



March 17, 2020

An Important Message to the Parish about the Coronavirus COVID-19

All Saints,

With compassionate regard for the health and welfare of our community, and after much prayer and consultation with fellow Clergy, Vestry members, and local health officials, and following our College of Bishops' recommendation that all ACNA churches follow the latest directives of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), I have made the reluctant decision to cancel all services and programs for All Saints through the end of March, when things will be reassessed.

As we will all grieve the temporary loss of our in-person services and activities, my prayer is that we will view this season as an opportunity to be present to those we care most about and to offer support and reassurance to those around us who are looking for security and hope. We are not trapped, but are making a choice to fast from certain liberties in order to serve those in our circle of influence. Here are some suggestions for taking advantage of this opportunity that are in line with our church's Mission & Personality:

- **Healing Hospitality**—Melinda Jordan, our Vestry member over Pastoral Care, is helping to form a Care Network that will regularly call and check in with All Saints parishioners who are alone and disconnected, vulnerable, or in need of groceries or other basic supplies. Please email her if you'd like to be a part of this team. Who else can you check on? Other parishioners? Neighbors? Co-workers? You can be a light to others in a time of darkness!
- **The Church as Family**—Fr. Brian is working to form channels of communication with our families, especially those at home with children off from school, to offer them ideas and resources for how to be more intentional in creating formative and loving activities. How might your family be a blessing to those around you?
- **Spiritual Formation in the Anglican Way**—First, continue your observance of Lent: prayer, fasting, reading your Pastorate books, etc. We will also provide resources online so you can continue experiencing (to a degree) the liturgical life of the church (e.g., Sunday Morning Prayer bulletins that you can either do as a family or follow along with as you listen to an audio version; homiletical reflections for each Sunday, etc.). For those who are healthy, please consider scheduling an appointment to come to the church to receive Private Communion, either as an individual or as a family. The church building will also be open throughout the day on weekdays for private prayer. Finally, this could also be a perfect opportunity for you to learn to pray the Daily Office!

- **Heart for Service**—See these next few weeks as a missional opportunity. Use your time, gifts, and passions to serve the community. For instance, start a prayer network; create a crisis response team to serve the needs of the most vulnerable in your neighborhood; if you're a teacher, consider creating an online curriculum for families, including a daily devotional; email your own prayer reflections to a set of friends. Even in this time of social distancing, there are numerous opportunities to bless others for those who look outward and are creative.
- **Financially Generous & Responsible**—We encourage you to continue supporting All Saints through your regular offerings and Mission Abbey commitments. We prefer that you mail checks to the office at 212 McClellan Road, 38305, but we have also made available online giving if that's easier for you (but there is a small fee associated with this transaction). Please know that we remain committed to paying our hourly employees (Parish Administrator, Nursery Staff, Family Interns, Cleaning Crew) during this time of crisis.

We do our best work as the Church when we have genuine confidence that the wisdom and love of God is constantly at work in the world. God is bringing his Kingdom to bear upon this broken world through his Church, and we are both recipients and participants in this great drama! Such is the basis for our peaceful confidence, and it enables us to see the Coronavirus as an opportunity rather than a threat.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you,



Fr. Wes