



April 3, 2020

Hello Central Family & Friends!

Our community, nation and world are all facing very difficult and challenging times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As I hear and read about the courageous and selfless healthcare workers battling this virus, I am also reminded about patients stricken with this virus dying alone, without their loved ones near them. Families of the deceased are not able to remember and honor their loved ones due to the social distancing guidelines. There's a lot of frustration with people who are not taking this virus seriously. I read about a group of 70 young people from Texas who ignored the federal guidelines and went to Mexico to party during spring break. And now, 44 of them have tested positive for Coronavirus. Sometimes I wonder... "What is wrong with some people?" The federal government has recently extended social distancing and coronavirus mitigation guidelines to April 30. Health experts are also admonishing us that the next two weeks will be very difficult and we all need to stay home.

Aside from the medical and public health challenges, there are financial and economic implications that cast an ominous shadow upon our nation and around the world. These are surely very difficult and challenging times for humanity and Psalm 46 reminds us to seek refuge in our Heavenly Father... *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling."*

Our church will be seeking refuge in our Lord as we come together to worship Him this Sunday... Palm Sunday. Let us join together to worship our God as we prepare to enter into the Passion Week. Invite your family and friends to visit our church website and join us in our Digital Palm Sunday Worship Service. We will also partake in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on this first Sunday of the month. Have bread and juice ready in your homes as we draw closer to our Lord, Jesus Christ during this time of Communion. Let us be prayerful and faithful during these times as we submit to the authority of Jesus Christ.

*** I would like to ask all of you to send in a short video of you and your family shouting out "Happy Easter" to me by no later than Tuesday, April 7. We are going to make a video collage and share it for Easter Sunday Digital Worship Service. It will be wonderful to see your faces and hear your voices. Send the video to mark@cscpc.org.

[Here is the link to our YouTube channel](#)

***In Grace & Peace,
Mark***