



Dear Church Family,

As we're sure you are aware, there have been confirmed cases for COVID-19 (coronavirus) in our area. Radiant takes the health and welfare of our church family seriously. We are making some adjustments to elements of our Sunday morning services, but at this point, **we are not canceling services.** We are monitoring reports from the Seattle & King County Department of Public Health, and we will continue to follow their recommendations for our area.

Know that our leadership is closely monitoring this situation, and we are making the necessary adjustments and precautions to our services. We want to remind you that we do not respond out of fear but rather out of love and care for the safety and well-being of our church. With that in mind, please consider the following:

Sunday Service Adjustments

-For now, we will forgo passing the ***offering basket*** during worship and instead ask Radiant to use the offering baskets in the back of the sanctuary or to give online.

-During ***communion***, servers will wear gloves and do both steps of tearing off the bread and dipping it into the cup, so that no hands are touching common food or drink.

What You Can Do to Protect Yourself and Your Church Family

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the best ways to stop the spread of coronavirus are:

- Wash hands and use hand sanitizer frequently.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Stay home if you are feeling ill.

Reminders

- **Don't panic, but prepare.** Stay informed and thoughtfully consider how you might wisely prepare for this new health reality. We're sharing some ideas here to encourage the church to feel prepared and informed. Remember to talk about your questions, worries, and concerns but not to be overwhelmed or driven by them.
- **Reject anxiety and racism** even as there is growing concern and heightened awareness around the way this particular virus can spread. Know that the targeting of Chinese Americans, Asian Americans, and those who have traveled to Asia and more broadly is already occurring. This harms our church and our community. Speak out and pray against this reality and injustice.

- **Proactively learn** about what the risks are and are not at this point; remember that the coronavirus overall is not especially aggressive or deadly, although it does seem to be easily spread and has been confirmed in the Seattle area. Consider how this might impact you, your family, and your community, including those without access to health care or with weakened immune systems or respiratory problems. Watch out for and pray for those more vulnerable to public health concerns.
- **Practice smart hygiene and help prevent the spread of germs** for the sake of the wider community and public health. Wash your hands frequently; use hand sanitizer. Clean public/hard surfaces you use more frequently. Refrain from touching your face or mouth regularly, and stay home if you have a cough or a fever.
- **Consider wise and measured lifestyle adjustments - but still live!** It is wise to pay attention to these health realities, especially when you are part of communal gatherings and in public spaces. Wash your hands and prep food carefully when gathering with others. Ask people visiting your home to wash their hands more. Think about where and when you travel, etc. It is also wise to continue to listen to medical professionals and accurately adjust behavior to match the risk and reality of our public health so that we do not race ahead or contribute to panic, fear, or dogpiling, all of which damage public health in the long run.

Resources

For facts about COVID-19 from the CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/share-facts.html>

For up to date information on COVID-19 in our area from Seattle & King County Department of Public Health:

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/disease-control/novel-coronavirus.aspx>

Check our social media for further updates related to Radiant. Please continue to keep the communities impacted by this illness in your prayers.

Sincerely,
Pastor Mike Thomas