



October 2020

Dear Friends,

The past six months have been like no other in my life to date. There have been challenges like being an extrovert in a time when we cannot gather with people and finishing my degree online. When I returned to Cochrane Street, it was a challenge balancing being both a mom with kids at home and trying to work full time. Not to mention the high learning curve on how to make it possible for us to continue to worship safely during COVID-19.

Dianne Butler Bass in her book *Gratitude* talks about the importance of gratitude. Even in this challenging time, I have much to be grateful for. I am thankful for my family whose support and laughter bring me joy each day. For the beauty of this place I call home and for wonderful friendship.

I am thankful for our church community here at Cochrane Street United Church. Thank you for being patient as we learned how to worship online, for learning new technologies, and joining us for worship. I am grateful for the church council and every congregation member who worked tirelessly so that I could return to school. Your support made my dream possible. Thank you.

As we navigated figuring out how to make worship happen virtually, I am thankful for Evan who works alongside me, troubleshooting Zoom, recording solos, editing videos, and helping me make my ideas for virtual worship come to life. It is a privilege to work with Evan. I am thankful for the newest member of our team, John Williams, who is making it possible for us to stream our worship services every Sunday for those of you worshipping online. I am thankful that we are able to worship in person and online.

We do not know what the future holds, but I know that together by God's grace we will find a way forward. You have shown this in your generosity, in your willingness to learn new ways of worshipping and adapting to this new normal. Thank you.

May God's blessing be with you and yours this Thanksgiving.

Yours in Christ,

*Rev. Miriam*