

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ at St. Peter's:

I am writing to bring you news about our life together during this extraordinary time in which we are all asked to maintain "social distancing." While it is important that we do this for the sake of the health of our bodies, we at St. Peter's want to remain together as a community during this time of uncertainty. Together we are stronger than any of our individual parts.

Due to the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus we have had to cancel all in-person worship services and gatherings at St. Peter's for the past two weeks. It now is clear that we will not be able to hold services at the church during Holy Week and on Easter Sunday this year. Because we are still determining the best course of action, we will let you know what we plan to do during that time at a later time.

We are providing a worship service for you each Sunday that you can view at your convenience in your internet browser on YouTube. A link to the service, along with a large amount of additional resources and announcements can be found by clicking on the link to "St. Peter's and COVID-19" on our St. Peter's website, <https://www.saint-peters.org>. Please take the time to check out these links and please, read the weekly newsletter so that you may remain up-to-date with what is going on at the church.

Each night at 8PM, we are holding an online foyer group and a service of compline on the Zoom platform. Please join the group whenever you can so that you can connect with other friends and parishioners. (The link to the Zoom meeting is also on the website.)

Our Lenten program will resume as an online class on Zoom on Wednesday, March 23rd. We will continue to study the history of the King James Version of the Bible. This will continue for two additional weeks after that, on April 1 and April 8. The link to the Zoom meeting along with links to handouts for this program can also be found on our website. The class will begin at 6:50PM and run until 8PM at which time we will join together in a brief service of Evening Prayer. (The text for that is also on the website.)

While our performances of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* had to be cancelled, there is hope that we might be able to reschedule at least some of the performances later this year.

Sadly, our Shrine Mont weekend in late April has also been cancelled. You will receive an email soon about how we are planning to handle your deposits.

In the meantime, please stay in touch with each other, pray for all impacted by this virus, and, following the CDC's guidelines, assist each other through this time. Please contact the parish office if you have any pastoral needs with which we assist you. There is a form on our website on which you can indicate any needs you might have or ways in which you are willing to assist others in this time or need.

Please pray for and reach out one another during this time. Together we are stronger than any of our single parts.

Let us join with other members of our communion and our community in praying the following collect:

Almighty God, we entrust all who have been affected by the outbreak of COVID-19, all who will be affected, all who care for them, and all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and for the life to come, knowing that you are already doing for all of us more than we could ever imagine or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Faithfully yours,

Craig+

The Rev. Craig A. Phillips, Ph.D., Rector