



April 8, 2020

Greetings Lettered Streets Covenant Family!

It is Wednesday of Holy Week which means we are four days away from celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus!

During a normal Holy Week we would be all hands on deck preparing for our Good Friday service, making last minute preparations for the neighborhood egg hunt, and putting the finishing touches on all things Easter.

It is natural and healthy to mourn the loss of the things we love, the things we are used to. It's okay to lament the loss of gatherings, time with friends and family, work, income, plans. I know for our family, the loss of our Easter brunch with extended family, neighbors, and a revolving door of church siblings is going to be hard.

What are you mourning lately? If you haven't already, considered voicing your sense of loss in two directions—Horizontally to someone you trust, and Vertically to Jesus who loves and cares for you.

I also want to offer two positives to consider.

The first is a personal consideration. In Christian spirituality the discipline of fasting is a way of cutting out something good, to make room for something better. Most people are familiar with fasting from food or drink, but other forms of abstinence or simplifying can also be helpful. People replace busyness with prayer, or media with reading, etc.

It seems to me that all this COVID-19 isolation is *imposing* some major forms of abstinence on most of us. We didn't ask for it, we don't like it, but here it is nonetheless. Hear me, I know that if you're a parent of small children, this is a far cry from endless hours of serenity where we can explore the depths of contemplative spirituality in silence and solitude. What a joke!

Lettered Streets Covenant Church

P.O. Box 5645 Bellingham, WA 98227

Phone 360.920.6712 • [info@letteredstreetscc.com](mailto:info@letteredstreetscc.com) • [www.letteredstreetscc.com](http://www.letteredstreetscc.com)

But what is am saying is, *pay attention*. What opportunities does this season present us with? What positives might you find for your spiritual life or relationships during this season?

The second positive to consider is that while we'd rather gather for worship during Holy Week, we are preparing resources for you worship in place and *be* the communion of saints, possibly to an even deeper degree than before.

I want to point out three resources in particular.

First, Jennifer Thomas is taking the lead on producing a home worship resource for Good Friday. Centered in the idea of a Tenebrae service, you'll be guided in scripture readings, songs, prayers, and extinguishing candles (or lamps, or flash lights, tiki torches, whatever makes a light) representing the death of Jesus. Look for these resources to be available in Thursday's Weekly Update.

Second, a group of contributors has put together an interactive Easter devotional. We have chosen five different points at Zuanich Park on the Bellingham waterfront, where you can walk and pause to reflect on the resurrection of Jesus. An interactive map will guide you so all you need is a smart phone or you can opt to print it out at home.

Because gatherings are discouraged (and are irresponsible!) feel free to walk the route at any time throughout the day. For those who simply can't make it to the park physically, the devotional will also include a photo of each location with the devotional content so you may participate from home.

Third, we'll have an Easter worship service available for your at home worship experience. Various people from the congregation are collaborating to add elements to the service and you are encouraged to follow along from home and contribute by interacting with the content as an act of worship to the Risen and Reigning Jesus!

Bless you!

Chris

### **What LSCC Leadership Is Doing**

- The staff will continue produce worship resources for each Sunday including things like: a sermon podcast, a liturgy containing prayers, songs, readings, and children's activities. We will make this available **by 10am on Sunday** on our website. We'll also send the link via email.
- Christy Wilson continues to build community with the youth, both through Zoom and through encouraging the kids to write cards to people. This small army of students have blessed so many already through their greetings in the mail.
- Elizabeth continues to build ways for us to connect online. Please contact her [HERE](#) if you would like to be added to the private facebook group.
- [Jen Milsten](#) continues to curate resources for children and families to continue to grow and worship at home.
- [Morgan](#) is helping us think creatively about ways we may serve the community and will act as a service volunteer coordinator should opportunities arise.
- [Morgan](#) is also coordinating care within our congregation. If you need help, or even someone to make a grocery store run, please contact Morgan.
- If you have prayer requests, please submit those [HERE](#).
- If you would like to set up a time to talk with pastor Chris, contact him directly [HERE](#).
- If you need financial help during this crisis please contact our Lead Team Chair, [Ryan Wasserman](#) or pastor [Chris](#).
- The Lead Team continues their work of prayer, guidance, and operations of the organizational side of the church. They are also committed to reaching out to everyone in the church once a week via phone, text, email, or snail mail. No one walks alone!

Please take a moment to consider some ways we can be good neighbors to one another and to our surrounding community:

## What You Can Do

- Pray! We are seeing sick people recovering, anxious people finding deeper peace, and protection for our front line workers. Please continue to lift them, and each other, up in prayer!
- Stay home unless you are employed in essential services or must go out for supplies or well isolated outings for physical and mental health.
- [Stay in contact](#). If you're not feeling well (physically, emotionally, mentally) and are isolated at home, the staff wants to know so we can best care for you!
- Be sure to have bread or crackers and grape juice or wine on hand for Communion.
- Write cards to encourage the staff of the LH Mission, Food Bank, Hospital, WTA, or other frontline agencies. Thank your grocery clerk or take out delivery person.
- Watch out for each other. Check in with people. Write cards, make calls or send texts.
- Continue to give of your tithes and offerings as an act of worship and in support of the ministry of the church and the community by mailing a check to P.O. Box 5645 Bellingham, WA 98227 or by giving online, [HERE](#).
  - Last week we invested \$750 in the Bellingham School District Family Resource center. This week we are supporting our local food bank as demand for food and essential items is unprecedented. Your generosity allows us to respond to needs like this quickly which helps our community, encourages those serving, and helps us continue being God's agents in the world. We are also able to distribute much needed assistance to some people in our own congregation who are struggling during this time. Thank you!

[Archive of LSCC responses to COVID-19](#)