

I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way Jesus our Master has embraced us. (Rom 8:38-39)

Beloved

Nothing new under the sun. Again, a virus is loose, taking lives and livelihoods, cancelling work and play. It seems as we look at the world around us everything was cancelled.

- School – cancelled
- Sports – cancelled
- Shopping - cancelled
- Hair appointment – cancelled
- Vacation – cancelled
- Work – cancelled
- Concert – cancelled
- Bowling – cancelled
- Disneyland – cancelled
- Neighborhood BBQ - cancelled
- Church – are you kidding me – cancelled

It's like life got cancelled. There are times we'd like to have the power to cancel events in our lives. Test – cancelled. That bully over there – cancelled. Second week of below zero weather – cancelled. Coronavirus – cancelled.

What hasn't been cancelled or changed, put on hold or replaced? What's left? What's left is the love of God. The presence of God. The healing, compassionate Spirit of God. The Peace of God. The Grace of God. The knowledge we are loved, forgiven, and blessed. As we travel through the difficult days, the dusty roads, the twisty paths, the steep climbs – God is with us. God's love has never and never will be cancelled.

Things are slowly transforming from a time of quarantine to a time of our new normal. We are slowly being allowed to open doors, participate in everyday activities like going to work, shopping, getting a haircut, and eating out – as long as we stay 6' apart.

Soon our church doors will be open. We will soon gather together to hear the Word of God proclaimed, to taste God's forgiveness, to be reassured of God's presence in our lives. Although we will wait longer than we want to experience the joy of worship, in love for others, we wait. To protect the vulnerable, we patiently put off the day we gather. As we wait, we realize the way in which we reflect the love of God has not been cancelled.

- Being Generous – not cancelled.
- Kindness – not cancelled
- Hope – not cancelled
- The love of God – not cancelled, not now, not ever.

I bid you peace

Pastor Tonia