

19 March 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Immanuel:

I hope you all are doing as well as can be expected during these trying, scary, bewildering times. It seems the news changes so fast that it is hard to keep up with it all. I am very grateful for the conversations and emails and texts I have been able to share with many of you. Please keep them coming!

We will be offering another virtual worship service for this Sunday; look for the link that will be sent out with all that you need to know, including a bulletin this time. We will be offering a full service of Morning Prayer.

I also want to let you know that our time apart has been extended. The Bishop has decided that we will not be able to gather physically for worship until at least after Easter. You may click here for the Bishop's message.

That means that we will not be meeting for Holy Week or Easter. This is huge, of course, for our life as a parish. We will do our best to offer some sorts of creative, likely virtual, offerings during the coming holy season. My firm hope is that we will be able to celebrate Easter together, later in the Easter season. The Easter season, after all, lasts fifty days, not just the first day. Your Vestry has established a weekly conference call check-in, and we are considering all sorts of options and possibilities.

I offer a moving letter to the Editor, run in the New York Times, <u>available here</u>. I think it speaks powerfully of some of what the Church is trying to do, around the world, during this time.

God bless you all,

Randy

The Rev. J. Randolph Alexander, Jr.

Rector