



SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

March 20, 2020

Dear Beloveds:

I hope that in this time of upheaval you are finding times and places of grace and wonder, rest and renewal. In every disruption in life there are things we can learn to enhance our lives as we move forward. I invite you to take the opportunity to use this time to assess what is really important and continue to embrace that when we emerge out of this time of interruption of our regular lives.

We have received from Bishop White this morning a Pastoral Directive outlining the immediate future for the churches in the Diocese of Kentucky. First and foremost is the following:

Effective March 20, all in-person worship and parish meetings, studies, and gatherings of any kind are suspended until further notice. All should prepare for this suspension to last through the end of May.

One piece of good news in the Directive is:

Once it is determined that we can gather again for in-person worship, I will grant permission for the liturgical calendar to be set aside in order to celebrate Easter Day.

I truly believe that this will be a celebration unlike any that we have experienced before. Coming back together after not experiencing worship together will feel like a resurrection that we can each experience. With this in mind we are enclosing cards for donation towards Easter flowers and music. Our altar and church will look a bit different than it would have if we could gather on Easter day proper, but it will be a glorious reflection of the risen Christ – and risen church – nonetheless.

Because we are not able to meet at all together I am working on setting up a Zoom account so that groups can meet. I anticipate Vestry meetings, the Wednesday Awakening the Spirit group, and any others who are interested could meet this way. If you have a group that was meeting (the book club, ECW) that would like to be included, please let me know. We are thinking about adding an online Bible study. If you have any ideas for which you would be willing to be part of leadership, please let me know that also.

There are online resources for those who would like them. Attached you will find a partial list of these. For those of you who do not have computer access we will be mailing you updates and suggestions for getting through this time of not meeting.

In his March 17 letter A Word to the Church, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry wrote: "The primacy of love in the Gospels is given its fullest expression in the shadow of the cross. This way of unselfish, sacrificial love, the way of the cross, is the way of God and the way of life. It is out of this love for our fellow humans, our neighbors, that we forego the blessing of being physically together for worship. In so doing we seek to promote health and healing needed at this time."

I miss each and every one of you. I miss our time together in worship and I miss hearing how your life is going. But if you need to talk, please call. If there is something that we are able to do for you, please call or email. You are in my prayers daily. We will continue to worship together online for the time being and I cannot wait until we can meet again in person.

May God's blessings and peace surround you,

Candyce+