

Beloved,

## We Come Together

We are together  
We are apart  
We long to gather  
We fear to gather

Some feel brave and venture out  
Some are fearful and remain in place

Some long to escape the confines of home  
Some are using the virus as an excuse to hide out

Some hunger for fellowship  
    even if they have to keep a distance  
Some are unhappy this virus has interrupted their social life,  
    changed the way they live  
    the world around them  
    taken their security, their identity

Some look at how our lives are not what we expected this spring  
    at how the feelings of worry, fear, and anger seem to overcome us – all at the same time  
    at how the loss of our freedoms, the restrictions under which we've been forced to live  
    seem to strangle the joy from our lives  
    at how we're told we have to make changes

Some are working on making the new way better than the old.  
    What baggage can be left behind?  
    What can we do without?  
    Can we find another way to deal?

Some are imagining a new world, a new way of doing their job,  
    of shopping,  
    of taking a coffee break,  
    of doing worship

Some wonder what church will look like  
    Some fear it will change  
    Some anticipate a better way  
    Some confuse going to church with being Church  
    Some are anxious to gather, some not so much

Some give thanks, Jesus left His home  
His Father, His Glory  
To come and live as a human  
To love the unlovable  
To forgive those who wronged Him  
To show God's love to all  
Some doubt Jesus could've done it all

Some look at the coming new day  
and want to go back to bed  
Some want to jump into it  
insisting they be a part of making a better plan  
To be a part of the love which will be given to the unlovable  
To be a part of the forgiveness and acceptance  
which will give new life to another  
To be a part of God's love, shown to a wounded world

We long to come together  
knowing it is by only God's scrappy and unrelenting grace we can do so

Welcome to those who feel they can enter this new normal  
Welcome to those who feel left behind  
Welcome to those who feel they can come into our church building  
Welcome to those who choose to do church from home

Welcome to you - who are Church  
Reflecting God's love from where they are.

Blessings,  
Pastor Tonia