



March 18, 2020

Dear Beloveds,

At its meeting last evening the session took action to suspend all church activities at the church building until at least the end of this month to comply with governmental guidelines and expert medical counsel. Toward the end of the month, the leadership of the church will reassess the situation and take appropriate action at that time about how to move forward next month.

This decision means that all worship services – Korean language worship at 9:30 a.m., English language worship at 11:00 a.m., and AWE services – will not meet on March 22 or March 29. We cannot now say with surety when they will open again to an in-house congregation.

This paragraph is particularly important: **We will continue to provide live worship via our radio broadcast every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. It will be a typical service of worship except there will be no one in the pews. You may access the broadcast via our radio partner, WHYL, either on 960 AM or 102.9 FM. The service also is available on our church's website – www.marketsquarechurch.org – by clicking on the radio button on the home page.** The Sunday bulletin will be available every week on our website by clicking the “Worship” tab and then clicking again on “English Worship Bulletin.” You may want to print the bulletin so that you may follow along and participate from your home. We hope you will use this Sunday hour as a way of being in community together even if we are not all gathered in the same location. Social distancing is being required of us but spiritual togetherness is one of our pastoral prescriptions for sojourning faithfully through these days!

All board and committee meetings are canceled through the end of the month as well as all other programming currently on the church calendar.

We are revising our protocols for our Sunday morning community breakfasts for our neighbors so that we'll be able to continue to provide a nutritious meal without compromising current

guidelines on gatherings. ISC will continue to have its food bank open and to provide its essential services. Our housing coordinator and outreach worker, John Wilson, will be working from his home office and meeting with clients on an appointment basis.

Kelly, Ki Nam, and I and the staff want to be as helpful as we can be during these unusual days. Some facilities – retirement communities and nursing homes – are not now permitting visitors from the outside. The various hospitals in the area each have their own visitor policies that seem to change daily. But please reach out to us if you need us. Email or call us at the church. The Deacons also stand ready to assist as well.

It would be thoughtful while we are away from one another to call the people who sit near to you in worship a couple of times and simply inquire about their well-being. Isolation and “staying in” can induce what my friends and I used to call “cabin fever.” So, think about each other and practice kindness.

We will continue to be in touch with you via the Sunday bulletin that will be published every weekend on our website as explained above. The “Beacon Light,” our midweek email, will continue to be sent on Wednesdays. Important news and some posting of spiritual solace also will be shared on our Facebook page and our website. (If you are not now on our “Beacon Light” email distribution list, please let Nancy in the office know you’d like to be. It may not quite reach Pulitzer caliber, but it’s a superb way to stay in touch.)

We’re going to make it through these weeks. Use good hygiene habits. Pray. Stay connected from a distance. We belong to the Lord and it doesn’t get any better than that. And we belong to each other, and that’s pretty good, too!

May the peace of the risen Christ be with us all!
See you on the radio on Sunday!

Tom Sweet, Kelly Wiant, and Ki Nam Lee

(Though written and prepared by Tom, “Beacon Light” is sent from the computer of our Ministry Support Administrator, Nancy Sheets, who maintains the mailing list. If you would like to respond directly to Tom, please use his email address: sweet@marketsquarechurch.org If your email address changes, please notify Nancy at sheets@marketsquarechurch.org)

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