

Good afternoon everyone,

How are you all? I mentioned in one of my earlier notes that we were tired of all this, but that was 6 weeks ago when we didn't know the half of it. I'm sure it's not just me, but I can hardly remember what life was like before COvid 19. It seems so long ago that I went where I wanted, and did what I wanted, and with who I wanted, hugs and all. But now I'm almost used to this, in a weird kind of way... Of course, I know it's Definitely not like that for everyone.

When Scott and I go walking, I see groups of people, mostly in the parks- are they from the same family? Are they friends? Why aren't they "socially distancing"? (who knew that phrase would make it into our dictionaries?) Do people inherently need to be near each other? I keep thinking, "For where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there with them." *Matt 18:20* I understand what it means, but do I really? Gathered – how? How far away did the disciples sit from each other, and from Jesus? I can't see the table where the Last Supper was shared-being so large that everyone sat 6 cubits apart (using the old Hebrew measurement – elbow to finger-tip)) But maybe they did, and we are just used to seeing them gathered (!) around the table, elbow to elbow, in all of those paintings. I know we have become a 'virtual' world these days because we have to, but is it a good replacement? "Yes," said every mother and grandmother last Sunday, "It's all we have for now." We all agree that somehow it just doesn't seem like enough. Conference calls, birthday parties, music concerts, graduations, are all happening online. I have taken part in a couple of 'Zoom' meetings/classes ...don't ask. I am a face-to-face person, so I can't wait until I can see the face of the person I'm talking to – in real life, so I can tell if they're smiling, nodding in agreement, staring out the window, or rolling their eyes.

You'll see in the Prayers of the People this week there are lots of blank lines. It's my hope that You will write some of the prayers yourself. It's a kind of fill-in-the-blanks prayer. You can pray as you go along, or you may want to make a list ahead of time, it's up to you. God hears our voices and knows our hearts, so please know that whatever you 'pray' it will be received with Unconditional Love. (and spelling doesn't count)

Thought for the Day *"Proximity isn't necessary for nearness."*
Gilmore Park United Church Sign
blessings, Brenda