

Pastor Andrew Gilliland  
Charing Cross Pastoral Charge – FB LIVE  
14 August 2020

Scripture: Psalm 67

Hello everybody and good morning once again to another Facebook live message. My name is Andrew Gilliland and I am the minister of Charing Cross United Church and Wesley United Church they are the churches that make up Charing Cross Pastoral Charge. Today is the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2020 and we have had a couple meetings over the last week and so I have some information to share. Before that though if you have your Bible handy please turn to Psalm 67 as that will be our reading this morning.

I already sent a letter out about this to our email list but here is some information about returning to in-person worship on 06 September that is the Sunday of Labour Day weekend. At this time, we are only opening Charing Cross United Church and so are only planning one service to happen each week and it will begin at 10AM. You will not be able to enter the building, unless you are helping in some way with the service, until 9:30AM. We will only be using one set of doors which are the doors right by the big gravel parking lot. All other doors will remain locked with signs on them identifying where to go. We will have music but no congregational singing for the time being and all people will have to wear a mask for the duration of their time in the building unless they are speaking or singing.

We will have some pews marked off and lines marked out with 6 feet of spacing to help people remain physically distanced from each other. We are still going to live-stream the service but due to copyright laws we will not be able (at this time) to live stream any music that does happen. This means that even though church might start at 10AM in the sanctuary we probably will not be live until after that as we will begin the service with some music. The only parts that will be live will be the reading of Scripture, the message, the prayer after the message and the announcements which for the time being will be moved to the end of the message.

With this in mind we also ask that you RSVP that you plan on coming to church and which dates you plan to attend. You can do this through this Facebook page, by calling the church office number (519) 352-8460 or by emailing us at [charingcrosspc@gmail.com](mailto:charingcrosspc@gmail.com). All this information will be posted in the description for this video. If you do not RSVP you can still attend but please if you can let us know that you plan on coming and what dates you plan on coming. This will make

it easier for us in planning and preparing for a return to worship in the sanctuary each week. If you do plan on attending worship in person we are required to keep track of who you are and your contact information and so with the letter that was sent out was also a pre-screening form, we ask that if you can that you fill that out before coming to church each and every Sunday to make entering the building go a bit quicker and hopefully smoother. We will have these forms available on each Sunday morning but filling out the information before hand will make things a lot easier as we return to the building.

Church is going to look and feel a little different compared to what we are used to. I personally am excited to be able to preach in a room of people again and not just by myself in my home office. I am also excited about the new feel that worship will have to it, the order of service will be different, some of the music might be unknown and we will not be able to have any fellowship time after service but for me it is going to be new and so in some regards it is going to be exciting. Will we do anything different during worship that people like and so we implement it into all of our future worship services even when this pandemic is over. It is exciting to think about the endless possibilities and things that could change but is also just great to be able to meet together again. If you cannot be with us in person though we will still have an online portion of the service. I will also continue to send out a pdf copy of the worship service each week for those that like to read it.

Because of these changes in September and also because I will be driving 6-8 hours next Sunday once service is completed, we are going to change the start of our FB live message next week the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August to 10AM. Roy Dusten will be filling in for me on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August and following that will be our first live service from the sanctuary of Charing Cross United Church. I have no doubt we will have some kinks to work out early on and so I do ask for your patience and care during these things that we are trying. We have never done anything like this before and so it is new to all of us and probably new to all of you as well. But let us read our Scripture for this morning, Psalm 67, I will be reading from the New Century Version:

**67** God have mercy on us and bless us  
 and show us your kindness  
<sup>2</sup>so the world will learn your ways,  
 and all nations will learn that you can save.

<sup>3</sup> God, the people should praise you;  
all people should praise you.

<sup>4</sup> The nations should be glad and sing  
because you judge people fairly.  
You guide all the nations on earth.

<sup>5</sup> God, the people should praise you;  
all people should praise you.

<sup>6</sup> The land has given its crops.  
God, our God, blesses us.

<sup>7</sup> God blesses us  
so people all over the earth will fear him.

This Psalm is an acknowledgment that everybody should know, respond to and praise God for the blessing of His salvation. You might have heard the beginning parts of this Psalm somewhere else before as it is a blessing that comes from Numbers 6:24 but Numbers 6: 22-27 gives us some context as well and reads this:

<sup>22</sup> The LORD said to Moses, <sup>23</sup> “Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you should bless the Israelites. Say to them:

<sup>24</sup> “May the LORD bless you and keep you.

<sup>25</sup> May the LORD show you his kindness  
and have mercy on you.

<sup>26</sup> May the LORD watch over you  
and give you peace.”

<sup>27</sup> “So Aaron and his sons will bless the Israelites with my name, and I will bless them.”

This Psalm begins with what we would call a benediction, which is often how the service ends. Psalm 67 though begins with a part of this Israelite benediction and so the Psalmist is pointing people back to what has come before. Psalm 67 also repeats the words “the people should praise you; all the people should praise you” a couple of times. This sort of repetition is often done to try and make a point and the point of this Psalm is that everybody should praise God. In this case it is a message to the people of Israel to share the Word of God with other people and other nations that they too might praise the LORD. For us today it is a similar point, we praise God in the sanctuary, we worship God together whether it

be from on online platform or from being physically present with others, but it should not end their. We should continue to praise God in our homes and workplaces, on our own social media pages so that others may begin to see and understand the love that God has for all of them which will hopefully lead them to praising God as well. A good first step with so much happening online right now is to share this message, share our videos to your own personal Facebook pages. You never know who you might reach or who might end up listening in.

With that in mind please pray with me...

As we finish this FB live message:

(May) The LORD bless you and keep you;

<sup>25</sup> (may) the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

<sup>26</sup> (may) the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

And may you know that the LORD loves you and that we here in the church love you and we hope you join us again next week at 10AM for another Facebook live message.

Cheers.