Dear friends in Christ,

As many of you are no doubt aware, Governor Carney has declared a state of emergency in Delaware citing the threat to public health of the COVID-19 virus.

As an immediate result of this action, Bishop Brown has suspended all public worship in the congregations of the Church in Delaware for the next 2 weeks, effective immediately. He made this decision based on the latest information and it is done with care for the larger community.

In response to this decision, all group gatherings are cancelled at Immanuel Church. That means all liturgies and classes on Sunday, all mid-week gatherings (Holy Eucharist, Bible study, etc.), and all gatherings of groups (St. Anne’s Guild, vestry, Movie Night, etc.) We are making arrangements for Emmanuel Dining Room and at this time the plan is to deliver food to the site which will then
The office will be functioning remotely during the week and I am available for individual meetings. For now, the best way to communicate with the office is via email at immanuelonthegreen@comcast.net. As always, the church will be open for prayer and meditation every day from 9 to 5. I offer the following resources for worship at home and privately:

- **Daily Prayer** - This site offers the daily selections from Forward Day by Day, a liturgical calendar, and more resources to strengthen your faith and heart.
- **Canon Williams Prays the Office - Morning and Evening Prayer on Facebook** - Daily Morning Prayer at 7:30 am, Daily Evening Prayer at 6 pm, according to the Book of Common Prayer (1979)

I also commend to you the Daily Office which begin on page 36 of the Book of Common Prayer.

The Episcopal Church is eucharistically centered. That means that the regular reception of Christ's Body and Blood in the bread and the wine of the eucharist is at the heart of our faith. While we may not be able to gather as a community on the Lord’s Day, we remain one body. In the absence of the opportunity to receive communion physically, I offer the following prayer and practice that has traditionally been known as Spiritual Communion:

*Lord Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I devote myself to you above all things, and I ask for you to be present with me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; and I pray never to be separated from you. Amen.*

Our trust now and ever is in the Lord. We should and must pray for one another and all who are currently impacted by this virus, particularly victims, their caregivers, and communities that are grappling with how to respond in the midst of this crisis.

*O God, our times are in your hand. In the midst of uncertainty lead us by your never-failing grace as we seek to be agents of healing and hope. Walk with us through difficult times; watch over us in danger; and give to us a spirit of love and compassion for those who suffer and mourn. And finally remind us that you have promised never to leave us so that even in the valley of the shadow of death your love may be felt, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

I remain faithfully yours in Christ,

Fr. Keene

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**Here are a few resources you might find helpful:**

- [State of Delaware](#)
- [Episcopal Relief & Development – Faith-Based Response to Epidemics](#)
- [CDC Information on Coronavirus](#)
- [Washington State Department of Health on Coronavirus](#)
- [Washington Post – How to Prepare for the Coronavirus in the US](#)
- [CDC Pandemic Guidelines](#)

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**PARISH HAPPENINGS**

**Tonight’s event in the Parish Hall**, from the New Castle Arts Council, has been cancelled.

**Next Movie Discussion Night on Saturday, Mar 21** is postponed, and will be rescheduled in the coming weeks.
The final phase of the Pew Accessibility Project was completed on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 with the reassembly and installation of Immanuel’s newly cleaned marble font on a 6” high block of Cold Spring Black Granite, mined from a quarry in Quebec, Canada. The font serves as a focal point when entering the church through the porch entry and is a visual reminder of our baptismal covenant.

The marble font was cleaned by Linda Lennon, a professional objects conservator based in Newark, Delaware with over twenty years of experience. The granite base was supplied by Tim O’Connell & Sons, Wilmington, Delaware, the contractor engaged for the Pew Accessibility Project construction.

Close examination of the font revealed some of the following issues: “In the basin and scattered overall on the font there is discoloration and possibly areas of staining from rust. On the top of the base section, there is extensive discoloration. There are numerous accretions on the marble surface including: drips of candle wax, particularly on the base; green accretions … and scattered accretions of drips of paint. In addition, there are areas of concentrated dirt and grime located particularly on edges of the column and the base. There is some slight weathering of the marble surface overall. There may be scattered dark flecks of pyrite inclusions in the marble that are original to the stone. The font is currently resting on an uneven brick floor and there is some movement overall of the font when touched that is likely due to the uneven surface under the base.” Ms. Lennon was engaged to “improve the appearance of the font overall by surface cleaning to the extent possible, accepting that some local areas of possible rust staining may remain; to fill the loss on the bottom of the base (to continue the line of the bottom `edge of the base as it will be apparent against the anticipated black granite riser.); and to apply a clear thin wax layer to the surface that will protect the surface from occasional small water drips.”

The 6” high granite block was installed to raise the font to a more comfortable level for baptisms. There was most likely at one time a base to the font.

The font had originally been used at Immanuel and was given to an Episcopal church outside of Philadelphia sometime in the early 20th century. Over time the font was retired by that church and placed outside and used as a birdbath, which explains some of the staining identified by Ms. Lennon. The font was returned to Immanuel following the 1980 fire.

The newly refurbished font is ready to great parishioners and guests when services resume, hopefully on March 29, 2020.

Felice Jo Lamden, Pew Accessibility Project Coordinator
Available Flower Memorial Dates

Memorials can be a Sunday closest to a set date (such as a birthday, anniversary, or passing), or a specific Sunday in the month (such as the 1st Sunday in October), and can be recurring or one time happenings. Please contact the office on (302)328-2413, or Mark on (302)654-2562 or at mbac56@aol.com, if you would like to talk about an offering.

These Sundays are available for dedicated flower offerings:

2020
- March 29
- April 19
March Birthdays
- Week 1 - Tom Meyers, Jago Plant, Jeff Knoll
- Week 2 - Mark Bacher, Bobbette Mason
- Week 3 - B.G. Robelen, Lauren Hopper, Doe Irwin, Esther Lovlie
- Week 4 - Katie Meloro
- Week 5 - Jon Barrett, Mary Elizabeth Meyer, Rick Chance, Teddy Kinservik, Chloe Rae Maloney, Dan Wolcott

March Anniversaries
- Week 1 - Jon and Grace Barrett

STAY CONNECTED

The FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) struggle is real. If you haven’t already, be sure to follow us on Twitter and Instagram, for memes like this one:

Stay up to date on all the latest happenings by visiting our website.