Pastoral Letter

November 6, 2026

Dear friends,

As we enter November, we remember those who gave their lives for the freedom we enjoy as Canadians. Their sacrifices must not be forgotten, nor should we take our freedom for granted. We owe them a great debt.

The same can be said of our spiritual lives. Our freedom from sin also came at a great cost. Romans 5:8 reminds us, But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." And Jesus says, So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). These are just two of many biblical passages that speak of our freedom in Christ.

Because freedom is so precious, we must care for it and nurture it. For those of us who follow Jesus, freedom does not mean doing whatever we want. It gives us the opportunity to make good choices—to cultivate healthy relationships, disarm hostility, and make room for friendship. In his kingdom, Jesus has given us his Word to guide us and his Spirit to empower us.

This does not come naturally. We learn it as we trust Jesus and follow his way. He teaches us to love one another with gentleness and humility. In Philippians 2:5–8, Paul calls us to have the same mind as Jesus, who set aside divine privilege and humbled himself in obedience to God.

What does that look like in everyday life? Paul tells us to look not only to our own interests but also to the interests of others (Philippians 2:4). That is quite different from the message we often hear: look after yourself first. We hear it even in political slogans such as Canada First" or America First." But in the kingdom of Jesus, we are invited to look out for one another.

I remember discussing economics with a student. I suggested that much of our economic thinking begins with the assumption that there is not enough for everyone, so we must secure as much as we can for ourselves. Then I asked, What if that assumption is wrong?" What if there is enough to share? What would our world look like if we made caring for one another our priority? What if we did not need armies to defend what we have or take what we want? What would our cities and neighbourhoods look like if sharing and concern for others shaped our common life? Take a moment to imagine that.

Here is the good news: such a caring world can begin right here, in this community of Jesus followers. May the Lord bless you, people of Trinity Baptist Church, as you nurture the practice of looking out for the interests of others.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tom