

May 17, 2020

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Peace and joy to all of you in the name of our living Savior Jesus!

If you've been following local news recently, you know that there is a lot of talk among church leaders about whether or not churches will reopen soon...and if they reopen, what that reopening will look like. At Resurrection, we've been having that same conversation among staff and volunteer lay leaders over the last several weeks.

Last Wednesday (5/13), I sent around a survey, put together by the Lay Ministry Standing Committee, with the purpose of assessing what our ability to worship together could be. Please take the time to fill this survey out. There are only three questions for you to answer. And you can rest assured that we value your privacy, so that you may answer freely.

As you complete the survey and wonder about what the future will bring, allow me to pass along the following regarding worship and Holy Communion:

- We will go from pre-recorded services to a weekly live stream beginning May 31 (Pentecost Sunday). This will allow us to continue to send worship content for remote viewing to the members of our congregation while doing in-person Sunday morning worship at the same time. Until in-person worship begins, the weekly live stream will be for one service only and take place on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM. After editing, these services will be available for remote viewing as recorded content soon after the Sunday service is over.
- Receiving in-person Holy Communion with a group of nine or fewer people (e.g., the members of your own family) has always been available throughout the shutdown. More of you have been requesting this in recent days. I'm therefore asking the church office to set up a Sign Up Genius for this so as to streamline the scheduling process. As soon as that is ready to go, we will notify you. For now, if you desire to receive the Lord's Supper together with the members of your family, I encourage you to contact me (jonathan.blanke@rlcary.org) to set up an appointment. These services will take from 20-30 minutes and consist of Confession/Absolution, a Bible reading, a brief devotion, the Creed, the Communion Distribution, Prayer, and Blessing. Those scheduling these services at church will be expected to follow social distancing guidelines while in the church building.
- Once all the results of the survey are in (everyone has until the end of the day on Sunday, May 17) and the Phase 2 reopening orders for the State of North Carolina have been announced, we will announce plans for future worship services for June 7 and following. We are committed to seeing that worship content will continue to be made available for off-site viewing for as long as the coronavirus crisis continues. As I've stated before, please remember that we are committed to providing for the spiritual AND physical welfare of all those who enter our building. Therefore, our regular worship schedule (by June that will be our special summer schedule) will only resume once we are permitted to gather 100 people indoors.

I am often humbled by the kind words of encouragement I and the staff here at Resurrection receive from so many of you. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

Watching and waiting is never easy or fun...but this is a time for us all to put our trust in our loving God and know that He is with us through it all. In the words of the Psalmist, "He will keep your going out and your coming in; from this time forth and forevermore" (121:8).

Shalom in Jesus,
Pastor Jonathan