

March 19, 2020



Dear Prince of Peace family,

Our Lord Jesus, on the very night He was betrayed to give His life for you, left His disciples with these words, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid (John 14:27)."

These days are filled with uncertainty and chaos as we listen to the news and watch the world around us attempt to cope with sickness and death. Everyone has faith, do they not, and in crisis situations we see who and what faith is trusting in, what it is clinging to. For us, God's children, in these times, faith continues to live and hope in the sure and certain promises of our heavenly Father in our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Jn. 16:33** I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."
- **Heb. 13:5** "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
- **Rom. 8:38-39** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Let us all find comfort and hope in the living Word of God; it is God's power to save us and keep us in the one true faith.

As your pastor, I wrestle with how to best care for God's flock that has been entrusted to me. I have been praying for all of you, as our elders have as well. Your elders and I have been in continual conversation as to how to best care for you over these days and weeks ahead. At the present time, this is the course we have decided to take:

- We have suspended all unnecessary meetings that might put people at undo risk, such as midweek Bible studies for youth and adults.
- The school and preschool are currently closed until March 27th, at which time we will reevaluate and follow recommended procedures that has our student's and staff's best interest in mind.
- We will continue mid-week Lenten and Sunday services, until we are forced to discontinue public gatherings. We will be adhering to the following protocols:
 - Practicing safe distancing by spreading out in the pews.
 - Offerings will be placed in a basket at the rear of the sanctuary rather than be collected through passing the basket.
 - We will forgo greeting at the door, passing the Peace of the Lord, and shaking hands at the end of service.
 - Bulletins will be placed in the pews ahead of service rather than at the door.
 - Pews, and other surfaces will be wiped down between services.
 - We will not be offering coffee and refreshments between services.
 - Sunday school will not meet during this time.
- We are encouraging all those who are susceptible to illness, concerned about catching a virus, worried and uneasy about gathering in public to stay home until the high risk of contracting the virus has passed.

- We are attempting to video tape our services to post them online, so those who stay at home can participate in the corporate worship at Prince of Peace. We will be sending out a notice when the website is uploaded with Sunday's service.
- There are several churches that are live-streaming their Sunday services, which is something we are discussing for the future. Here are the links to a couple of them:
 - <http://faithcapo.com/>
 - WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GSLCDOWNEY
- The church still needs your support, whether you are able to attend services or decide to stay at home. We encourage you to please give as you are able either by mailing in your offering, dropping it off at the church or giving online at <https://princeofpeaceanaheim.com/payments>
- I and the elders are available and wanting to care for you in whatever way possible. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you are in need of any help or assistance.
- Check the website, Facebook, and your emails for updates to the current goings-on at the church, school, and preschool.

This is our current plan for the days ahead, and they may change before this letter is read; such are the times we are living in. This is why we desire to maintain and provide the one constant in this life, the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is our one true hope and anchor in the raging sea of uncertainty around us.

I am committed to caring for you as your pastor and welcome any phone calls or invitations to come visit you. I am in my office with an open door throughout the week. I am in constant prayer for you and am continually in thought as to how to best care for you as your pastor. Pray for me, pray for one another, and let us take this opportunity to share our faith and hope with those around us who are living with hopelessness and putting their trust in false gods. Perhaps our Lord has given you and me times as these to bring others into His Kingdom.

God bless you all! May our Lord continue to lavish His grace and peace upon you.

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