



Church Family

Virus Causes Disciples to Self-Isolate

As Jesus approaches the cross, he talks with his disciples about what is going to happen. They respond in faith acknowledging that he has indeed come from God. Aware that their faith would soon be tested, he shares with them how it will play out. Their faith was no doubt genuine and appreciated by Jesus. Yet it wouldn't hold up under pressure. Jesus says that's ok, because he is never alone. He will always enjoy the Father's presence.

It's interesting that Jesus tells them that there is a *time coming when they will be scattered each to their own homes*. This virus was called fear. When Jesus was arrested the disciples were overcome with fear. After his crucifixion they hid. We read that Jesus told them these things, so that in him, they would have peace. Later on after his death he meets with them as they hide behind locked doors. Again Jesus says, peace be with you. His explanation of why peace is theirs in the midst of despair is one we all need to be reminded of. In this world you will have trouble, But take heart ! I have overcome the world.

At times our fear is so real that we find ourselves in despair. Yet like Jesus, we are never alone. This promise and the understanding that God is in control, enables us to live in peace. God knows we will often struggle, but He is faithful and He will overcome. Jesus knew the disciples would struggle with his departure, but reminded them that he would return. Two things we need to take hold of today. God is always faithful and Jesus is coming back. As a result, we can certainly live in peace, even when we have been scattered each to his own home.

John 16:31-33 "You believe at last!" Jesus answered. "But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me." I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 20:19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

Easter Services – Online Church

- 9am Good Friday – Family Communion Service (Have bread and wine/juice available at home)
- 9 am Easter Sunday – “We Still Have Good Reason to Skip” Romans 6: 3-14

Webpage

Make sure you keep in touch with information and resources. Services are live at 9am. They are also uploaded that evening so you can catch up on anything you have missed.

Prayer

These difficult days present a unique opportunity to connect with God. Things will return to normal one day, whatever normal is. So this moment for a renewed dependence on God will not last forever. Don't miss it ! Invest now in a deeper trust. Pray for a spiritual awakening for ourselves personally, for our church and of course our community and our world.

Would You Bless Us

As a pastoral team we are struggling to deal with this isolation. Something important is now missing. Would you send an email or text us and share what's happening in your life. We would love to hear how you are going. We hope in time to be able to return the favour every now and then, but in the meantime, send us your family update and include any prayer points. Perhaps you know someone in need – please let us know.

Take care – God bless – Stay safe

Pastor Paul