



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL OTTAWA

Easter 2023

Dear Friends,

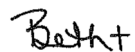
Our Cathedral sits overlooking the mighty Ottawa River and across to the sublime Gatineau Hills – a location and view of which I never tire. Farther west and on the Quebec side of the river, one of my family members has a cottage which I am blessed to be able to use in the off-season. It takes a bit of work to find time in my schedule and effort to pack up and go, but once there, it is all more than worthwhile. With a crackling fire in the stove, a western view of trees and water, and the sounds of silence, everything calms, time stands still, and my soul settles.

When I am tucked away at the cottage, I am reminded of how Jesus regularly escaped to be quietly by himself for a time. Constantly faced with expectations, questions from his disciples, and demands of the crowds, he intentionally paused – to breathe, to just be, to settle his soul, to rest in the presence of the Creator.

Leading up to Easter, Lent and Holy Week are part of a liturgical framework that offer us the opportunity to slow down the hectic parts of our lives and look to our souls. We tend not to do so very willingly – perhaps we are afraid of what we will find, or we think that we are irreplaceable, or we are simply not used to doing so. But when we do, we give God an opportunity to enter in and sit within us, to bring us whatever it is that we need – consolation, peace, encouragement – so that we can return to our lives refreshed.

The good news is that God is always awaiting us, always attentive, always available. So, if your Lent and Holy Week did not provide moments to pause, may the great love and hope of Easter break over you and give you a reason to stop, let your guard down for even a moment, and feel the accepting, calming, refreshing and ever new love of God wash through you. For as surely as the ice breaks and the mighty Ottawa River runs free every spring, Christ breaks through the dark places of our lives and offers new life.

Easter blessings,



The Very Reverend Beth Bretzlaff
Dean