



Dearly Beloved,

I am writing to you again today to bring you up to date on the most recent news in the response to the Corona virus situation. In order to follow the recommendations of both trusted medical experts and health authorities to do all we can to help stem the spread of the coronavirus, our Bishops have instructed us, as of March 17th, to extend the suspension of in-person worship and gatherings for an eight-week period, taking us at least through May 17th. A link to the full statement of our Bishops can be found here: <https://www.episdionc.org/blog/bishops-coronavirus-response-0317/>

We will, of course, follow our Bishops' directives. Although, I suspect, like me, the very idea breaks your heart. This will be the first time in nearly 60 years that I will not walk through the sacred rituals of Holy Week and Easter with fellow believers...at least in person. I am sure there are many of us in this unfamiliar situation.

More details will be forthcoming from us about the ways we will negotiate this new turn of events. Keep those ideas coming – and keep in touch. Stay tuned for more information as we walk together through this unprecedented time. In the meantime, keep sending your ideas and comments via email. Also, check the website for frequent spiritual reflections and worship offerings as we move forward.

And finally, remember - keep this utmost in your minds and hearts: the Church is a body of souls held together by God's grace and bound in love. The buildings provide a space for the church - but the church is beyond anything that can be closed.

With love and prayers,
The Reverend Canon Patricia Grace, Interim Rector