

March 20, 2020

Dear Church family,

We have been monitoring all the information our local officials have provided us and been in direct contact with the governor's office concerning the status of COVID-19 in our community. The Leadership Team, Care Team and staff at Living Rock Church have met multiple times over the past 10 days to discuss how best to respond in these unprecedented times.

We believe the church is to be a shelter from the storm and a place of belonging in a growing world of isolation and fear. Gathering together has been our sacred practice. While recognizing corporate worship has been at the center of our faith for two millennia, the ability for the church to shift and change in its expression has allowed our faith to remain strong through a variety of circumstances.

This is all taken into account and weighed against our concern for the safety and health of our church family and our community at large. We have a responsibility to do our part in helping to slow or minimize the spread of COVID-19 and have decided to take steps to do so.

At the present time, our Sunday worship service will be moved to live streaming the entire service, including worship. All other meetings at LRC are also postponed until further notice as we monitor the situation. The building is currently closed to the public.

Though we will not gather physically, our team has been working hard to create alternative means for our church community to stay connected digitally. Sunday's worship will be streamed live at 10:00 am at [https://www.facebook.com/pg/LivingRockChurchKillingworthCT/videos/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/LivingRockChurchKillingworthCT/videos/?ref=page_internal) (click on the red LIVE button). Midweek small groups will be meeting online via Zoom (a video conference platform) or chat. If you are in a small group, the leader will contact you directly with the link you need to participate.

Beginning this Monday, March 23, we will have a time to gather 3 times a week for prayer and encouragement called *Coffee & Connect*. You can log on at 9:30 am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at <https://zoom.us/j/889021879>.

If you are in need of help, we are actively expanding our care ministry. If you have a need, or if you can help assist our Care Team in meeting the needs of our members, please contact us here: <https://living-rock.org/covid-19/covid-19-form>. If you need prayer, click here: <https://living-rock.org/ministries/prayer-request>.

We have also set up a corona virus assistance fund, knowing that some families have already felt an economic impact. To give online, whether it's your tithe, offering, or special donation to the Corona virus assistance fund, click here: <https://living-rock.org/give>.

Our office staff is working remotely. For those who need assistance with navigating access to resources during this time, please contact Peggy at [peggy@living-rock.org](mailto:peggy@living-rock.org) or Emilee at [lrcoffice@living-rock.org](mailto:lrcoffice@living-rock.org). Office hours are Monday-Friday, 9 am – 2 pm.

We'll keep you updated with more information as soon as possible. Stay up-to-date at <https://living-rock.org/covid-19>.

Lastly, we believe Jesus gives us peace, but not as the world gives. His peace surpasses our understanding and remains with us during times of fear and anxiety to guard our hearts and minds. We are praying this prayer and invite you to pray with us:

### **Corona virus Prayer**

*"He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. You also must help us by prayer, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many." I Corinthians 1:10-11 ESV*

Lord we bow our hearts and bend our knees and cry out to you in humility. We acknowledge that you are in control. Through Christ You have shown Your power and compassion to heal people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now to those who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19.

May we all feel your loving presence at this time. Be with doctors and nurses as they work to care for those who are sick. Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give us all a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect our families, friends and neighbors whether they be close or worldwide.

Let us repent of all those sins that have separated us from you and one another. May the church be a light and example of love and kindness in this hour. Let our love be without dissimulation as we seek to serve all.

Lord provide and ease the suffering of those whose resources are being stretched beyond anything ever anticipated.

Father guide the governments towards your wisdom worldwide as they make decisions that will affect our lives and futures. Inspire and invigorate those who are tirelessly working on research towards a vaccine

We turn to you Lord.

In Jesus' name, AMEN.

*Pastor Ryan*