

# HOLY APOSTLES' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

P.O. BOX 188 · 1730 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET

apostles@embarqmail.com · 308/623-1969 · [www.holyapostlesmitchell.org](http://www.holyapostlesmitchell.org)

March 17, 2020

Beloved Members and Friends of Holy Apostles,

As most of you already know in-person Worship Services and events involving more than 10 people have been cancelled by Bishop Barker for the foreseeable future. (If you have not seen Bishop Barker's letter, you can find it on our website.)

To quote Bishop Barker, *"COVID-19 is spreading with astonishing speed and it will be lethal to a great number of people, especially the aged and infirm who are a majority of our congregants in many places. The risk of contracting and spreading the coronavirus to those who would gather in worship in our parishes is simply too great to continue public worship at this time. Christ's directive to, "Love your neighbor as yourself," is our clarion call, and we shall do so for the remainder of Lent, by worshipping apart."*

Now is also the time to remember that the Church is more than just people gathered in a building, and that we do not cease to be the Church just because we are not able to gather together for a time. In this regard, we will be providing Worship online on Sundays at our normal worship time of 10:30 a.m. and if necessary, our Holy Week Services.

Our plan presently is to Livestream these Worship experiences on our Facebook page. To participate, you will simply log on to Facebook and go to our facebook page: Holy Apostles Mitchell NE, a few minutes before the worship start time and when you see a banner across your screen that says 'Holy Apostles is Live', click on the banner and you should be able to watch worship in real time. We will also save the video to our Facebook page for viewing at a later time and place the link on our website: [HolyApostlesMitchell.org](http://HolyApostlesMitchell.org). Bulletins for the services will be placed on our website, so you can download those ahead of time, if you wish to follow along in that way. We will also place the Taking Faith Home Inserts on our website as well if you enjoy using those for your devotion time at home. And, if you have prayer concerns that you would like lifted up during the prayers please feel free to call, text or email those to us by Saturday night. If you need a Book of Common Prayer there are several copies on the library shelf, feel free to borrow one.

We also hope that you will remember the expenses of the church (utilities, salaries, insurance, etc.) all continue on, even if we do not gather together. So consider this your gentle reminder to send or drop off your offerings to the church office.

Please also remember your offerings to our Food Programs that we support. The Back Pack program is going to be continuing to provide food for students on the weekends and donations for the Food Pantry will probably be needed now more than ever.

Also, let us hold each other, both near and far, in our prayers. We especially pray for those who have already lost loved ones through this disease and those who have been sickened by it or

those who are self-quarantined. We pray for the students and teachers and their families as well as the businesses whose lives and livelihoods have been disrupted. We pray for our medical professionals who care for those who are ill; we pray for wisdom for those seeking to develop treatments and vaccines and for all who make decisions as we struggle to contain this disease. We pray for God's healing hand to be upon our world and for God's strength to sustain us in the days and weeks ahead.

Lastly, remember these words from Psalm 46, *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Therefore we will not fear...the Lord of host is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."* Be assured, God is walking with us through the uncertainty of the days ahead and that we as your pastors care about you. Please feel free to call, text or email if there is anything we can do for you or if you just need to talk.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastors Sheryl and Chris