



The Feast of Saint Patrick, 2020

Dear Friends,

As I wrote to you last week, wearied by the changes and chances of this life, I had no idea just how many changes would happen in such a short period of time. Even as our staff was meeting together this afternoon trying plan for what life looks like under the guidelines given to us by our President, Governor, and Bishop, new recommendations came from the Office of the Presiding Bishop. In his letter, the Most Reverend Michael Curry urged us to take the most prudent course of action and suspend in-person public worship “even during Holy Week and on Easter Day.”¹ As such, “Church at Home” will continue to be offered at 10am via Facebook Live through Easter Day, April 12th. The office will remain closed through at least March 30th, and only the Wednesday Community Lunch will continue, albeit in a modified form.

Clearly this news is not what any of us was hoping for. Our most joyous day as Christians is the celebration of Christ’s resurrection from the dead. Our most holy season is the Triduum, the three days from the institution of the Lord’s Supper on Maundy Thursday, through the trial and crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday, and the great Alleluia at the Easter Vigil. To think that we won’t walk these well-travelled liturgies together, in-person, raises the grief of this pandemic to new heights for us all.

The news is not all bad, however. As the ways we are called to be and do church change as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, the staff and vestry at Christ Episcopal Church are working hard to make sure that we continue to live into our mission: worshipping God with joy and wonder, learning and growing together, and radiating God’s love to all. We are working with connections in the Diocese and wider church to think of ways to walk the Way of the Cross during Holy Week and celebrate with joy the Resurrection of our Lord that don’t require us to be together in person. The goal will be to provide means for worship, even for those who aren’t tech-savvy, throughout this most holy season.

This won’t be the last letter I write to you on this issue, I’m certain of it. For now, please continue to hold the staff in your prayers. These wonderful and talented people are working hard, and I am so grateful to be teammates with them. As you are able, please continue to keep the financial needs of the congregation in mind, so that we can be ready to reach out to areas of need as they are made known to us. You remain in my prayers.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve".

¹ <https://episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/presiding-bishop-michael-currys-word-church-holy-week-and-easter-day-2020-online>