



# First Baptist Church

*A Place to Belong*

March 20, 2020

Dear Friends,

We have joined most churches in cancelling all our in-person gatherings and activities, including Sunday morning morning worship. Our AGM will also be postponed. It is the right thing to do but hard nonetheless.

For some people, these past few weeks have been full of change. Some are working longer hours with fewer coworkers. Some are working from home while trying to help children and teens cope with the loss of school and all activities outside of the home. Others are feeling more alone and isolated than ever.

Much may have changed but this congregation is still a place to belong. We are resolved to find ways to stay in touch and to encourage prayer, faith, hope and love.

Online, over the coming weeks, you will be able to find regular additions on our website and our Facebook page.

We will continue to send out a weekly email with links to live First Baptist gatherings and other resources. If you are not receiving email notifications and would like to, please contact one of the pastors or the church.

We will offer a live online service Sundays at 11. We will record a simple service available on our website as well. We will be learning and adapting as we go.

For those without an Internet connection, we are also planning ways to stay in touch.

We are creating a phone chain so we can keep in regular contact.

We will be mailing out letters regularly with reflections and church news throughout this period of isolation.

If you get sick, please let us know. You are all constantly in our thoughts and prayers. This congregation is still a place to belong.

Although so much has changed, our calling has not changed: to live for God and to care for one another.

Let's pay attention as the Holy Spirit nudges us: phone calls or texts we should send, letters we should write, or prayers we should make. Let's use this time to solidify good habits of prayer and care.

And God has not changed.

This will come to an end. No matter how long it seems to take, it will end. God is good. God is faithful. Every night as you go to sleep know that God remains at work, carrying our burdens as we rest.

Relent, Lord! How long will it be?

Have compassion on your servants.

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,

that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. - *Psalm 90.13-14*

With love,

Pastor Joel

Rev. Joel Russell-MacLean, Lead Minister  
Rev. John Nelson, Associate Minister  
Rev. Dr. Richard Hovey, Associate Minister  
Rev. Kayely Rich, Associate Minister  
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