



THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

120 Mauldin Road Greenville, SC 29605

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March 14, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

To borrow the words of our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Andrew Waldo, “Church cannot be ‘canceled.’ The Body of Christ cannot be reduced to where we go and what we do on Sundays. In moments like this,” one of pandemic, now declared to be a national state of emergency, “we are still called to be the Church.” After prayer and much consideration, I have made the decision to suspend in-person worship services and activities from today, March 14, 2020, through Sunday, March 22, 2020. I will keep you updated of any changes beyond that date.

This decision comes with consideration that our job as people of faith is to protect the vulnerable; at this time that includes our efforts to slow down the progression of Coronavirus infections. My decision also comes with a deep longing to be together, in person, again. For now, we can and will be together in prayer and in contact via telephone, social media, on-line meetings and gatherings, and in other corporate, perhaps non-visible ways.

For worship on Sunday, March 15, I invite and encourage you to join in the 11:00 a.m. live-streamed celebration of the Holy Eucharist with our National Cathedral. The sermon, “Is there any message in this mess?” will be delivered by our Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Michael Curry. In part, +Michael’s words remind us that worship:

“On the mountain top or in the church building isn’t important. In spirit and in truth is what matters. So on livestreams or in a church building, all that matters is to worship God in spirit and truth.”

Let me know that you are watching! Send me a text, email, a comment on Facebook – how many of us can be together in worship?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUGZLwnLhUU&feature=youtu.be>

You can find links to many resources on the Episcopal News Service web page: www.episcopalnewsservice.org and on our Diocesan website: www.edusc.org. I will post others via email and Facebook.

Join me, friends, in spirit and truth, today, tomorrow and in all things. Pray for one another. Pray for those who are ill, physically, emotionally, spiritually. Pray for those who care for us. Remember the many times that Jesus and angels tell us: “Do not be afraid.” God is with you.

Reach out to me at any time via telephone or text: 864-350-4270, email: RevCTatem@gmail.com, Facebook: Catherine Tatem; in prayer and in faith. I will keep sporadic office hours and make critical pastoral visits as called for and allowed.

Love, in Christ,

Catherine+