

A Way Forward

Dear Members and Friends of Prince of Peace,

During these difficult times, please know that I pray for all of you daily, and trust that you are praying for me. But today, I want to give you my plans for “a way forward” as our congregation.

First of all, I will not be inundating you with information. I have received boatloads of information, cautions, advice, and remedies. Some of it has been helpful, but most of it has just been “too much.” The best information is available from the World Health Organization (WHO) or the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Facebook and Twitter are not always the most reliable sources!

However, I do plan on sending you a note at least once a week and will also provide you with worship resources every weekend. If you do not receive these resources, please know that everything we send out will always also be available on our website – www.princeofpeacedublin.org.

Secondly, I do not think we will be able to gather for Holy Week and Easter. We have already prepared worship for Lent 5 and Palm Sunday. These will be sent to you each Saturday. (BTW – I was able to find some palms from last Palm Sunday to bless and wave in our Palm Sunday Worship. 😊!)

For Holy Week, I am working on a Daily Devotion for Monday through Saturday. These are days we would normally be gathering, so I have decided to send out devotions for each of these days. It will be distributed via email on the evening of Palm Sunday, April 5th.

For Easter, Jeremy and I are hoping to gather a few choir members and raise the roof here with shouts of “Alleluia! Christ is risen!”. We also hope to have a video to send you for that service on Easter Day. Stay tuned for details.

Thirdly, while I have been disappointed with the federal response to the COVID19 pandemic, I have been extremely proud of our Governor, Mike DeWine. Rather than assessing blame and moving too slowly, he has acted with purpose and courage to stem the tide of this scourge. His leadership has been a model for our entire nation, and I beg you to continue to heed his warnings and follow his

advice. He has listened carefully to the scientific community and medical professionals, and that is exactly what we need in this unprecedented time.

Fourthly, we are not in a financial crisis at our church. Our giving for the year had been very good through the first week of March, and your leaders had set money aside in the event of a disaster. However, we do not have unlimited resources, and when we do not gather for worship, our offerings suffer greatly. As you are able, I encourage you to mail in your offerings and/or use the Breeze App to keep up with your giving and meet the ongoing needs of our congregation.

Finally, I do not know of anyone in our congregation who is currently suffering with the coronavirus. But I also know that we are not immune to the ravages of this pandemic. Continue to hold one another in prayer. Continue to practice handwashing and physical distancing from one another. And continue to trust that God will lead us through this current crisis.

In Christ,

Rev. John D. Morris, Senior Pastor