



Christ Presbyterian Church, New Haven

CPC Covid-19 Update
11 March 2020

Dear CPC Family,

I pray you are well and are relying upon the grace, comfort and presence of God as your sacred refuge in such a season as this. To be sure, we can take great comfort that

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

And we say to the Lord,

My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.

Psalm 91:1-2

Notably, it is not lost upon the Psalmist that there is a vital effective relation between having God our refuge and the presence of God as mediated through His temple “place.”

A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at you right hand, but it will not come near you...Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—the most High, who is my refuge.

Psalm 91:7, 9

As the shepherd leaders of CPC, we are profoundly committed to maintaining our weekly liturgy of assembling together in so far as we can do this is good conscience with your safety in mind. We will therefore continue to monitor the evolving COVID-19 situation in New Haven with a priority given to the health and safety of all the members and friends of our congregation. Based on current guidance from CDC and the CT Department of Public Health, CPC plans to continue meeting in worship and other scheduled contexts until otherwise noted. Related to our Sunday worship, you will want to make special note of the instructions that will be included in our bulletin as to health related procedures and practices related to the coronavirus threat. (The liturgist will guide us through these procedures during the service as well.)

Otherwise, we want all church members to know that they have freedom of conscience to use their discretion as to whether to attend worship services or not. CDC has recommended that older adults or people with chronic medical conditions should take additional measures to protect their health (see [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) for a list of serious long-term health problems). If you are uncertain whether or not you are at increased risk, please call your healthcare provider and obtain a recommendation on the medical

prudence to attend the service. If you do not believe that you can attend the service, the church will have the service streamed on the internet at cpcnewhaven.org/live so that members can view the service. Importantly, if you have flu-like symptoms, especially a fever, cough, shortness of breath, or fatigue, please seek medical attention from your healthcare provider and please do not attend church so as to protect the health of those who attend the service.

This continues to be a very quickly evolving situation and if at such time the CDC and/or the CT Department of Public Health were to advise CPC New Haven that they should limit the number of people attending the service or if we should consider to postpone services, you should rest assured that we would seek to follow the guidance of our public health officials in supporting all reasonable measures to protect the public health. In the event that we do cancel our assembling together for worship on a given Sunday, we are already discussing several options wherein we can provide for us a means for us all to “virtually” worship together.

Again, it is our prayer that you would take full advantage of this time to rediscover, confess and rest in the perfect and redemptive intentions of God for us all knowing that God is at once most good and most on our behalf! Let us all find ways to encourage one another in this certain truth.

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?.. I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Psalm 27:1, 13-14

Affectionately Yours,

Preston Graham

Senior Pastor, Christ Presbyterian Church