

29 August 2021

Dear Friends of Elmwood,

I'm back from holiday. I hope that, whatever your circumstances might be, you've also found time for rest, renewal, and good old-fashioned fun. Maybe some new-fashioned fun too. Why not?

I've attached material you may use for worship at home this Sunday. This marks eighty continuous weeks of *Common Worship in Separate Places* since the pandemic began.

I hope you've found these written services to be helpful, useful, and needful. I hope they've enabled you to keep in touch with Elmwood, with each other, and with God. I hope they've been a way for God to breathe life and solace into your own spiritual life. If you've not yet used them by praying and saying the words out loud, it's never too late to try for the first time.

I'll endeavour to keep on sending you a service each week, at least until we're 'fully back' to the worshipping life we used to enjoy in Elmwood's Sanctuary, long before we'd ever heard of Covid.

Remember what that was like? Remember the way we used to belt out the hymns and sing the doxology? Remember the sunlight shining through the stained glass windows? Remember what it was like to receive Holy Communion in solemn silence, in an atmosphere of deep joy?

Hold on to those memories.

The Session will soon meet to decide if, when, and how we may re-open the Sanctuary to Public Worship. There will still, likely, be many safety protocols we'll need to follow if we do.

We're not there yet, no. It's a long road to Canaan. But the day is coming. So, watch this space, OK?

Yours in the faith,  
Andrew