

# CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO ON-LINE WORSHIP

Dear friends and family of St. Paul,

Tomorrow, Palm Sunday, we enter into one of the most holy times of the year for Christians. With the celebration of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem comes the recognition that in and through Jesus, God is not removed from what God's people experience day to day. Through Christ, God enters into the ordinary to do the extraordinary. We know the road ahead (the road we are on with him) leads to suffering and death. We hear news reports and see statistics that reflect this now more than ever. Yet we also know the life we are given in and through him moves us not only to the cross, but through the cross. Let us not forget that we see that new life every day as well in the hope-filled stories that depict triumph in the midst of tragedy.

And so dear friends, we call you to join with one another in worship. And we call you to worship like no time before in your life. Carve out a space in your home on these specific days and times in which you can (we as a faith community can) enter into a time of worship & prayer:

Palm Sunday 10 a.m., Maundy Thursday 7 p.m., Good Friday 7 p.m. and Easter Sunday 10 a.m. If you are alone or know someone who is, we strongly encourage you to reach out to someone by phone and invite them to join you.

We have been blessed to be able to use our sanctuary with a skeleton crew to live stream worship to you from that space. Regrettably, we are once again having to pivot. We knew that if stay at home orders were issued by either the SC or GA governor, we would have to come up with other ways to do worship.

Yes, it is true that SC does not currently have a stay at home order. However, regionally speaking, we feel St. Paul, being in the CSRA, identifies more with Georgia than it does the rest of South Carolina, especially since Augusta is Georgia's second largest city. Yes, it is also true that there are exceptions to the stay at home order in Georgia, however, those exceptions require extra steps be taken such as the checking of temperatures at the door and providing PPEs which St. Paul is currently not set up to do.

And so, we pivot knowing our worship life together continues because we are making a covenant with one another to worship on the days and times above in whatever way we can. Pastor Adam will lead Palm Sunday worship, Deacon Kathleen Maundy Thursday worship and Pastor Jeff Good Friday and Easter worship. Our thanks to Norm Traub and George Cartledge who are

adapting our website to our needs. You will find all that you need for us to do this together at <http://www.stpaullic.net>. In addition to the possibility of joining one of our rostered leaders on Facebook Live, you may also soon see possible options such as YouTube broadcasts, links to worship screens (in PowerPoint and/or movie format) so that you may move through or view them easily if you don't do Facebook or YouTube. In addition, we hope to have a link to our Easter services from previous years.

We may not all be using the same worship format but we will all be worshipping together on the same days and times. There is power in that! May it be a living reminder that God is with us, and through Christ our Lord, we are always together – even as the “scattered church”; even as we make the sacrifice of staying home and not gathering – so that we support the health and well-being of the entire world. We continue to hold you, your loved ones, your co-workers and our world in prayer in these times of dis-ease.

Walking With You In The Grip Of God's Grace,

Pastor Jeff, Pastor Adam and Deacon Kathleen - Your Rostered Staff

Janet Emerick, Congregational Council President