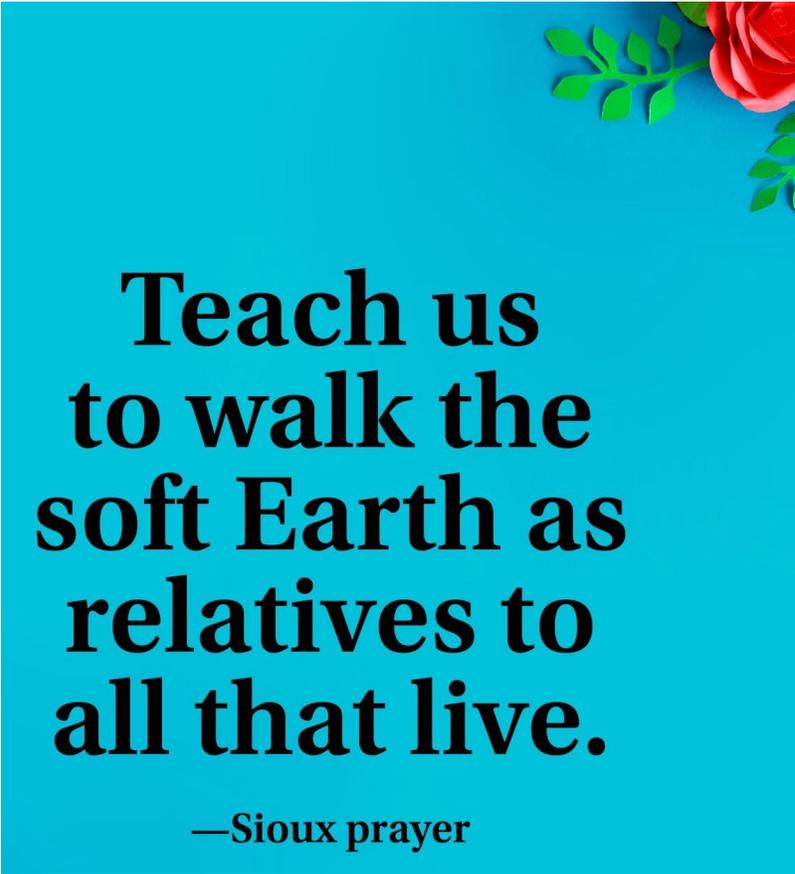
Fourth, and perhaps most importantly, I try to discern how my faith as a Christian makes a difference in a difficult situation. God has given each of us amazing gifts in order to be able to cope with life's challenges, and we should use those gifts. In the context of the pandemic, I am reminded of Bible verses promising joy, hope, patience, comfort, and strength (just to name a few). I am reminded of God's promise to be with us no matter how difficult life gets. And I am reminded of a brighter future ahead.

By using these four strategies, the challenges of life during the pandemic become manageable and there is reason to live with hope during these uncertain times.

Psalm to Virgin Spring by Edward Hays

Drawn upward by some hidden power,
life is cracking the crust of the earth
and bursting forth from limb and stem.
Your aroma, O Life-giver,
Is upon the springtime wind,
and I feel its power
stirring deep within me.
Green is your color, O God,
the green of new life
that lovingly transfigures earth's dreariness,
long held prisoner
by the icy web of winter's cold.
Green up my heart with hope,
in your perpetual promise of life.
Send forth from my soul
new shoots, fresh buds
eager to grow in your divine image.
May this year's visit of virgin Spring
make my heart a virgin once again
intoxicated with wild love for you,
whom I discover in all things
and in everyone.

Submitted by Michael Mavis



**Teach us
to walk the
soft Earth as
relatives to
all that live.**

—Sioux prayer

About Earth Day

Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First held on April 22, 1970, it now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by EARTHDAY.ORG (formerly Earth Day Network) including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries - *Wikipedia*

How can we do a better job of taking care of the planet?

Learn

- EarthDay.org
- [EarthDay Canada - Jour de la Terre](#)
- [By the Numbers: International Earth Day – Canadian consumption facts](#)

Act

- [Take Action](#) (EarthDay.org)
- [How Can I Take Care of the Planet?](#) (EarthDay.ca)

**There are no
passengers on
Spaceship Earth.
We are all crew.**

—Marshall McLuhan, philosopher



Exciting News from Casita Copan!

From Eric Hammond



Casita Copan has a marvellous opportunity to purchase a property as a permanent home rather than continuing to operate out of rented premises. In this regard, they've started a capital campaign to get funds to help with the purchase and thereby reduce their mortgage as much as possible.

My wife Sue and I became involved with Casita Copan approximately 9 years ago, not long after it received permission by local government to operate, and started on its journey to becoming an integral part of community support in Copan Ruinas and the surrounding area.

Casita Copan owes its existence to the big heart and hard work of Emily Monroe, a young lady from the U.S. who had initially come to Honduras as a volunteer teacher. During her tenure at the Mayatan School in Copan Ruinas, she became acutely aware of the dire situation facing too many children occasioned by poverty, and decided to do something about the situation. And the concept of Casita Copan (Little Copan House) was born!

Recently, a local resident of Casita Copan came to Emily with a proposal that was almost too good to be true. He was offering to sell Casita Copan a property he owned for less than market value. Not only was the owner selling the property below market value, it had green space for the children and the building (being currently single story) had great potential for future development. Personally, I encouraged Emily to "go for it" !! This incredible offer of ownership presented the opportunity for a permanent home for Casita Copan and an opportunity to grow.

The decision to purchase this property has been made and I am part of a team

helping Emily to raise funds to put towards the capital cost of the property. Donations of any amount would be sincerely appreciated and put towards a truly worthwhile cause.



Check out the Casita Copan web site [HERE](#) to find out more about it.

You can watch a video about this initiative [HERE](#) (Casita's New Home, narrated by Emily Monroe).

Tax-receiptable donations can be made to this initiative through St Paul's, using one of our methods of accepting donations (cash, cheque, and by bank card or credit card via a third-party secure payment system accessible through our web site "Donations" page).

The Whole Is in the Parts

From Richard Rohr. Daily Meditation. April 19 2021

St. Augustine (354–430) proclaimed in one of his great sermons, “The end will be the one Christ, loving himself.” [1] Paul preceded St. Augustine when he wrote that, in the end, “God will be all in all” (1 Corinthians 15:28). They saw creation as coming full circle.

Both Augustine and Paul are pointing out that the Eternal One has come forth and has taken on form and manifestation in the whole of creation: humans, animals, plants, elements, the galaxies, and all the endless forms and faces that have come forth from God. Everything in creation is the infinite self-emptying of God, and as such has inherent dignity and deserves respect and appreciation.

As Christ told Lady Julian of Norwich (1342–1416) when he showed her a small thing the size of a hazelnut nestled in her hand, “It is all that is created.” Julian understood that “*Everything that is has its being through the love of God.*” [2] Contemporary philosopher Ken Wilber puts it this way: everything is a holon—a part that replicates the whole.

St. Bonaventure (1221–1274) taught that to work up to loving God, start with the easier lesson of loving the very humblest and simplest things, and then move up from there. “Let us place our first step in the ascent at the bottom, presenting to ourselves the whole material world as a mirror, through which we may pass over to God, the Supreme Craftsman,” he wrote. And further, “The Creator’s supreme power, wisdom and benevolence shine forth in created things.” [3]

I encourage you to apply this spiritual insight quite literally. Don’t start by trying to love God, or even people. Love rocks and elements first, move to trees, then animals, and then humans. It works. In fact, it might be the only way to love, because *how you do anything is how you do everything.*

Our job as conscious humans is to awaken early to this innate beauty and goodness in all of creation. Why wait until heaven when we can enjoy the Divine Flow in all of nature now?

Being fully present to the soul of all things allows us to say, “This is good. This is enough. In fact, this is all I need.” We are now situated in the One Loving Gaze that unites all things in universal attraction and appreciation. This is enlightenment and we do not have to sit on

a cushion for forty years to recognize and enjoy it. In fact, I can almost guarantee that we will recognize and enjoy it more as we spend more time in the natural world with slow and quiet realization. And then a leap of deep contentment!



Looking for a challenge?

Lynda Bennett has some jigsaw puzzles to give away:

750 pieces --- 3 puzzles

550 pieces --- 1 puzzle

500 pieces --- 8 puzzles

350 pieces --- 1 puzzle;

300 pieces ---- 5 puzzles (3 have large-sized pieces)

Interested? Call Lynda at 613-256-5013 to arrange a pick-up.

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Easter 4

Click on a reading to see the text from the
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) on the Bible Gateway

- First reading: [Acts 4:5-12](#)
 - Psalm: [Psalm 23](#)
 - Second reading: [1 John 3:16-24](#)
 - Gospel: [John 10:11-18](#)
-



Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty, and restore all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ. We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace, to the glory of your name. Amen.

In the World. The Nippon Sei Ko Kai – the Anglican Church in Japan. Pray for Casita

Copán - a home away from home for at risk children in Honduras.

In Canada. The Rt. Rev. Todd Townshend, Bishop, and the clergy and people of the Diocese of Huron.

In our Diocese. The Rt. Rev. Shane Parker, our bishop and Michael Bird, our assisting bishop; St. Mark the Evangelist, Ottawa - The Reverend Julian Campbell; Parish of Pakenham (St. Mark's, Pakenham; St. John's, Antrim; St. George's, Waba) and all those who minister there; the Chaplain of the Ottawa Fire Department, The Reverend Canon John Bridges.

In Our Community. We ask God's blessing on local faith communities and on their ministries and, we pray for the people and leaders of this town of Almonte and the surrounding communities that the Lord will help us contribute to its well-being. We pray for the work of the Almonte Food Cupboard, providing food security support for our neighbours - for their volunteers and clients. We pray for the health, safety and well-being of our neighbours in the face of increased numbers of covid-19 cases in our area and for everyone involved in the distribution of covid-19 vaccines.

In Our Parish. We pray for Jonathon, our priest, for ourselves and for each other. We ask for God's healing hand to cover our members who are struggling with health issues. We ask for God's blessing on our members Victoria and Chris Fabricius, Cathy and Michael Gallagher, Cathy and Jeff Gayton, Sally Gentry and Helen Gilhooly. We remember our neighbors, especially Assad, Alsit, Lana and Elias.



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