



Rowandale Reporter

NEWS DEVOTIONS INFORMATION CONNECTION

Buried Expectations

“...he was buried...”

(1 Corinthians 15:4)

We live in a day of disappointment. The current pandemic, along with our protective measures, has already managed to take away much of what we love and look forward to, and it seems there is no end in sight.

School and sports activities, NHL play-offs, Spring Break trips, outings with friends, visits from grandchildren, high school graduation ceremonies, church worship gatherings and more have been wiped clean from our calendars, leaving only square upon square of blank, empty space.

We prefer to speak of these things as having been “postponed” instead of “cancelled.” But, as time passes, we realize that at least some of the things we’ve postponed we will never enjoy. Time keeps on plodding relentlessly ahead, leaving behind a graveyard of dashed hopes and unmet expectations.

When the Apostle Paul summarized the gospel, that which is “most important” for Christians to know, believe, and rejoice in, he reminded his readers that Christ was buried. Christ the Messiah,

the Lord, the hope of Israel—the one who spoke like no one else, who healed the sick, who fed the hungry, and who even raised the dead to life again—this Christ died, and was buried. His heart stopped, his flesh went cold, he was placed in a tomb and shut inside, accompanied by nothing but darkness.

The burial of Christ brought untold grief to those who not only loved and followed him, but had set their expectations on him: “we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel” (Luke 24:21), said the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. In the moment of grief, it must have seemed that all their hopes had been buried in the tomb along with Jesus, never to be seen again.

But, as Paul reminds us, “he was buried” is not the end of the gospel message: “he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:4). The miracle of Jesus’ resurrection happened just as God had foretold, according to the time

God had planned, and by the power that God alone possesses. And along with Jesus’ resurrection from the tomb, the disciples’ hopes were also raised to life again, although in a new, unexpected, and even better way than before.

Belief in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ doesn’t shield us from disappointment in this life. But those who have set their hope on him have every reason to be confident: “For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his” (Romans 6:5). In Christ, every good and godly hope that has been buried will be raised to life again, in new, unexpected, and even better ways than before. Being with him will make up for every loss, and seeing him will outdo even our best expectations. In Christ, nothing that is truly good is ever cancelled, but only postponed, until the day we are raised and reunited with him.—*Pastor Jonathan*

Praise & Prayer

PRAISE GOD that he is in control and cares for his children, even in the most challenging times.

PRAISE GOD that he is always with us, even when we feel isolated and alone.

PRAISE GOD for the practical love and concern our congregation is showing to one another during this time.

PRAISE GOD for the technology we have to communicate with each other during this time.

PRAISE GOD that even amidst all the bad news, the good news of Jesus Christ is still true and wonderful and changing lives for eternity

PRAISE GOD for spring weather (eventually!) and the ability to enjoy fresh air

PRAY for those in our church who are facing potential job loss or reduced hours at work.

PRAY for those who own businesses and have to make difficult decisions such as laying off employees or temporarily closing.

PRAY that our members would seek the Lord during this time, renew their commitment to him, and be diligent in prayer, reading God’s word, and living for him.

PRAY that parents would model faith and not fear before the eyes of their children.

PRAY that we would be wise in loving our neighbours during this time, maintaining distance as necessary but showing concern and care as we are able.

PRAY that through this challenging time, the Lord would do a mighty work of renewal in our church, and that he would turn the hearts of our friends and family members and community to saving faith in Christ.

YOUTH UPDATE:

Pastor Dave has been using video conferencing through the week and hosting Youtube live events on Fridays to connect with Rowandale youth. Go to rowandale.ca/youth-ministry to sign up for the weekly email for more information or email dmiller@rowandale.ca

Offering without the basket*

1. Mail a cheque to the church or drop it off in the mail slot at the Rowandale Avenue entrance. 162 Rowandale Ave, Winnipeg, MB R2K 0A5

2. You can contact our treasurer, Jason Nickel to get set up for regular withdrawals from your bank account (use this option only for regular, ongoing donations)

3. For one-time online donations, you can use Canada Helps (<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/>) and search for Rowandale Baptist Church. The funds will then get forwarded to us. (If using this method, note that your charitable donation receipt will come from Canada Helps, and not directly from Rowandale.)

***Cheques that have already been sent to church will be processed the week of April 6th. Thank you for continuing to support Rowandale Baptist Church during this time!**

Due to COVID-19, access to the church building is currently limited to staff, except by permission. Please Call:
Office: 204-338-1174
Pastor: 204-997-1977
Trustee: 204-795-3572

ROWANDALE BAPTIST CHURCH
 162 ROWANDALE AVENUE R2K 0A5
 204-338-1174 office@rowandale.ca

rightnow MEDIA

To access your free subscription, go to: www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/RowandaleBaptistChurch
 NO PASSWORD IS REQUIRED

Sunday Worship Services

At this time we are pre-recording the various segments of Sunday worship (singing, sermon, etc.), which are then published on our church blog: <https://www.rowandale.ca/blog/> on Sunday morning before 10 am. These services can be viewed anytime after they are published, but we encourage you to keep the rhythm of Sunday morning worship in your life and family. It may seem awkward at first to sing in a living room alone, or with a few family members, but once that initial awkwardness is overcome, it can be a sweet time of worshipping our Lord and hearing from his word together. Note: Each week, Pastor Jon will email a written sermon manuscript that can be printed and distributed to those who aren’t able to watch the sermon video on our website.

Good Friday and Easter

Because of the present circumstances, we will be unable to gather together to remember our Lord’s death and observe Communion on Good Friday, and celebrate his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Nevertheless, we are planning to pre-record a Good Friday and Easter Service and publish those on our church blog at 10 am on those respective mornings. We encourage you to “join us” by worshipping together with us at that time in your homes. Beyond the prerecorded singing, prayer, Scripture readings, and sermon on our website on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, we hope you will take time as families or as individuals to reflect and remember the events of Passion Week, and rejoice in what our Lord has done for us through his death and resurrection.

Zoom Prayer Meetings

Our first online prayer meeting using the “Zoom” platform was a success, with about 15 people in attendance. Our plan is to continue having the online Zoom prayer meetings on Sunday evenings at 7 pm. Look for a link in a weekly Friday email with instructions about how to join that meeting. We look forward to having you join us!

Follow us on Facebook or visit us online at www.rowandale.ca

If you haven’t yet gone to our church’s website to enter your email address for future updates, please do so ASAP, even if you are already on the prayer chain. Go to www.rowandale.ca, scroll down to the bottom of the page, and enter your name and email address. Please note that we want to move to that communication system instead of the prayer chain in the near future.