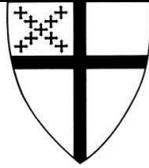


CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES

296 Ninth Avenue, New York, NY 10001-5703
Web Site: www.holyapostlesnyc.org



Tel: (212) 807-6799 • Fax: (212) 807-6821
E-mail: holyapostles@holyapostlesnyc.org

March 16, 2020

Dear Friends,

In light of the deepening crisis brought on by COVID-19 and in solidarity with all who are working to mitigate the virus and its effects, Holy Apostles will shut down all worship services and church programming for two months. As you probably know by now, the CDC has recommended that there be no gatherings larger than 50 people for the next eight weeks. This means that we will not be together in person for Holy Week and Easter. Our Lent will feel longer than we have experienced before but rest assured that we will celebrate the Resurrection together when this crisis has receded.

Christians have always adapted to their circumstances and found ways to connect, support one another and keep the faith. Now it is our turn. The sacrifices we make now are offerings that empower a generous response to these unprecedented times. We will need to be creative, compassionate and prayerful about how to be Church. And while we will honor the physical distance necessary to keep people healthy, we will also commit to continuing our care for one another. We are in this together, and Jesus is with us. We will get through this together, empowered by faith and inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Here are some preliminary details as we move forward:

- You will be getting regular communication from me, and every Sunday I will send a link to a video where we will offer some readings, prayers and a short meditation.
- Vestry and other meetings will happen remotely, via conference call or Zoom.
- Announcements will be posted on our social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- As of this writing, Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen will serve daily “to go” meals outside in our courtyard. The situation is changing rapidly, and we are in close communication with our city government and community partners. We will adapt to meet demand and support our most vulnerable neighbors as best we can.
- For those who want to livestream Sunday worship, our Cathedral of St. John the Divine (stjohndivine.org) and Washington National Cathedral (cathedral.org) are good resources.

Please know that you can always reach out to [me](#), or to [Mother Susan](#) and [Deacon Bob](#) with any questions, prayer requests, or just to talk. We will be contacting you as well, confident that you will be checking in with each other also. In all things, pray for our community and our world. And remember Jesus’ words to us from John’s Gospel: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.”

Yours In Faith,