

Pastoral Letter for Lent 5

29 March 2020

Hello everyone,
How are you going this week?
I pray you are remaining well and that you are being contacted by one another.
I pray your fears and anxieties are being met in your prayers and the love of God and good friends.
I pray, this will soon be over. I pray ...

I have prepared for us a service for tomorrow that we can share again. You may wish to set up a special space as you pause for your own worship, light a candle, a flower, ... I will be in the church at that time.

Please know that our Korean congregation will be live streaming their service on Facebook from 11am.

New week, as you know is **Palm/Passion Sunday** and, it is also our usual communion Sunday. There are resources currently being prepared that we may be able to share communion at home while we are in this time of exile. There will be more on this by the end of next week.

We have become aware of further stages in security and personal health and safety.
In this we will notice the emphasising of keeping movement away from home to a minimum and of necessity.
Please continue to follow the health advice and in this way we will love our neighbour as ourselves.

The Moderator Rev David Baker has prepared a video for our encouragement, please follow this link.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLkRvRWvLPw>

We have been reminded again that God is with us, and as the whole people of God, this is our story from beginning to end.

We are a people who began life in the call of God to Abram. This call has made us a pilgrim people always on the way toward a promised goal, and on the way God feeds and protects us through Word and Sacrament. Called out of Egypt to a new freedom, a people who again wandered deserts dry, who were fed manna and quail, food from heaven, found water from a rock, obeyed and disobeyed the will of God, but always, always are the people of God's love and kindness. In every generation we have faced trails and challenges and this time is no different, excepting that it is we, in this generation, who are facing this particular trial. As always, God will be with us, as we are to be with each other.

Let us remind ourselves, that Jesus said,

"Do not be afraid little flock, it is my good pleasure to give you the kingdom." ... "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." (from Luke & John).

I encourage you if you are able to look at the Assembly and Synod Websites for information, comments, stories and prayers. There are also opportunities to look in on other congregations who are using internet, facebook and other digital technologies to offer worship.

Queensland Synod
<https://ucaqld.com.au/>

National Assembly
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm&ogbl#inbox/FMfcgxwHMZJvzdWjzCSBqncPTbbqRcXs>

I offer you my love and prayers,
Grace and peace, James