



# St. Barnabas Anglican Church

2340 N. 155th St. • Shoreline, WA 98133 • (206) 365-6565

March 18, 2020

## Romans 8:34-37 King James Version (KJV)

<sup>34</sup> Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>6</sup> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. <sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Dear Ones,

Difficult times demand difficult measures and there is no question Coronavirus has created havoc in society. CDC has recommended gatherings of no more than 10 people, and social distancing at those events. Since meeting last Sunday, 2 parishioners admitted being exposed and another is quarantined, pending definitive diagnosis. I would be remiss in not passing this information on to you.

How ironic it is that this pandemic raises its ugly head during Lent, a season leading to Holy Week. This makes the worship experiences of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter even more poignant.

As referenced in the Exodus Passover story, two weeks ago, small vials of Holy oil were passed out at church, to be used to anoint your homes and occupants. More is available if you missed out. I have prayed for you and your households, daily.

Next steps are now required.

**Traditional Worship service is immediately suspended.** With consult with the Vicar General, the church must remain available to our parishioners, and be a beacon to the world. Therefore:

- **The church will be open on Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to Noon for “DRIVE BY” communion. We will have a tent, set up at the church, to offer the worship bulletins, written sermons, and communion from reserved elements.**
- Each of us must do our part to remain healthy. This includes practicing CDC recommendations for “social distancing” and hygiene practices. **EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS OUR SPIRITUAL HEALTH!** Read your scripture, do the daily offices, read and practice your devotionals, pray fervently and try fasting!
- By adopting this short-term policy, hopefully we will be able to reconvene for regular Holy Week worship.

- Please don't forget the church is dependent on voluntary donations of your time, talent, and treasures. If you are unable to "meet us in the driveway", please consider mailing your pledge. This will allow us to keep the doors open and the lights on.

As your priest, this decision has been the most difficult to make. The tension of faith and being a good shepherd has been tremendous. But, in considering the risk factor for our congregants, it provides a solution for remaining faithful to my vows and implements a means to provide the body and blood of Jesus Christ to his faithful, beloveds.

- ✓ A break from tradition? Yes
- ✓ Temporary? Yes
- ✓ CDC Compliant? Yes
- ✓ Supporting Spiritual and Physical Needs? Yes
- ✓ Keeping the Church as a Beacon to the World? Yes (There were 4 new visitors last week, as a result of the doors being open. What better or urgent message is there to offer society during these times of trial?).

The spiritual health, of the Pacific Northwest, has been in question for many years. The virus gives reason to hunker down, stay home and slip into lazy, undisciplined habits, like not going to church. Do not let the Deceiver win! This is a call to all Christians to remain faithful, shout Christ's salvific message (yes, from the St. Barnabas parking lot):

**<sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39 King James Version (KJV)**

**Blessings,**

**Fr. Harley+**

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