



ST. PAUL'S
ANGLICAN

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March 19, 2020

Dear Parish Family,

I hope this letter finds you well, safe, and protected. It's only been about a week since I last wrote to you all. My, how things have changed in that short time! Here is the latest news with tips on how we can make it through this time together.

- † Bishop's Directive: All live (in person) gatherings have been suspended for at least two weeks. This includes Sunday and weekday services as well as small groups and Bible studies.
- † Please do not stop giving to the Lord's work at St. Paul's. One day this virus will pass; but in the meantime, there is property to be maintained and people with families who depend upon our generous gifts. Remember, in the end, "we give unto the Lord" and that alone is reason to remain generous. You may give directly through St. Paul's website, through Shelby Next, or mail your offering into the church.
- † **St. Paul's will "live stream" Sunday services on Facebook. We encourage you to join us at 10:15 this Sunday from your computer or mobile device.** We will provide a link to the hymns and the liturgy on our website. You may download them and print them out to be used with your family. During the "live stream" service, please chime in on the chat feature if you have thoughts or prayers (keep it positive and uplifting). If you do not have Facebook, consider making an account. It takes all of a few minutes and Bonnie James is willing to help you to delete the account later if you so desire.
- † Since we will only have Holy Eucharist at the church with around 5 people (just table ministers), we would encourage you to gather some red wine/grape juice and some bread for an Agape Meal also called a Love Feast. This is NOT the Eucharist but is closely related and does not take a priest to celebrate. While we take the Eucharist at the altar, you may give each other the bread and wine out of love for Jesus and love for one another with these or similar words, "**We love because Christ first loved us.**" 1 John 4:19-21
- † If you feel more inspired by modern music, Bonnie made available the following link for your edification: bit.ly/2w1ShX9
- † We would encourage you and your household to read, daily and prayerfully, Psalm 91
- † The clergy will be offering a live **Facebook stream of Morning Prayer (Monday-Thursday) beginning next week at 7 am.** Please join us if you are able.
- † Finally, let's use this entire unfortunate time to "love your neighbor as yourself." Reach out to your neighborhood and let them know you care, that you'll be praying for them, and that they can call on you in times of trouble.
- † Finally, please call **Fr. Tripp (843-465-0240)**, **Fr. Korey (785-215-3710)**, or **Fr. John (843-224-4454)** if you need the church to come alongside you, if you are fearful, or if you want to pray with someone over the phone. We will also be available for family size funerals, for last rites, for family size baptisms, and for family size weddings.

Finally, this social distancing is unnatural Christianity. The very Greek word for church – ekklesia - means "a gathering or an assembly of people called-out of their homes to meet together in community." The gathered church is not optional, but sometimes we can begin to take it for granted. They say, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder." May this temporary absence from one another make us yearn to be back together soon; and when we do come back together, let's celebrate the gift of community as never before!

In the meantime, let's use this time to reconnect with family. Play games. Have deep conversations. Worship together. Read together. Pray together. Use this time, personally, to read some great books or to watch some inspiring films. My love to all!

God's Grace and Peace,

Fr. Tripp +

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A Parish in the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina