

Dearly Beloved,

Now that you have received Bishop Russell's message regarding our Diocesan response to the coronavirus (CoVid19) I want you to know our present plans for living together through the wilderness of this pandemic. If you haven't read Bishop Russell's message, please do so before you read my message to you, a beloved member of our Holy Trinity family.

I met with our Vestry last Sunday to develop our crisis management plan and begin acting on it. Our plan was based on the premise that we would continue gathering on Sunday mornings for Worship with changes in some of our practices. Well, as you see that is no longer possible. That is simply to say that what we plan for now may have to be changed depending on how this virus proceeds. None of our planning is based on fear, or hearsay, but on reports from the CDC. What follows are suggestions on how we can live together with God through the wilderness of this pandemic in ways which I believe will strengthen the bonds of our relationships with each other and with our God.

1. Commit to daily Bible reading and prayerful reflection using Forward Day by Day, Daily Readings in Lent which I gave out before Ash Wednesday (more copies are available if you want one, just let me know), Jesus Calling
2. Use Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families, pg. 137-140 Book of Common Prayer. Choose at least one time each day to use, Morning, Noon, Early Evening, Close of Day, and commit to that. If we each do this, we will be connected in a powerful way with those in our parish family who have chosen that same time to pray.
3. Make daily check in phone calls to other members of our congregation if I call to ask you to do this
4. Tune in on Sunday mornings at 9:30 and watch together the 10 minute video on Facebook that Ted Kircharr and I will be offering for our Worship together. I am stepping way out of my comfort zone to try this, but these times seem to call for this to be done to stay connected until we can return to our normal way of gathering for Worship. Please help Ted and me with your feedback.

At a time when you might feel powerless, isolated, afraid, confused, these are ways we can make our present situation work for us rather than against us. I believe that if we do these practices together we will emerge from our present wilderness experience a new and transformed people, more alive, more confident, less afraid, more compassionate, more joyful. For the time being we will leave the “A” word in the ground where we buried it on Shrove Tuesday and journey together on the Way of Love with Jesus towards a joyful celebration of Easter, whenever we come to that day.

In Christ's Love, Fr. Bob