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IT IS
FINISHED!

Easter

☉
HE IS
RISEN!

NASHVILLE ROAD COMMUNITY CHURCH NEWSLETTER APRIL 10 - APRIL 17, 2020

EASTER PARADOX:

"There is no greater grief than Calvary, the crucifixion of the very Son of God by the ones he came to save. There is no greater hope than Easter." - Andy Crouch

Christians are familiar with the balance of grief and hope. Each year at this time we reflect on and celebrate the paradox of death and life that was Jesus' time on earth.

Good Friday - a day we call "good", focuses on the crucifixion of the Son of God. Then the world is still and silent and we struggle for light in the darkness. We know what is coming. Still we see that in that moment - grief and hope collide. Then comes Sunday and the fantastic amazing joy-filled declaration, "He is Risen!"

As we encounter Good Friday this year, we recognize that for so many our world is wrapped in grief. And again, Christians find that paradox, recognizing as many of our normal realities are gone or changed. We grieve with our communities as we care for them and have hope.

We find ourselves in that silent, still day where once again grief and hope collide. When the world seems dark and yet we know He has overcome the world.

If our hope is in Jesus then we grieve in Him and when make room for others to grieve, we can hope to be visited by the Comforter, the Spirit who breathed over creation before it was even formed.

Many of us are grieving this crisis while at the same time continuing to balance and serve with hope. Thank you for creatively discovering new ways to fulfill the mission that God has given you despite the changes and losses. You are reflecting on the Cross and declaring the Resurrection.

We know the moment between grieving and hope does not last forever. When the reemergence comes, there will be changes to what was. The thing that stays the same is that Jesus is with us forever and has overcome the world! "HE IS RISEN!" Live out love!

GOOD FRIDAY:

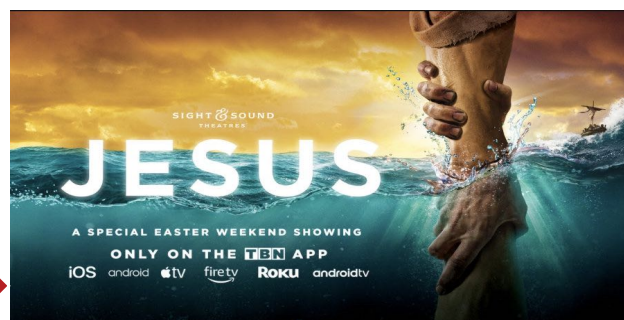
In the absence of a gathering on Good Friday - we invite you to take a time for personal reflection. On the last 2 pages of this week's eNews we have provided a guide that follows Jesus own journey to the cross. We hope it is helpful as you consider Jesus love and sacrifice.

EASTER SUNDAY MORNING:

We're looking forward to gathering under our digital roof to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus online together at 10:30.

SPECIAL EASTER WEEKEND SHOWING OF SIGHT & SOUND THEATRES PRODUCTION OF "JESUS":

For three days only, you can experience the greatest rescue story of all time as it comes to life right in your living room. Sight & Sound Theatres production of "Jesus" is available on TBN, and you can watch it on your favorite device by downloading the TBN app, or stream it online: April 10-12 only!. Click the picture for more details!



FAMILY HAPPENINGS:

> **CONGRATULATIONS TO** Harold & Norma Barker who are celebrating their Wedding Anniversary on Monday April 13th!

> **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO** Kathryn & Clara Martin who are celebrating their birthdays on Monday April 13th!

PRAISE + PRAYER:

There are so many ways to worship God and practice our faith thru praise and prayer. Here are just a few items we can focus on today:

- > Praise the Lord for how He is answering prayers and opening doors to His love and grace during this season.
 - > Pray for and end to this pandemic and for insights as to how to be the church in “*just such a time as this.*”
 - > Pray for the Sutherland family as Lee's father passed away and the funeral was yesterday. Funerals during this season of physical distancing mean no hugging or the physical connection we usually use to support each other - making the process of grieving all the more difficult. Please pray for Lee's mother Karen as she grieves as well as prepares to move from her home of 50 years.
 - > Pray for parents who are both working from home as well as helping their kids with the new distance learning that our students are adjusting to. Continue praying for school administrators and teachers who are also learning new rhythms and procedures for how they can help students learn from home.
 - > Continue to remember Colleen - one of our KCA Jr Kindergarten moms and her young daughter Charlotte. Colleen works in a hospital seeing COVID-19 patients daily and is working hard to juggle new stresses while Charlotte is not in school including driving 1.5 hours each way to take Charlotte to her sisters home for daycare.
 - > Many families normally gather over this weekend and will be unable to this year because of physical distancing. Pray for those who are in self-isolation or are elderly and isolated from family or friends at this time.
 - > Please pray for Ruth Gray as she has an oncologist appointment this coming week. Pray for peace and a good report.
 - > Please pray for Liberty Grace church in Toronto. This week their elders made the difficult decision to end their lease on their meeting space and moved the church resources into storage to begin looking for another location. Darryl Dash is their pastor - pray for him as they continue to meet online during COVID-19 and and look to a future gathering space.
 - > Please continue asking God to heal and touch Martha Lawson's brother Jonathan's body as he struggles with post-concussion symptoms and also his heart with His love.
 - > Continue praying for our healthcare workers - Nurses, Doctors, First Responders. Charissa and Mark Redlich and Judi Guaragna remain heavily involved: Charissa and Judi leading as nurses and Mark leading in the Peel Region emergency response. Please remember them and their families during this stressful time at work and when they return home.
 - > Continue to remember our national and local government leaders as they listen and for wisdom in making decisions during this pandemic crisis. Pray for Caledon Mayor Allan Thompson and Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown and their families.
 - > Pray for Reta Campbell as she ministers in her community in Jamaica in the midst of the COVID-19. Pray for others serving on mission in countries that are struggling during this global health crisis. Check out the GO page on our website for info on some of our global missionaries.
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When you have an item for praise or prayer or become aware of items that we as a community can join together with in praise and prayer - please contact [Melanie](#) in the church office and let her know or [you can click here to share a praise or prayer request from our church website](#)



We're together online!

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM AND THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

CONTINUING TOGETHER!

As family we want to ensure no one feels isolated or alone even as we wisely practice physical distancing. During this season when we're not able to gather under the same *physical roof* - we're excited to gather under a *digital roof* thru our phones, computers and TV's!

Sunday mornings at 10:30 we're joining together online to worship God - continuing to encourage and live out His love in practical ways as good neighbours in our communities.

Our gathering "place" again this week is our NRCC TOGETHER space! It gives us the opportunity to be together from our own living rooms around our city to connect, sing, pray, chat and engage together!

You can head there and check out the interface anytime. If you're new to that - check out the info on the next page for some basic how to's in order to take advantage of our online time together. We go live on Sunday morning at 10:30. So stay in your PJ's if you want, grab some coffee, gather your fam, and click the button below and be NRCC Together!



There are also other ways to stay connected as the NRCC family throughout the week - like Instagram and Facebook too. If you're not already connected on those social media platforms - [just click here](#) to head over to our website where those links are posted to help you connect.



PARENTS AND KIDS TOGETHER!

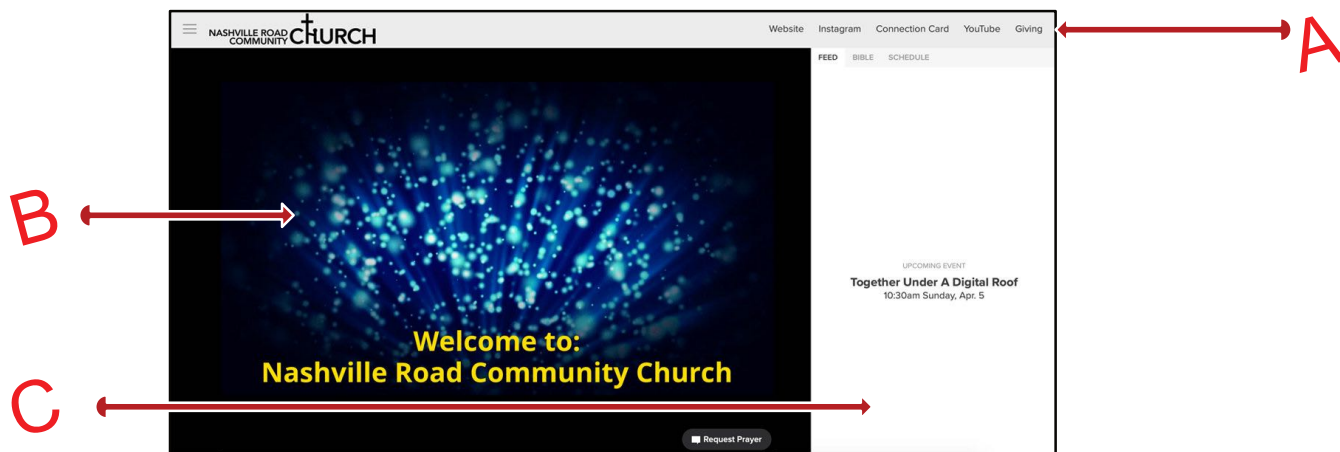
We're excited to have a space where kids can learn about Jesus together with their families! With the help of RightNow Media - we're taking our KidsKonnection activities online Sunday mornings! If you don't have a RightNow Media account - don't worry - it's free and you can get one anytime - [just click here!](#)

During our Sunday morning online gathering you'll get some more info and guidance as to how we envision KidsKonnection @Home - working. So once you've got a RightNow Media account - head over to our [KidsKonnection page](#) and check things out!

QUICK GUIDE TO OUR “NRCC TOGETHER” INTERFACE

Many feel like they’re “drinking from the firehose” in terms of all the technology learning they’re doing in the past few days in order to video chat and connect online. Here’s some info to help you get comfortable with what our new online portal looks like and how you can use it to connect and engage!

In your browser type online.nashvilleroad.ca Once you’re there you’ll see the MAIN INTERFACE



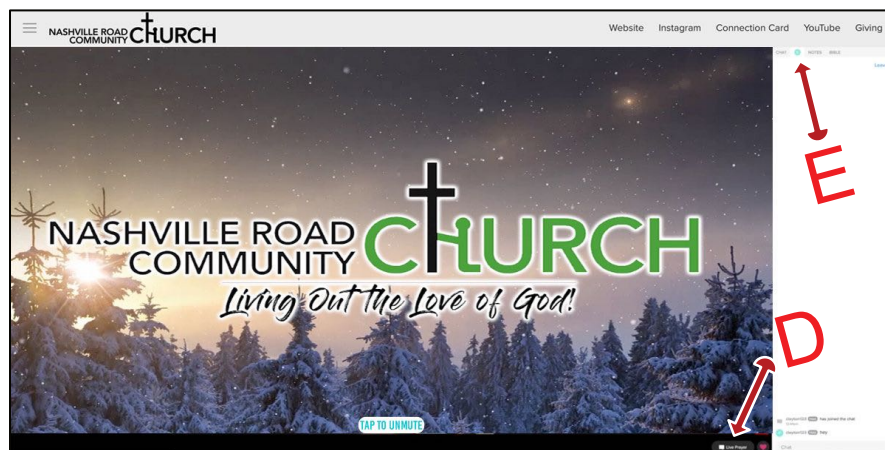
THE MAIN INTERFACE HAS 3 PARTS:

- A)** THE TITLE BAR which has helpful links to our website, our social media, a connection card and online giving
- B)** THE MAIN VIEWSCREEN which is how you’ll view things once we go live
- C)** THE RESOURCE WINDOW which is how you can engage using a built in bible and public chat TABS.

We aren’t live until 10:30 Sunday morning so the main viewscreen will have a looping video on when you arrive.

You can check out the links in the TITLE BAR and the online Bible in the RESOURCE window anytime regardless of whether we’re live or not. The public chat feature will become available in the RESOURCE window a few minutes before 10:30 each Sunday morning. You’ll see the CHAT TAB appear in the resource window at that point and it will remain available until about 30 minutes after we’re finished each Sunday so you can stay and chat as you might if we were in the building on a Sunday. *Just remember the interface can’t provide coffee or Gail’s amazing cookies though!*

AT 10:30: The MAIN VIEWSCREEN will change and we’re together! You should then see something like this:



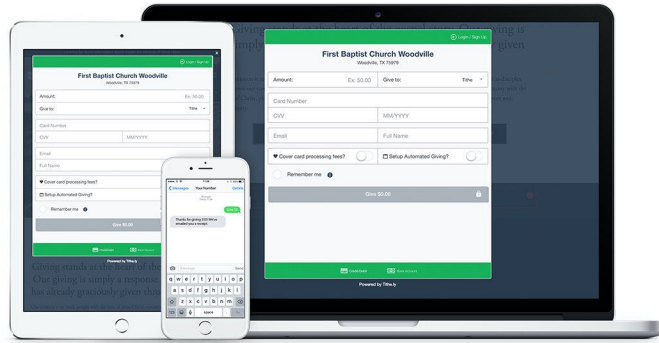
At that point please click the UNMUTE button on the MAIN VIEWSCREEN in order to hear! You can continue to engage using the Public Chat and Bible features - just click their respective TABS in the RESOURCE window.

D) LIVE PRAYER:

During the live gathering you’ll notice **D** a button that enables anyone to request LIVE PRAYER. Live Prayer is private and not public. Once you click LIVE PRAYER another tab **E** will open in the RESOURCE WINDOW that only you will be able to see. If you click that tab you can then chat privately with the host in order to share your request and that chat will not be viewed publicly onscreen by anyone else.

We look forward to engaging together! If you are having difficulty connecting - [please contact us and we’ll help!](#)

NRCCONLINEGIVING



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

The heart of Nashville Road Community Church has always been to show the hope found in Jesus by living out His love to everyone. Generosity is an act of worship that expresses our gratitude, faith and love for others. We are grateful for how God provides for Nashville Road through your generosity of time, talent and finances!

As a church we offer ourselves to serve, and there is never pressure or expectation to give, however we know that it's natural to want to give to a church when you can see how your gifts are being used to benefit the community you live in, so we want to make it easy for you to be generous, should you choose to support the mission of NRCC financially.

We now have the ability to give financial offerings thru a partnership with [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) - an organization recommended by our CBOQ denomination. There are two new ways to give your offering in addition to regular envelopes:



Mobile Giving

You have the option to give from your mobile device via Tithe.ly. Just download the Tithe.ly app for [iPhone / iPad](#) or for [Android](#)



Online Giving

Once you create a Tithe.ly account - [you can give directly from this link to Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly)
You also have the option of setting up an automatic recurring gift if you prefer.



Envelope Giving

We have personalized offering envelopes available at the NRCC building. During this season while we aren't gathering at the building you can still mail an envelope to the church building address.

[Click here to go to the GIVE page on our website](#) for more details, links and a helpful "how-to" video.



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NRCC LIVE OUT LOVE



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STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The "Stations of the Cross" originated with believers who visited Jerusalem and literally went along the way Jesus went to the cross. There are records of their acts of devotion dating back to the 300s. The followers of Francis of Assisi (*Franciscans*) were the great promoters of this practice after they were given custody of the holy sites in Israel/Palestine during the 1300s. The stations are traditional, not strictly biblical. This will require determination and imagination.

Some help for taking this journey:

Identify with Jesus in His journey to the cross. Take an inward journey, remember, grieve, repent.

Receive the love and forgiveness of Jesus in a fresh way.

The New Testament scripture passages are included to help us imagine the scenes.

On your journey, see things through the eyes of our dying Savior.

Visualize Jesus in each of the situations or stations.

See Him there broken, torn, suffering in love. Don't rush by Him as we often do.

Use each "station" to slow down and consider His suffering and be with Him in that suffering.

See the love of Christ & remember God's forgiveness in Him.

STATION 1: JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DIE

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!" Then he released Barabbas to them.

(Matthew 27:24-26a) [Mark 15:6-15; Luke 22:18-25; John 19:1-16]

PRAY

O Lord, may I be moved by this journey. May I make this journey with you and you with me. Your own followers abandoned you at Your hour of need. You were without sin, yet they released a criminal that you might die.

We adore you, O Christ, because by your sacrifice on the cross you have redeemed the world. Amen

STATION 2: JESUS IS SCOURGED

[Pilate] had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

(Mark 15:15b) [Matthew 27:26]

PRAY

All loving God, You endured such pain that we might not have to.

You were wounded for our transgressions and by these stripes we are healed. Amen

STATION 3: JESUS IS MOCKED

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head.

They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said.

They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again.

After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him.

(Matthew 27:27-31) [Mark 15:16-20]

PRAY

Lord of hosts, you could have called down chariots of fire from heaven to destroy the soldiers that mocked you.

Yet you did not speak those words and endured utter humiliation for me. Amen

STATION 4: JESUS RECEIVES THE CROSS

Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).

(John 19:17)

PRAY

O Lord God Almighty, you bear the weight of the whole world – you bore the weight of all my sins, and, though they wearied you, you carried them all the way to the end. To the finish. Amen.

STATION 5: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

And they crucified him.

(Mark 15:24) [Matthew 27:35; Luke 23:33; John 19:18]

PRAY

O Jesus, dear Jesus, though you never sinned, you are hung on the cross. I deserve punishment, not you.

You are there in my place. Amen

STATION 6: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS CLOTHES

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." So this is what the soldiers did.
(John 19:23-24) [Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34]

PRAY

*Lord Jesus, you withstood the mocking and derision heaped upon you, and you faced all with dignity.
Help me to stand with your courage when all is stripped from me. Amen*

STATION 7: PILATE DECLARES JESUS - KING OF THE JEWS

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews." Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."
(John 19:19-22) [Matthew 27:37; Mark 15:26; Luke 23:38]

PRAY

*King of Kings and Lord of Lords, you truly are the King, O Jesus!
Though others denied your authority may I recognize it and submit whole heartedly to you. Amen*

STATION 8: JESUS IS MOCKED FROM THE CROSS

Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save yourself!" In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! Let this Christ, this King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe."
Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.
(Mark 15:29-32) [Matthew 27:38-44; Luke 23:34-43]

PRAY

*O Jesus, on every level you experienced such pain physically, emotionally, and spiritually –
Thank you for forgiving me all the times I mocked you. Amen*

STATION 9: A CRIMINAL TURNS TO JESUS

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."
(Luke 23:39-43)

PRAY

*Jesus, even in the midst of pain there is joy and hope. One criminal turned to you and repented of his sin and is now with
You for eternity. O Lord, help me to see hope in the midst of pain. Amen*

STATION 10: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.
(Luke 23:44-49) [Matthew 27:45-56; Mark 15:33-41]

PRAY

*Father in Heaven, what did you feel as your Son died upon that cruel piece of wood? As Jesus descended into death for
three days – what did it feel like to experience separation from your Son for the first time? Amen*

STATION 11: JESUS IS PLACED IN A TOMB

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.
(Matthew 27:57-61) [Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42]

PRAY

*Give me the trust, O Christ, that your plans are higher than mine. For even when all seems lost, you're still at work.
Death is not the final word for you, Son of Life, or for any who trust in you. Amen.*