



*The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?*

*The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?*

Psalm 27:1

March 13, 2020

Dear Friends,

Shortly after my communication with you yesterday, Montgomery County imposed a number of mitigation measures. This was followed by mitigation measures and strong cautionary recommendations in Philadelphia County, the latter of which are applicable to First Church.

The prophet Isaiah reminds us to “seek the shalom of our city.” At my request, our Session has reviewed the recommendations, and we believe a change of plans is called for at this time.

Starting today, First Church will be closed for a period of two weeks. In ten days, we will assess the situation and make decisions based upon the information available to us at that time. It is premature to predict what will happen then.

It is very important for us to stay connected. This Sunday, at 11 a.m., we will worship together through the miracle of technology. Please visit our website (www.fpcphila.org) in order to gather “virtually” for worship. In the days ahead, we will be exploring more ways to stay connected with one another.

Church staff will be available during this time, so please know that you can reach out to us via e-mail. Likewise, our cell phone numbers are listed in your directory for use in the case of emergency.

In the days ahead, join us in prayer for the world:

Eternal God, we know that we rest always in your abiding care. Calm our fears, and comfort us when we are lonely. Hear our prayers for all the world, for those who suffer from illness and for all other infirmities. Strengthen the ties that bind us together, and show us how you would have us be your disciples, for it is in strong name of Jesus Christ that we pray, Amen.

On behalf of the Session,

Dr. Baron Mullis,
Pastor

Rebecca Melley,
Clerk of Session