

April 1, 2020

Dear FPC Family,

Grace to you and peace from God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! I pray that in these challenging days you are drawing hope from the very source of our security and provision – the Lord Jesus.

We can take heart knowing that God is our refuge and strength (Ps. 46:1). Even when we have trouble in this world, we are promised peace because Jesus has overcome the world (John 16:33). Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:39) -- not cratering oil prices, not the Coronavirus, not social distancing “. . . nothing in all creation,” says the Apostle Paul. It’s April Fool’s Day, perhaps we can at least “smile” into the notion that we are to be “fools for Christ sake” and trust Him with our whole heart.

I write today to share an update. We are approaching Holy Week. Given the current events, we decided to move our Holy Week services online as we recognize the continuing efforts to avoid spreading Covid-19. I still believe our best motivation for this is to love our neighbors as ourselves - to be the best neighbors. Certainly, right now “good neighboring” involves doing what we can to “level the curve” of the virus’ spread in our community.

While we grieve that we will not be gathering together in person during Holy Week, we can worship from home. If Paul could worship from prison, we can worship from home. We lament that we will not share some of our favorite moments of congregational worship, but there are opportunities in this. In fact, the profound message of our Lord’s sacrifice may “come home” to us in ways we’ve not experienced before. At minimum, we can better understand the worship experience of Christians in other places who cannot gather corporately on a regular basis.

Links to the worship services will be shared as the days draw nearer, but we invite you to plan on participating in worship at the following times.

***Palm Sunday, 11:00 am, April 5**
Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm, April 9
Good Friday, 7:00 pm, April 10
Easter Sunday, 11:00 am, April 12

*For Palm Sunday, please plan on stopping by the church on Friday, April 3 or Saturday, April 4 to pick up some palm branches that your family can use in worship together Sunday. The branches will be in buckets outside the main entrance on Texas Street.

Perhaps a few lines from Ann Weems poem from [Kneeling in Jerusalem](#) may help orient us toward Holy Week:

*Holy is the week. . . Holy, consecrated, belonging to God . . .
We move from hosannas to horror with the predictable ease
of those who know not what they do.
Our hosannas to sing, our palms to wave,
let us go with passion into this week . . .*

I do look forward to the time when we can, once again, be together in worship and service!

In the meantime, . . . may the love of God surround you, the grace of Christ attend you, and the Holy Spirit keep you!

Steve

Steve Schorr | *Pastor*



800 W. Texas Ave.
Midland, Texas 79701
(432) 684-7821
sschorr@fpcmid.org