

April 1, 2020

Dear All,

Exactly one month ago, as we gathered for the first Sunday in Lent, we were one of the first parishes in the country to implement passing the Peace with elbows as a means of limiting hand-to-hand contact amongst parishioners. By the following Sunday, we were praying Morning Prayer and eating prepackaged goodies for coffee hour. Two days later, we embraced a fully virtual format for our common life.

Although I could imagine at that time what a pandemic might mean for us and our community, I could never have been prepared for its reality. Today, I sit at home writing this letter at my son's desk staring out at two tripods, a couple of cameras and a photography lamp pondering the effects of my own isolation in the midst of our shared experience. Separation has become our theme. Separation has become our existence.

But this is nothing new for us as humans. Separation as a theme is found throughout the beginning stories of our faith such as Adam and Eve's expulsion from the Garden, Cain's wandering after murdering Abel, the falling of the Tower of Babel, the Flood, Israel's forty years in the desert, and so on. However, what is also a theme is God's constant and consistent presence in the midst of separation regardless of whether it is fully understood or even seen by the people. God is there in the space and air of separation.

Next week is the center of our life as Christians as we celebrate the full and complete confirmation of God's presence in our lives. I have seen some say that by not physically gathering, Holy Week and Easter are somehow cancelled. My friends, nothing can cancel the central proclamation of the hope that is within us. Holy Week and Easter have been celebrated in foxholes and on battlefields; in concentration camps and in prisons. People all over the world have proclaimed for two thousand years despite war in their lands, a lack of food in their bellies, and chains around their necks the Good News that God is with us in the bodily Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. If there was one Easter that would have been cancelled, it would have been the first. And a murderous death at our hands nor the power of hell could not stop it. Despite our separation, we will without fail will lay down our palms to greet Jesus in Jerusalem, have our feet washed by him, dine with him with bread and wine, struggle to stay awake with him in the garden, run like cowards once he is arrested, deny ever knowing him before dawn, shout "Crucify him!" with a mob, weep at his feet as he takes his last breath, seal him in a tomb, enter into Hades, and be yanked up by our wrists in Resurrection Glory. The lack of physical presence does not cancel God's Real Presence.

It is in the spirit of living into the faith that is within us that I ask us all to embrace the schedule for Holy Week and Easter found below. We have a great opportunity this year to partner with our Cathedral and experience the bulk of the liturgies done well in a space that will afford little compromise. We will also supplement virtually the Liturgy of the Palms so that we will have blessed palms to burn for next year's Ash Wednesday ashes; the Garden Watch so that we may have an hour of time to pray with Jesus at the Altar of Repose; the tomb liturgy on Holy Saturday; and the proclamation of the Resurrection with a special sermon late on Saturday night followed by Morning Prayer on Easter Day. My hope is that we will see in our time of separation God's fullest connectivity. Please join me in this journey of light and reconciliation as we pray together for the healing of our world and that we too, will be raised with him in everlasting Glory.

Faithfully and Gratefully Yours,

Kendall+

Palm Sunday

April 5th

@ 8:00 AM - Liturgy of the Palms*

([St. Matthew Facebook Live-Stream](#))

*[*No Virtual Coffee Hour this day]*

@ 11:00 AM - Mass

(Live-Stream from [St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle](#))

Maundy Thursday

April 9th

@ 7:00 PM - Liturgy

(Live-Stream from [St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle](#))

@ beginning at 8:00 PM (and recorded for prayer all night) - Garden Watch

([St. Matthew Facebook Live-Stream](#))

Good Friday

April 10th

@ 7:00 PM - Liturgy

(Live-Stream from [St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle](#))

Holy Saturday

April 11th

@ 10:00 AM - Liturgy

([St. Matthew Facebook Live-Stream](#))

The Great Vigil of Easter

April 11th

@ 8:30 PM - Liturgy

(Live-Stream from [St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle](#))

Easter Day: The Sunday of the Resurrection

April 12th

@ 8:00 AM - Morning Prayer*

([St. Matthew Facebook Live-Stream](#))

*[*Followed by Virtual Coffee Hour at 9 AM]*

@ 11:00 AM - Mass

(Live-Stream from [St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle](#))