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The Long Wait

"My help comes from God, the maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:2

Dear Ones,

As I understand it, today is the day that Ontario moves to Phase 2 of easing out of our pandemic lockdown. Well..... some of Ontario. *Sigh* Not Lambton Shores.... *Sigh*Sigh*

And isn't that hard?

Oh man, there is nothing harder than watching *someone else* eat ice cream! There you are, with your tongue hanging out, and lust in your eyes, but NO ICE CREAM in your hands. While over there.... *Sigh*..... nothing but ice cream. They are *swimming* in ice cream over there. And we will die without ever tasting ice cream again.

Right?

It's amazing how much like a toddler our own minds can be, at times. I suppose it is evolutionary. Maybe it kept us safe in the jungle, or on the African Savannah But I don't know. Maybe it's just that a part of us really doesn't grow up. I just turned 57! But I seem also to be 39 and 23 and sweet 16... and, yes, when it comes to ice cream and who has it when I don't, I can be 2 years old. WANT ICE CREAM NOW!

Sigh

So... what to do? The adult part of our brain is still there. Maybe you have to go find it and ask its opinion. It would say mature and compassionate things like, "we have more cases, we are closer to the border, we want to keep everyone safe." Yup. All true. And it helps.

What also helps is remembering that even if Lambton Shores – or wherever you live (*hello to all the folks who are reading these letters because someone forwarded them to you! I am delighted to have you in our community of correspondence!*) – even if where you live is lagging behind in reopening right now, eventually we will all cross the finish line. We will all make it over to where "normal" is waiting. And we can be patient until then.

On that note, I want to share these encouraging words to the church, shared by our Executive Minister (sort of like our bishop), Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa:

There will be an end to the pandemic.

There will be a vaccine or treatment or something that reduces the threat of it. The question for us is how we live in the in-between time - between what we knew and loved before lockdown and what life will be after the pandemic.

We ought to be able to do that as church because in-between time is the reality for the followers of Jesus who lived 2,000 years ago and whose kin-dom we await!

When you're waiting for the Kin-dom of God, you sure get good at waiting! See? We are *already* pros!

Grace to you, and peace.

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