

Another Word. May 6, 2020

Dear First Christian Church,

Cautiously optimistic. The information and updates about reopening our state are a very good sign, but we aren't out of the woods quite yet. In the meantime, we will still record services and have them available online. In speaking with our Elders, it is agreed that services at the building should not resume until possibly the end of May. Please understand, your safety is our main concern.

Having said that, we would like to offer our take on slowly reopening our church. Each Tuesday, from 10 am to 2 pm the sanctuary will be open to anyone wishing to come, pray, read scripture, or just sit and contemplate God's glory. You are encouraged to stay as long as you like. There will be quiet music playing in the background and at 1 pm, the previous Sunday's service will be shown. Continue to use common sense. Social distancing will be the rule of the day, and if you have a cold or a fever, please stay home. Continue to be cautious, stay safe, and secure in the confidence that we all will soon, by the grace of God, be back worshipping together on King Road.

Our weekly church services are reaching and blessing people across our country. We are receiving cards and emails from many folks expressing their thanks for being there each week and giving them hope, peace, and courage in these troubling times. Please continue to spread the word to others to tune in to our services found on our website.

If you have a praise or prayer request let me know or call the church office and leave a message. Stay in contact with each other by phone, cards, texts, and email because staying in touch brings us closer not only with each other, but also with God.

For those who tune into our services, please have a cracker and a small juice available that we may take together during the time of communion.

May we pray.

God of life and love. We lift our voices as one in praise and honor to you. We thank you for the gift of life, and the wonderful opportunities you provide. Amid the fears and uncertainties that surround us, we are strengthened by the knowledge that you are ever present in our lives. We lift up to you those who need strengthened, who need hope, who need healing and who need peace(silent prayers). Be with our first responders, our city, state, and government leaders as they guide us, with your wisdom, that we may emerge stronger in our commitment to you and one another. You, and You alone are our God, and all praise and honor we lift to You. We pray this through Jesus, our savior who taught us to pray, Our Father in Heaven, holy is Your name. May your kingdom come; may your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those that sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory forever, Amen

“Those who do not learn history, are doomed to repeat it.”

The philosopher George Santayana first penned these famous words about a century ago. There is a great amount of truth packed into this simple, but profound phrase. Many countries and kingdoms do not exist any longer because they didn't heed these words.

Now let's fast forward in time to the second half of the 20th century. Robert Bellah, a sociologist of religion penned the words, “healthy nations must be communities of memory.”

Both statements represent the importance of communities remembering the lessons of the past. But the big difference is that one may not want or will refuse to remember, while the other takes great

care to never forget. This principle extends not only to nations, but to all communities, including church and family.

The Bible teaches the value and importance of community and memory. The Israelites were given the Passover feast so they may always remember how God and his love, saved them from slavery in Egypt. (Exodus 12:1-30) Even today, Jewish people around the world as a community, celebrate that wonderful memory each spring.

This same Passover holds great meaning to us, the followers of Christ. It points to Jesus' work on the cross. Because, during the Passover meal Jesus "took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them saying, 'This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'"

You see, every time we gather at the Lord's table for communion, we "remember" that Christ rescued us from slavery to sin and provided us with eternal life.

May we never ignore or forget our history, and may we always be a healthy community together, remembering the cross of our Savior and His gift of life.

In His Peace,

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