

March 20, 2020

My Dear Church Family,

What a time this is for us all! None of us could have imagined where we'd be today just a few weeks ago. And yet with all the surprises to us, God is in no way surprised. Even though we don't have answers to so many questions, God says to us, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10). Let us hold tightly to this great and precious promise during this time.

We have determined that it is best not to meet for services or other activities the next two weeks. But I want to tell you that we are not canceling worship this week. While we are postponing the gathering together for the next two weeks, we will worship! And we can do it together at the same time in our own homes. No, it won't be the same. We will all miss being together. But after prayerfully discussing the matter, the Session has decided this is the wisest action to protect our congregation, to help protect our community and healthcare system, and to honor the recommendations of our governing authorities.

For the next two Sundays, March 22nd and 29th, we will send (and post on our website) a link to a video as well as a worship guide. You will be able to follow along, and we can all worship together in this way. Check your email or our website on Saturday for further details.

One aspect of our worship that we cannot facilitate via video is our giving. During this time, you can mail your gifts to the church. We will also be providing an online giving link in the coming weeks.

We are following the recommendations of health professionals and our governing authorities for the next two weeks, and we will continue to do so as we decide about future Sundays. We will also continue to communicate these decisions to you via email and our website. We are all looking forward to being back together soon!

If you have any needs, know that your church family stands ready to serve. Our deacons are prepared, along with other volunteers, to bring you supplies or serve in whatever way we are able. Please don't hesitate to contact any officer in the church.

Your elders have met this week and spent time praying for you, and we will continue to do so. Please let any of us know any specific prayer requests you may have.

If you have questions, please ask me. I am grateful to be your pastor!

In Christ, Seth