



March 12, 2020

Dear Friends,

I'd like to take a moment to lay out the steps First Church is taking to participate in mitigating the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). We are a church, and so it is incumbent upon us to base our actions on care for the most vulnerable among us.

First, let me say plainly that if you or a family member are sick, please stay home. If you are part of a vulnerable population, please stay home. Our 11 a.m. service will be available via Facebook live at <https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresPhilly/> and later via our website.

For those present in worship, these are the steps we are taking to mitigate virus spread:

- Communion and Fellowship Hour are suspended at both services indefinitely.
- Our cleaning service is cleaning all high-touch surfaces such as doorknobs and handrails.
- During offering, the plates will remain in the ushers' hands rather than being passed. Please place your offering in the plate without passing it.
- Please assist with social distancing by sitting in alternating pews and keeping appropriate distance between yourselves.
- Clergy and staff will not be shaking hands.
- We urge everyone to use other non-contact methods of greeting.
- Refrain from close gatherings and maintain social distancing.
- We will be pursuing digital options for most meetings.

We believe these steps are presently the responsible thing to do. As the situation develops, we will communicate changes to you.

As children of God, we do know this, though: Whatever comes, we rest always in the mercies of God.

Your pastor,

Baron