

Dear Members of St. George's,

We write this letter because our Bishops Ian T. Douglas and Laura J. Ahrens, after consulting with other bodies of ECUSA, have strongly encouraged us to cancel "in-person, public worship for at least the next two weeks or until Palm Sunday". In place of public services, they have asked us to provide "some form of video worship on Sunday using digital technology". They have also asked us to cancel, postpone, or use digital technology "with respect to all of [our] parish meetings and events for a period of time".

They also encourage us to "explore new ways to ensure that the people God has called us to serve can receive the assistance they need, while providing responsible care to all involved. To that end, it would be good to remind you that while regular parish life is being altered at this time, active ministry continues. Maintaining one's financial pledge to continue support for your parish's life in God's mission is important".

Because a number of members of our parish are over 60, the risk for our parish is high. Therefore, the Vestry is mandating that, in accordance with the wishes of our Bishops and of prudent action, we will maintain a skeleton crew of celebrants for our Sunday services, which will be streamed each week until the risk lowers and we get further guidance from the Bishops. There will be no Sunday School or study groups, and all further church activities for the next two weeks are cancelled. After that we will respond accordingly as the consequences of the virus unfold.

The only groups that will be allowed to use our church space (the Bishop Gray Room) are the AA Groups, as ongoing meetings are crucial to the continued welfare of these individuals. They will use only the Coffee Hour (Bishop Gray) Room, and Josh will clean the areas used by the groups weekly.

We will make sure that pastoral care for all parishioners will be met through clergy and lay ministry, with the help of the Vestry and others.

As we hold each other in prayer, we need to remember the Benedictine motto "Pray and Work". This work of taking care of ourselves and one another is a form of prayer, is appropriate for our church.

You are in our prayers. Pray for us.