



Christ Presbyterian Church, New Haven

CPC Covid-19 Update
14 April 2020

Dear CPC Family and Friends,

I don't know about you, but I felt the energy of God through our *virtual* presence with Him together this Easter. I was personally impacted by God's word to us. I am encouraged that our COVID-19 context (God's providence) seems to have prepared the soil of my own heart to see and hear things in my study of God's word last week that in previous studies remained opaque (one of the many "silver linings" of a season like this). In this case, to see Paul's final push for "Resurrection Joy" grounded in the conviction of faith such as to prominently distinguish our Christian mothers and fathers from non-Christians of centuries past amidst their own suffering of "the plague" was especially powerful. Cyprian's powerful exhortation to his congregation has really stuck in my craw.

Be single-minded, firm in faith, and steadfast in courage, ready for God's will, whatever it may be. Banish the fear of death and think of the eternal life that follows. That will show people that we really live our faith.

St. Cyprian, "On Mortality"

I am feeling challenged! Do I believe in the resurrection, really? Does this form a conviction that directs the way I engage the temptation to anxiety and where I turn to find comfort ultimately? Can I say with Paul as grounded in resurrection joy:

...for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:11-13

I'm praying for us all in the aftermath to ask God to reveal our hearts with this question—it's been at once disquieting and encouraging honestly.

As mentioned after the service, I'm getting the sense that we are all now beginning to settle into a new "virtual" normal. This is probably a good thing. Our call to "patient faith" a few Sundays back is especially relevant to our ongoing situation. I hope we will all take a moment, if not already, to be intentional about constructing a life liturgy to fit our "new normal." Especially, to construct a liturgy that includes a daily sabbath rest in God's word and prayer together and regular one-anothering with Christ as is mediated through his "body the church, the fullness of him who fills all in all."

With all this in mind, see the below addendum with the revised "new normal" ministry plan approved by the session last night. We encourage you to prayerfully and intentionally establish a schedule for your life in order to participate in as many of these "one-anothering" events as you can. If you have been "away" for a while, now is the time to re-engage. If you are having trouble working the "Zoom"—please contact any

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of the staff who are more than happy to give you a hand—and don't be embarrassed. I'm not embarrassed that math and spelling have always exposed the worst of me, which of course is why God gave me a wife who is a Math teacher and good at spelling. ☺

Finally, I especially want to encourage each of us to think about the people you know in CPC - have you seen them in in your virtual happy hours, virtual-park walks, virtual Life Group meetings and prayer meetings - if not, give them a call and let them know that you are thinking and praying for them.

I am yours most affectionately,

Preston Graham

Senior Pastor, Christ Presbyterian Church New Haven

Addendum:

Note Especially: Find links to join all on our Covid-19 Homepage (cpcnewhaven.org/covid19).

- **Weekly Public Prayer Services Every Wednesday 7am & 9pm**
 - All are invited to our new weekly pastor-led liturgically organized prayer services on Wednesdays at 7am and 9pm.
- **Weekly Gender-Specific Prayer Rooms**
 - **Men (20 min):** Tuesdays at 7am, Thursdays at 9pm (a brief scripture reading, sharing prayer needs, and time for praying)
 - **Women:** Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays at 1pm (a lead devotion and prayer)

An Overview:

- **Worship Service** (10-person max Sunday Live Stream)
- **Weekly AM & PM Prayer Service** (Wednesdays at 7 am and 9pm)
- **Prayer Groups** (Women's and Men's Prayer Rooms)
- **Life Groups** (regular meetings and "happy hours")
- **Ministry Groups**
 - Children's Sunday School Classes Weekly
 - Grad: Weekly Group
 - College: Weekly Digging Deep Group
 - Youth:
 - "GroupMe" groupchat for daily sharing life together
 - "Skribbl.io" games together after SS, other games (Jack-in-the-Box, etc.)
 - Shared "Minecraft" server for building digital "LEGOs" together
 - Distance "Movie Nights"
- **Virtual "Socials"** (open events hosted by congregants)
- **Pastor Luekens' Facebook Live "C⁴ Hangout,"** Nightly at 8:00pm

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- **Mercy** (Submission Form for Mercy Requests and/or Volunteers)
- **Boards/Staff**
 - Weekly Virtual Session Meetings (joint with WLB TBD)
 - Weekly Virtual Pastors Prayer Meetings
 - Weekly Staff Meetings
 - SLB as Scheduled
 - Key Leader Meeting Thursday May 14th (Time and Virtual Status TBD)

Stay Connected:

- **CPC Homepage:** cpcnewhaven.org
 - Find quick links to our Live Stream worship page, COVID-19 Homepage, Online Giving, and to submit a request for prayer/pastoral visit!
- **Covid-19 Homepage:** cpcnewhaven.org/covid19
 - Here you'll find an archive of our congregational letters regarding COVID-19, Live Stream links, the prayer/pastoral visit request form, resources, and CPC's virtual ministry plan with online events you can join.
- **Live Stream:** cpcnewhaven.org/live
 - This page is stocked with all the resources you need to participate in our worship services online. There you'll find options for how to view the worship services online, links to use during the service (giving, prayers, bulletin), and resources for after the service.