



ST. BARNABAS CHURCH HUNKER-DOWN-HOME PARTY LINE PRESS

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Worship Together On-line! This Sunday 3/22/20 at 9:30AM

Dear Ones – I have signed up for an on-line meeting capability in real time. To join in, all one has to do is connect to the link I will send you and enter the access code. We will be able to see each other and even hear each other. This will work well for us to continue classes and Bible study, but also worship!

I will be offering a very simple Sunday Worship service in the style of our summer services – family style around the dinner table. I invite you to get some bread and wine to have at the table with you, and we will share a meal at the Lord’s table. This will be my first attempt at using ZOOM, and it may have a lot of “knees and elbows,” but it will be efficacious!



I will do the service this week myself, so that no one has to worry about using the technology. But as the weeks go by, I will invite you to be readers, maybe even singers, etc.!

I will send the invitation to the worship service to you on email. Hope that you will join us.

Scripture Lessons:

http://www.lectionarypage.net/YearA_RCL/Lent/ALent4_RCL.html

Faith, Faith communities and the CO-VID- 19 Virus

By Michael Plekon

Normally I try to write about a figure or a season or a theme that speaks to our spiritual lives in the article I prepare for The Borrego Sun. This one is about the life of the spirit but in a time of pandemic, that is, of widespread infection and sickness from a “novel” or new virus for which there is no vaccine or any other medication. If you have been alive and breathing for the last 3-4 months you know of its devastation in China, South Korea, in Italy, France and elsewhere in Europe. Despite denials of the seriousness of its spreading, even the charge it was a hoax or a germ warfare effort, it is here. As in the other countries, it will be spreading and growing for the foreseeable future. Sunshine is a wonderful thing as is fresh air here in the desert. Yet neither can prevent nor cure someone infected.

Since the middle of March, orders from the governor and the county have closed schools, local restaurants except to takeout service. Gatherings of all kinds, from lectures to parties and official meetings have been cancelled. And as the number of virus cases rise, the governor ordered all but essential workers to stay home. So too services at Borrego houses of worship have been cancelled. The Catholic and Episcopal dioceses of San Diego’s bishops cancelled services as did the bishop of the Methodist California-Pacific Annual Conference and the synods of the Lutheran churches, The Christian Center as well. Thus all the churches here have cancelled services even those of holy week and Easter, including the community Easter sunrise service.

This is for our safety, so that social distancing rather than gathering is our new normal. Self-quarantining or sheltering in place is one of the few things we can all do to slow or lower the increasing curve of infections. Extreme restrictions imposed in China and South Korea appear to have done this. We need testing to be far more available than it is at present in mid-March, so that medical professional can accurately determine the volume of cases and the community spread of the virus. State governors have called on the federal government to become more seriously engaged in the effort to lower the spread and save lives. The Army Corps of Engineers and



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National Guard need to help retro fit existing buildings for hospital space. Manufacturers must start producing ventilators and other equipment necessary to save lives, including test kits. Research and testing of medications, including vaccines is under way.

But what about faith and faith communities in all of this, if houses of worship are shut and services are cancelled? Churches are providing live streaming of services. Mosques, synagogues and temples too. Here are just a couple links and searching for live streamed services will yield many more.

Catholic: <https://www.sdcatholic.org/find-a-parish/on-line-sunday-mass/>

Episcopal : <https://www.stpaulcathedral.org/connect/videos1/>

Methodist: <https://www.fumcsd.org/watch-live/>

The Christian Center at Borrego: <https://www.ccborrego.com/live-services.html>

There are numerous online sources for scripture texts, the texts of services of morning and evening prayer and communion, just to take the Episcopal examples: <http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/> and <https://www.bcponline.org/>, and here is a New Revised Standard Version Bible link: <https://bible.oremus.org/>