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A Change in Pace

"My help comes from God, the maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1

Dear Ones,

When this time of physical distance and social isolation began, my first thought was how lonely this would feel for most of us. And what a challenge and change from our regular lives. The shock of our own four walls, the incessant news updates, the crawling anxieties for ourselves and for loved ones. I wanted to reach into that 'dark valley' and remind each of us – myself included – that we are people of the light.

It has been my privilege – and I will add that I think Elise would agree – to have my words find their way daily into your consciousness, and into your hearts. Your many kind responses have touched me deeply, and confirmed my decision as a good thing to do.

But today we start our fourth week in this journey, and like all changes, whether wanted or not, it has become our 'new normal.' We know what it will feel like, we know how we will cope, even if we don't yet know how it will end.

And so, I am asking your indulgence as I make the shift from *daily* letters to you, to letters to you from *Monday to Friday*. Our *awesome* administrator, Janna Oud, has worked uninterrupted for the last three weeks, receiving and forwarding messages, sending out communications, posting Kate Letters. Neither she nor I can sustain this pace, and I know that you would not want us to sacrifice our own needs for rest any longer.

This coming Holy Week is very significant for us, and I am working on special ways we can worship as a community for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The Kate Letters will lead us through each day of Holy Week as well. But Easter Saturday there will be no letter, nor Easter Monday, as both Janna and I will be resting from our labours. A new rhythm will begin.

You can *always* reach me immediately by phone (519-872-0654), and you can reach me *directly* by email (katecrawfordmn@gmail.com). I am not going away (my sabbatical is postponed)! You have given me the profound privilege of calling me into leadership for this time, and I will continue to do my best, God being my helper.

Grace to you, and peace,

Kate

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*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*

