



## Minister's Message

Once again, we are approaching the high point in the Christian year when we recall Jesus' death and celebrate his resurrection. On Easter morning, God began the work of creation anew, breaking the power of sin and death and giving us the promise of eternal life.

But there is a long way to go before we get to Easter. First, we journey through the Season of Lent. Lent was originally the forty-day period when new Christians prepared for baptism. The number forty in the Bible symbolizes both testing and preparation. It reminds us of the forty days and nights Noah and his family spent on the ark, the forty years the Israelites wandered in the desert, and the forty days of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. During Lent, I encourage you undertake a spiritual practice, such as daily prayer, Scripture reading, or meditation. I am happy to suggest resources to help you.

Lent is traditionally a time for "giving something up," but I like to think of Lent as also a time for "taking something up" – helping a neighbour in need, volunteering, or giving an extra donation to a good cause. The point of Lent is to examine our faith and to prepare our hearts to journey with Jesus to the cross.

Thankfully, we are (once again) coming out of some COVID restrictions. It looks like we will be able to celebrate Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter in our beautiful sanctuary. Great news!

We will be celebrating Holy Communion on March 6. If you or someone you know is not able to attend church during Lent, and would like to receive communion at home, please don't hesitate to contact me. You can email me at [paulridleymiller@gmail.com](mailto:paulridleymiller@gmail.com) or phone me at 905-321-4309.

We are hoping to have a Palm Sunday breakfast after church on April 10. Won't it be wonderful to have that time of fellowship and community together?

This is a time of transition and change for Westminster. At our Annual Congregational Meeting on February 6, we voted to partner with the United Property Resource Corporation to develop part of our parking area into much-needed rental housing. This will give Westminster a stable and sustainable stream of revenue for many years to come.

We are all hoping that there is some light at the end of the COVID tunnel. I am so looking forward to starting activities and events to bring our congregation together and to reach out into our community. I'm also dreaming of the day when we can talk to one another without masks – but we'll have to be patient as we consider the safety and health of our vulnerable members.

It is a joy for me to be your minister. Westminster is blessed with committed leaders and a spirit of service. I believe that Christ has called us to be the church on Queenston St., and that God has great things in store for us.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Paul Miller