



Brothers, sisters, and dear friends of C4:

Intro:

With a heavy heart I state the following: we will no longer have onsite worship service for the foreseeable future. Out of love for God's people and our neighbors, due to the nature of this virus, we wisely want to love from afar.

Governor Newsom suggested cancelling gatherings of 250 or more. However, just recently, Orange County Operations Health Officer, ordered prohibition of any public or private gatherings that did not involve "Essential Activities". Church gathering did not make the list of "Essential Gathering".

I spoke and communicated with the session, and we prayerfully decided to comply with the request of our Local Health Officer.

Hence, effective immediately, C4 will suspend all church gatherings: including public cell group, and onsite worship. Scripture speaks of Christians needing to submit to governing authorities (Rom. 13:1), and we hope to be a great witness, with camaraderie with other gospel loving churches, during these unprecedented times.

I never expected a day I would have to suspend onsite worship. This is very hard for me. Yet at the same time we can count our blessings, because we live at a time where we can still meet: online. We shall work to the best of our ability to seamlessly provide a worship service to you all for Sundays: providing liturgy – songs, prayers, and sermon – though it will adapt to the new environment.

Exhortation:

Since we have the capability to still meet, though not physically, I would strongly encourage you to consciously obey the fourth commandment. Even when Christians cannot assemble physically to worship, we have a duty, as his children, to worship our wonderful God on Sunday. And we do not have an excuse. Please do not intentionally sin against our Triune God by neglecting Sunday worship during this time.

PLEASE SET ASIDE TWO UNDISTRACTED HOURS EVERY SUNDAY.

I would encourage you to find a place free from distraction, so you can participate in worship, despite worshipping on screen. I recommend 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm, our regular time of worship, but please choose the best time for yourself and/or your family. Most services will not last that entire time. Nevertheless, please save that time and diligently offer your best, and undivided reverence to your Triune God: every Sunday.

Since we will most likely not assemble together for some time, please build up good habits as the local church. During worship, turn off all notifications, and please do not respond to any calls or text messages during your worship time. I also plead with you: do not have the worship service on while you prepare meals in the kitchen or when your using the restroom. Let us remain in a posture worthy of our Holy God during worship.

We will also suspend the Eucharist Sacrament for the foreseeable future.

Furthermore, we will suspend cell groups gatherings. However, I have instructed the cell group leaders to find ways for us to meet online, via group chat/conference call. Please stay grounded in the community, sharing in prayer, and keeping each other accountable. Let us do whatever we can to maintain the unity of our Church.

We will also try to meet have our quarterly meeting, though online on 3/29: please participate in that as well.

Parting words from your Pastor:

Brothers and sisters, I need your full support during this time. Ministry presents hardship as it stands, but I never imagined that there would come a day when I would minister from afar. I swim in uncharted waters. Hence, I would love for your participation and communication. If you need to talk, if you need to speak, if you need some prayer, please contact me, or our leaders. I will always make room for personal visits.

Yet my duty, to minister and shepherd you well, does not change. In the day I stand before the Lord in judgement and give an account of my stewardship of you, "COVID-19" won't satisfy Christ as an acceptable excuse. Hence, I beg you, please help me look after you well. It will comfort me to know that you all will continue worshiping God every Sunday.

I would also love your prayers for me: to shepherd and pastor you all faithfully; and to trust in our Triune God daily!

Please understand how much this decision pains me. I will miss having fellowship together, and seeing your lovely faces. I hope you will miss it, too. Maybe perchance the Lord has providentially postponed onsite worship so that we would all see the beauty of this great gift called the Church. Let us even take this dispensation to repent of taking his Church for granted.

So, though not present with each other, I ask you to pray—and maybe also fast—for the day we can finally worship again: together. Yet I have no doubt that God will use this time of separation for His glory, for the edification of His Church, and for our ultimate good (Rom. 8:28).

Lord willing, we will worship together again; we will shake hands and hug one another again. Furthermore, on that first Sunday back, we will participate in Eucharist, and I suggest a great dinner to celebrate together!

In the meantime, stay health. Remain diligent in your personal holiness. Love your neighbor, and those less fortunate. Keep your election sure by remaining fruitful. Workout your salvation. Use all the means the Lord has placed at your disposal to keep you from spiritually withering during these unprecedented times.

I love you all.

Till we meet again, may His peace be with you!

Your Pastor:

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