

Pastoral Letter  
July 2026

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well. It was wonderful to celebrate Canada Day with you all last Sunday!

I have been deeply impressed by the way you have come together as one congregation, representing so many cultures and languages. I especially enjoyed watching everyone interact during our Canada Day celebration. The food was wonderful, but the fellowship was even richer. And who says Baptists cannot dance? Some of you dance very well!

Your efforts to remain united have not been easy. Yet, despite the challenges, you have crossed cultural and linguistic divides to welcome one another. That is a courageous act of generosity. As one who served with you years ago, I know that the journey to this point in your congregational life has not been simple. In a world that has become increasingly hostile toward strangers, you have chosen a different path. You have chosen to welcome the stranger as a friend. I know this kind of community can be difficult and fragile, but it can also be a thing of great beauty.

Your life together brings to mind Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*, one of the world's most renowned masterpieces. Painted in the late fifteenth century on the refectory wall of Santa Maria delle Grazie, a Dominican convent in Milan, it was created using an experimental technique rather than the traditional method of fresco painting. Da Vinci painted on a dry wall so that he could capture greater detail and luminosity in the colours. Unfortunately, the painting began to deteriorate not long after it was completed. Through the centuries, skilled conservators have carefully worked to preserve and restore its beauty. The task has required patience, dedication, and love. Why continue such painstaking work? Because the masterpiece is worth preserving. Love has helped protect it so that people around the world may still enjoy it today. Even when much of the convent was destroyed during wartime bombing, the wall bearing "The Last Supper" remained standing.

Preserving something beautiful requires love. Love perseveres, even through difficult times. So my encouragement to the people of Trinity is this: continue working at loving one another. Jesus said to his disciples in John 13:34, "A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

God's invitation to the people of Trinity is to keep going. There will be times when the bright colours of community life begin to fade or flake away, but love patiently restores what has been damaged and renews its beauty. That is my prayer for you.

Peace and joy,

Pastor Tom