

March 17, 2020

Dear Members, Friends, and Staff of Prince of Peace,

As of today, I am suspending all activities at Prince of Peace until further notice. Our Bishop recommends that we shut down for at least 8 weeks but I am still hoping to salvage some of Holy Week (April 6-12).

Please, please, please just stay home. By distancing ourselves from one another, we will allow this virus to come and go with minimal impact.

We will not meet for worship or Bible studies or choir or any other events. I would also like to keep the church “shut down” so that when we return, we will know that the virus is not anywhere in our facility.

Every couple of days, I will be sending out an update and prayers to all of you. And on the weekend, I will send out an abbreviated worship for everyone – readings, prayers, a few hymns, and a sermon.

Shutting down our church is easily the hardest decision that I have ever had to make, and yet I believe that it is the right decision at this time. I am very concerned about our elderly and at-risk population. We have to do everything we can to keep them safe.

I am currently reading through the Gospel of John. Everyone knows the “first sign” that Jesus gives to his disciples when he turns the water into wine at Cana. How could you forget that one?

But hardly anyone remembers the second sign in Chapter 4:46-54. There Jesus tells an official that his son will live. Jesus never visits the young boy, never touches him, never even says a prayer over him. And yet Jesus tells the royal official, “your son will live.” (Jn 4:50).

As the father walks home, some people from his household meet him and tell him that his son is recovering.

The father asks, “What time did this happen?” And then the Father realized that the young boy started to recover at the exact same time when Jesus said, “Your son will live.”

Jesus has told us that we will live. Our current separation is part of the recovery. And when we are finally able to get back together, we will have a party to celebrate that love and healing that can only come from God.

I will be with you through all of this. Pray for me as I am praying for you. And before long, we will be back together to celebrate our new life in Christ.

Blessings!

Pastor John D. Morris, Senior Pastor