

# ST. BARNABAS CHURCH HUNKER-DOWN-HOME PARTY LINE PRESS

Vol 4

3/17/2020

## Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's Word to the Church: Holy Week and Easter Day 2020 Online worship supported and encouraged

[March 17, 2020] A word to the Church regarding Holy Week and Easter Day from the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church:

Dear People of God,

Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.

These affirmations are at the very heart of our faith as followers of Jesus Christ.

In public services of Holy Week and Easter we solemnly contemplate, commemorate, and rededicate our lives as witnesses to life made possible in the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Together with Christmas, Holy Week and Easter are the holiest of days in our life together in Christ.

Last week I stated publicly my support for bishops who, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, decide “for a designated period of time . . . to cancel in-person gatherings for public worship.” **I write now concerning the need to suspend in-person gatherings for public worship, in most contexts, during the sacred time of Holy Week and Easter Day.** Because this is a global health crisis, the principles in this letter apply throughout The Episcopal Church, including beyond the United States.

On March 15<sup>th</sup> the Centers for Disease Control recommended the suspension of public gatherings in the U.S. of more than 50 people for the next 8 weeks. On March 16<sup>th</sup> officials of the federal government asked persons in the U.S. to “avoid gatherings of more than 10 people” for the next 15 days. It is reasonable to assume that some form of recommendations restricting public gatherings will continue for some time.

**Considering this changing landscape, I believe that suspension of in-person public worship is generally the most prudent course of action at this time, even during Holy Week and on Easter Day.** I am also mindful that local situations vary. Bishops must make this determination and the duration of said suspension in their respective dioceses, based on the public health situation in their context and the recommendations or requirements of government agencies and officials.

**It is important to emphasize that suspension of in-person gatherings is not a suspension of worship. I very much encourage and support online worship.**

In the Gospels, the teachings of Jesus about the way of love cluster during Holy Week and Easter (see John 13-17, Matthew 22:34-40). The primacy of love in the Gospels is given its fullest expression in the shadow of the cross. This way of unselfish, sacrificial love, the way of the cross, *is* the way of God and the way of life.

It is out of this love for our fellow humans, our neighbors, that we forego the blessing of being physically together for worship. In so doing we seek to promote health and healing needed at this time.

God bless you and keep the faith,

+Michael

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry  
Presiding Bishop and Primate  
The Episcopal Church

## Excerpts from letter from Bishop Susan 3/16/20

Dear Friends in the Diocese of San Diego,

Grace and peace to you in the name of God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. The coronavirus pandemic continues to spread, as does concern over the capacity of our health care system to care for those who are affected. Some new public health developments have occurred just since last Thursday, when I last wrote and spoke to you:

- San Diego County has banned all non-essential gatherings.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recommended that public gatherings of more than 50 people be canceled or postponed;
- The federal government has advised that people avoid gathering in groups of more than 10 people;
- Public school districts throughout most of our diocese have closed their schools, and numerous public events have been canceled;
- The governor of California has recommended that all people over age 65 self-isolate in their homes;
- Documented cases of community transmission of the virus have happened in our diocese.

In my letter of last Tuesday, I permitted in-person worship to continue through Sunday, March 15 as long as strong precautions were taken. Many of you made the decision to hold worship via live-streaming rather than public in-person gatherings. **Given the latest developments, I am now suspending all public, in-person worship gatherings in our diocese at least through Saturday, April 4.** We will monitor developments in public health and communicate further regarding Holy Week and Easter worship.

Last night, I preached at St. Paul's Cathedral Evensong and talked about the suspension of in-person worship from a theological perspective. Here is video of that sermon:



You can find the [text of the sermon here](#). I believe that in adopting this Lenten fast from the comforting rituals of our worship, we are obeying Jesus' commands to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, and we are caring for the most vulnerable in our communities.

Suspending public, in-person worship does not mean that we will not be worshipping together, and it does not mean that we will stop being the church. Below are some things I ask you to consider as we discover new ways of being the church in this time of pandemic.

(In this communique, Bishop Snook has asked, "in accordance with the government's guidance for people over age 65 that clergy 65+ self-isolate while the crisis remains in effect." This is government guidance for all of us over 65!)

### **Weekly Meditation from Bishop Curry - March 16, 2020: Habits of Grace**

Hello. Last week while we were all planning and trying to reorder our lives and adapt to the new reality that we are in, I was texting back and forth with the Reverend Gay Clark Jennings, president of the House of Deputies, as we often do. And in the course of our texts back and forth, she asked, "Have you ever thought about maybe doing a short meditation each week for the church while we're in these days of the coronavirus?" I texted her back and said, "That's a good idea." And so this week we began what I think will be a weekly short meditation. Just a word or a song, not sung by me, but a song, a poem, a prayer. Just something for the week in which we are living.

I keep a prayer list on my cell phone in the little note section of the iPad and I've noticed that that list is increasing. But the reality is while I often always say my prayer time early in the morning, there's more time even during the rest of the day now. And so maybe the habit of prayer can increase a bit for me and maybe for us.

One of the things that I'm aware of is that consistent habits, what some have called habits of grace, can really be helpful especially in unsettling times. I was watching television and saw where in Milan and throughout Italy apparently, a movement has begun. Apparently at six o'clock every evening everyone who is in their apartment is socializing by coming out on the porch and at six o'clock they begin to applaud. They just start clapping. And everyone claps and applauds as a way of saying thank you to the medical folk who are working, the first responders who are working. Just a way of saying thank you. And then the applause moves into or

morphs into a song. And they sometimes sing their national anthem or sing some other song, every day at six. A habit of grace. A way of centering the day. Whatever way you do it, find and keep that habit of grace or those habits of grace that center the day. Tomorrow, Tuesday, will be St. Patrick's Day. There won't be a parade, but maybe we can say a prayer attributed to St. Patrick.

*“I arise today through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Holy Trinity. Through belief in the three-ness, through confession of the oneness, the creator of all creation. So Christ be with me. Christ before me. Christ behind me. Christ within me. Christ beneath me. Christ above me. Christ on my right. Christ on my left. Christ when I lie down. Christ when I sit up. Christ when I arise. Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me. Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me. Christ in the eye of everyone who sees me. Christ in every ear that hears me. Christ in the heart of friend and stranger.” \**

God bless you. God keep you. And may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love.”

## Church in time of Quarantine

A helpful resource for home worship from “A Sermon for Every Week:”

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgxwHMPkCDwgJsnJjsDspHBdpfrJF>

## Food Distributions:

**FREE FOOD/COMIDA GRATIS  
IN/EN BORREGO SPRINGS**

**FIRST MONDAY EACH MONTH/PRIMER LUNES CADA MES. If that is a holiday, there is no food bank. Si es feriado, no hay banco de alimentos.**

1. St. Richard's Catholic Church, Church Lane  
9-10 a.m.
2. Borrego Community Resource Center, 2243 Diegueno Rd., north of /al norte de  
the Middle School  
9-10 a.m.

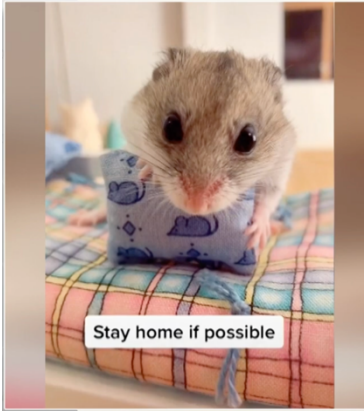
MONDAY BEFORE THE THIRD TUESDAY EACH MONTH/LUNES ANTES DEL TERCER MARTES DE CADA MES. If that is a holiday, generally the food bank will be the Friday before the Monday holiday. Si es feriado, generalmente el banco de alimentos será el viernes antes del feriado del lunes.

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Corner Of Country Club Road and Church Lane  
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

THIRD MONDAY EACH MONTH/TERCER LUNES DE CADA MES. If that is a holiday, there is no food bank. Si es feriado, no hay banco de alimentos.

1. St. Richard's Catholic Church, Church Lane  
9-10 a.m.
2. Borrego Community Resource Center, 2243 Diegueno Rd., north of the Middle  
School  
9-10 a.m.

Thank you to all those who selflessly volunteered at FOOD BANK yesterday. Especially in these times this is evermore so a vital ministry for our community as people are being laid off. We will do our best to make it as safe as possible for all.



**Must see: Hamster on proper coronavirus precautions! Was on John Oliver's Last Week Tonight!**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOJ8Lc-TfNg>**

**Happy St. Patrick's Day!**