

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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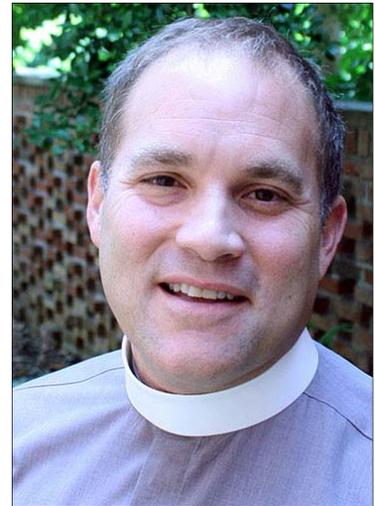
March 14, 2020

Dear fellow Trinitarians,

We are modifying our plans for this coming Sunday activities and services at Trinity Church. Please bear with us as we receive new information at an almost hourly basis.

All large group activities at Trinity are suspended on Sunday—Sunday School, adult classes, breakfast and coffee hour.

As for worship, because large gatherings are discouraged, we will hold one modified service at 10:45 in order to Livestream it so that we can continue to worship together, even electronically. This 10:45 service will not be an in-person gathering at this time. Rather, it will be clergy-led and no lay ministers of the service are required to be present, including acolytes, altar guild, ushers, lectors, chalice bearers, etc.



Now, more than ever, it is vital for us to remain connected to each other in prayer, worship and fellowship. I do encourage you to join us online for the 10:45a service. On Sunday morning we will send, by email, a link to join this service live via YouTube. We encourage you to find a comfortable space, maybe light your own candle and join with your brothers and sisters in Christ. During the Livestream, please join in the Livechat and offer your prayer requests, which may be lifted up during the Prayers of the People. On Sunday morning we will email this link and instructions.

Despite these changes it is important to know that the church is not closed. We are still a community of faith—active, alive, connected and available; we are simply doing church a bit differently, likely through the month of March. During the coming week, we will be developing engaging online opportunities for ministry and connection together. For example, this coming Sunday, Debbie Cox will be holding an online Sunday School for youth to check-in, pray together and support each other at this time (they will get details on that shortly).

During times of crisis it is vital for us not only to come together but to be the people of God by leaning in, not pulling away. Of course, follow the guidelines, don't put yourself at risk and at the same time put some extra effort to be connected to your fellow Trinitarians. There are so many ways for us to stay connected in our modern age, phone, email, video, Facetime, etc. Do not neglect your prayers for one another and for the world. Again, this coming week we will be back in touch with some specific pathways to help us do this.

The Church of the Advocate will be preparing and offering a "to-go" meal on Sunday afternoon. Of your mercy, remember in your prayers those who will suffer from this virus beyond those who are infected, the poor, the hourly worker, children who have no other safe place to be but school. Again, the church does not close up in a crisis, we lean in.

Additionally, from what we have learned from health experts and professionals, the single most important part of our collective response is to limit large in-person gatherings, which helps to slow the spread of the virus so that our health care systems and professionals are not overwhelmed. This is a profound and vital way we can care for our neighbors and the most vulnerable at this time. Therefore, all other meetings at Trinity are suspended for the coming week. However, whether in the office or from home our staff will be available to all.

We will stay in close touch by email with updates. If you know of a Trinitarian that does not get electronic communication, please be a friend and reach out to them with this information—print this out and put it in their mailbox!

With that, I offer this prayer,

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the living of these days. Give us the courage and strength to know you are present and beside us; give us the grace to forgive ourselves and others; give us the strength to support each other, those in need, and continually offer our thanksgivings for those who put themselves at risk in our medical professions; give us the wisdom to know what to do, what to say, and when; and in your mercy, O Christ, guide us so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scott and the Vestry of Trinity Church