

Greetings Christ Church,

As most of you are aware, the Coronavirus is a health concern that may affect our area. I want to share the following information as your church responds in a cautious manner, and in an effort to provide information and a sense of non-anxious peace.

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. Symptoms of the disease are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. If you are experiencing these symptoms, call your doctor immediately. Symptoms may appear between two to 14 days after exposure to the disease.

The disease is new so there is no vaccine at this time. Health professionals are still learning all of the ways that the disease is transmitted and who is most susceptible. It is best to take precautions, especially if you have a weaker immune system, a history of respiratory issues or are over 70 years old. If identified early, the survival rate for this virus is high.

#### INDIVIDUAL PRECAUTIONS

- When you cough or sneeze, cough/sneeze into your bent elbow or a tissue, not into your hand.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. All the time. All day long.
- Wash your hands after coughing, sneezing, handling diapers, preparing food or using the bathroom.
- Wash your hands thoroughly after handshakes. Carry hand sanitizer or refrain from handshakes and hugging.
- At all times avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth; these are the places germs enter the body.
- Stay home if you are feeling ill. Don't hesitate to go to the doctor or urge others to do so.

#### SAFE MEASURES FOR CHURCH

- We always use alcohol-based liquid hand sanitizer in preparation and in distributing Communion elements.
- We will be using individual cups for Holy Communion.
- We perform routine cleaning in the Sanctuary, kitchen and other spaces where people gather.
- Should it be necessary, we will implement a wellness check for the congregation, especially for our older people who may live alone. This is being developed by our Congregational Care Ministries.

Please stay updated as information becomes available from the CDC and WHO. (WHO - <https://www.who.int/news-room> or CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/>)

As I share these measure, my prayer is that we will be wise in our precautions and that we will not need to implement a response. Please remain prayerful for those who are affected and those who are responding to this outbreak.

Prayer

*"Let your healing light shine, O God. Give doctors unusual skill in the healing arts. Give researchers success in curing diseases. Give Counselors insight and healing love. Give pastors discernment and tender compassion. Give health workers courage and boundless courage and boundless hope. Let your healing light shine, O God."*

~Richard J. Foster

Blessings,

**Rev. Becki Curry**  
Interim Senior Pastor

