

## Minister letter

September 15, 2021

Greetings to you all in the name of Jesus Christ who is always with us!

It has been a wonderful summer since I moved to Pincher Creek last July. You've welcomed me with your big smile and hearts and I'm very grateful for your hospitality. I am also really enjoying my new journey in this beautiful town and things that I've never experienced before.

But as we notice, we are still going through the time of uncertainty and facing the 4<sup>th</sup> wave of covid-pandemic. I pray that all of you are deeply grounded in God's presence and protection.

As I read my personal daily devotion, Matthew 10:40-42 reminds me of Jesus' instructions to the disciples he has sent out to bear witness, in word and action...

*"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me...and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple... truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."*

This simple short gospel text describes the heart of hospitality that lies at the centre of Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom of God.

Years ago, 'the banquet' became for me a synonym for 'the kingdom' – specifically a banquet where everyone has a place at the table, every place is one of dignity, and there is always enough for all. All are welcome to the abundant life of God's kingdom.

Only those who exclude themselves are absent from the table. I have asked myself how we can remain rooted in God's great circle of love and grace in times such as ours – times of distress, anxiety and change when we cannot even be together safely.

We are all tired of this situation because it's been a long, strenuous time of living under the siege of many restrictions. It isn't even over yet, and it will still likely drag on for some time.

But the traditional disciplines of faith are critical to stay centred in the Spirit: prayer, personal or communal reflection on the scriptures, creation and acts of generosity and compassion.

Today, it is so important to be connected in the Spirit of God.

Remember that we are the Pentecost people who know that the Holy Spirit can revive us and who will be our strength in times of great distress.

May we all continue to welcome God's invitation to the season of Fall and extend it in our words and deeds. In the love of our blessed Redeemer, we always walk together on the journey of faith.

Stay well until we meet again.

Blessings,

Hyun Heo