Graduation Season
by Ola Harrison

Graduation season: preschool, kindergarten, middle school, high school, college, and graduate school abound in springtime. But how has the quarantine against Covid-19 changed the way we celebrate?

Public celebrations in many locations have been canceled. So how do congregations practicing physical distancing recognize graduations for the rites of passage they are? It seems to me that if Jesus walked among us now he would be speaking the language of the virus.

In his faded jeans, well-worn motorcycle tee shirt, and threadbare sneakers, he’d speak of new life in terms of love gone viral. I can hear him saying something like: “You have heard it said that you are to keep apart physically but I say to you in these times of separation we must care for one another’s spirits. We must champion the Good News that draws us together in unity even as we submit to the health protocols designed to protect us.” “You may have heard that the Gospel never changes so the way we speak Good News and put it into action can’t change either.

But I say to you to consider virus cells and how they change. They change their protein coats depending on the type of tissue where they are residing. So those who follow me must remember that Love with Justice is the message but our methods may be changing considerably from what we were originally taught.”

HONORING GRADUATES OF 2020
God of Wisdom, we give you thanks,
FOR YOUR CONSTANT PRESENCE, FOR THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE AND LEARNING. We give you thanks especially for our graduates, (List of names). We celebrate their accomplishments even while we cannot be physically present with them because of quarantine requirements.

GIFT THEM WITH KINDNESS AND COMPASSION; LET THEIR LOVING ACTIONS ALLOW YOUR GOOD NEWS TO “GO VIRAL” AROUND THE WORLD. Awaken their minds to the wholeness and fragility of creation; grant that they may remain curious about the nature of things. Make them quick to respond to the needs of your people everywhere with the particular gifts you have endowed to each of them.

GRANT US THE GRACE TO SERVE WITH THEM IN THE UNITY OF THE BODY OF CHRIST. Unite us through your Holy Spirit that we may navigate the changes in life and society, that in all circumstances we will be Doers of your Word.
BIND OUR HEARTS IN CHRISTIAN LOVE. AMEN AND AMEN.