



ST.BARNABAS CHURCH

HUNKER-DOWN-HOME PARTY LINE PRESS

Vol 1

3/13/2020

Dear Ones - The Vestry has met to discuss what we think is best for the congregation during this coronavirus outbreak. It has been recommended by the Governor of California that people 65 and above not gather in groups of more than 10, especially in retirement homes, etc. Our congregation is in that age cohort, and we are concerned about exposing anyone to the virus. We also are aware that the medical community presently believes that the number of cases may rise exponentially in the near future. With these things in mind, we would like to act ahead of the curve, and we have decided to suspend church services for the time being, as well as the remaining BYOB concerts. But we will try to be creative as a connected faith community as circumstances change.

Each Vestry member will have a group of parishioners that they will be contacting by phone regularly. They may decide to get two or three folks on the line for prayer or conversation - whatever the Spirit inspires. We will attempt to get a weekly mini-newsletter out by email. And St. Paul's will have live-streaming Morning Prayer on Sundays at 8, 10:30, and 1PM. If any of you would like to have a copy of the Book of Common Prayer at your homes, please let us know and we can get it to you.

I encourage each of you to stay in contact with friends in the congregation, and if there is anything they need help with, let us know. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Laura+ at 760-767-3620

God bless you, Laura+
and your Vestry:
Margaret Liggett, Senior Warden
Wendy Quinn, People's Warden
Wade Bean

Jan Jones
Diane Johnson, Trudy Richard
Joan Leopold
Leslie Rist

Excerpt from Bishop Susan Snook letter on Coronavirus 3/12/2020

In our reading from the Letter to the Romans for this Sunday, Paul says this: "we boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." During this Lenten fast from the comforts our usual style of worship brings us, let us remember that our fasting is a gift to the world. We are giving up something we love because we love our neighbors. And we are suffering – but suffering produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us. God's love has been poured into our hearts, and it is God's love that we are giving to the world in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Found on Facebook:

Pandemic

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.

(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love--
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

--Lynn Ungar 3/11/20