



10 March 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel:

You may have seen or heard reference to an alert on the Alexandria City webpage concerning possible exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19 at Immanuel Chapel via a resident of DC who attended the Seminary's services between February 26 and March 4.

We include the [link to the city's announcement](#), along with a reminder that this is considered a low risk exposure to any of our parishioners who would have worshiped at Immanuel Chapel in that timeframe. At this time, the City health officials are encouraging self-monitoring but have not mentioned self-quarantine.

Please note:

- Today, the Seminary performed a deep cleaning and disinfection of Immanuel Chapel. VTS has also published the following on its website: *"we do invite all those who are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19 (namely, older adults and people who have chronic medical conditions, like heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease) to stay away from the campus at this time."*
- As of now, we will continue to plan to have our normal 11:15 a.m. service at Immanuel Chapel this Sunday, but we want everyone to be informed fully in making their own decisions about their participation.
- We are also planning more thorough cleaning for Zabriskie Chapel, keeping in mind all the groups who meet there.
- We are looking into capabilities and possibilities for sharing services online should that be needed.
- In all of our decisions, we will be respectful of the guidance of health authorities and wider Church authorities.
- Starting this Sunday and for the time being, following our Bishop's advice, we will offer Communion in only one kind -- namely, the Bread.

As I said in my note last week, our goal remains to be centered, prayerful people of hope while also being prudent and prepared.

We will send more announcements as needed and we will remain open and flexible in our responses.

Again, I'm glad we're in this together.

God bless you all,

*Randy*

The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr.  
Rector

*O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (BCP, p. 231)*