

THE CHURCH NEVER CLOSED

I got an email today asking when we were going to reopen the Church.

I wanted to scream at the top of my lungs "The Church never closed."

The Church has been alive, well and active these few months

The couples sitting in the living room watching Facebook services that were done the day before by the minister and a few socially distanced parishioners

THAT IS THE CHURCH, WE ARE ALIVE

The many Zoom Services watching faces of family and church family.

Praying with them, laughing and crying with them but not being able to touch them.

THAT IS THE CHURCH, WE ARE ALIVE

An elderly lady, alone in her house leaving a laptop at the door for me to pick up.

"It's ok Bishop I sanitized it" she said from the window.

I took the laptop to the Deacon or rather put it on the table and backed away.

"It's okay Bill I sanitized it". The deacon spends ½ an hour trying to open the laptop and download Zoom so the Elder could go to Church Sunday night. When he finished he slipped it over to the other end of the table. "It's ok Bishop I sanitized it".

Then watching that elder see her church family, on "Zoom" of course, after several weeks of being alone. Seeing the tears of joy. It's ok they were sanitized tears.

THAT IS THE CHURCH, WE ARE ALIVE

The hours on the phone, talking to people, praying with people, laughing with people, crying with people.

THAT IS THE CHURCH, WE ARE ALIVE

The meals I got dropped off on my door step while I was self-isolating

THAT IS THE CHURCH, WE ARE ALIVE

The many volunteers who bought groceries for elders who could not leave their homes.

THAT IS THE CHURCH, WE ARE ALIVE

Praying with people over the phone, listening to the tears because they could not be at their parents funeral half a country away.

THAT IS THE CHURCH, WE ARE ALIVE

5 or 6 elders meeting in a field beside the church building. With cars between us to ensure safe distancing. Not being able to touch each other, to hug each other, but praying for each other, praying for the world.

THAT IS THE CHURCH, WE ARE ALIVE

A retired priest locked down in seniors residents visiting the others locked down along with her. Worshipping in the cafeteria. Her only complaint... "They won't let us sing"

THAT IS THE CHURCH, WE ARE ALIVE

The layers of skin I have lost washing my hands, sanitizing my hands and then washing them again, each time I enter a house, enter a store, talk to someone on the street, pray with someone.

THAT IS THE CHURCH, WE ARE ALIVE

We, Christians, are the Church and we never closed. The church has been alive and active all this time. The thing that is changing is that we will be able to use our buildings to do what we were doing elsewhere. We will be able to meet together again, socially distancing of course. And that is good.

WE ARE THE CHURCH AND WE HAVE NEVER CLOSED