



# St. Ann's Episcopal Church

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*Connecting people to Jesus Christ for the transformation of our lives, families, and communities*

March 18, 2020

My Dear Friends,

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear. Psalm 46:1-2a.* In the midst of the uncertainty of the times, we are reminded of the fact that God is our refuge and strength and we need not fear. The response to the COVID-19 Coronavirus has disrupted and changed much of our daily way of life and worship right now. While there is uncertainty and change, we need not fear. As you have hopefully heard via email or the closing listing on television, **all public worship and services at St. Ann's have been suspended until further notice.**

At this point I don't know when that suspension will be lifted and public services will resume. The Wardens and I remain in contact as we continue to monitor the guidance and directives of the Centers for Disease Control, the State Health Department, and the Bishop. Our desire is to resume our public gatherings as soon as it is safe for us to do so.

Given the suspension of all public services and events what does that mean for us at St. Ann's? Fortunately, we are blessed to live in a time where technology allows us to remain connected to each other even when not physically together. We do not want to become isolated from each other during this time. Please maintain contact with one another via phone, text, Facetime or video chat, and email. We need each other more than ever during these uncertain times.

Worship will continue at St. Ann's via streaming service on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. We will broadcast using Facebook live at [www.facebook.com/saintannsamsterdam](http://www.facebook.com/saintannsamsterdam). Following the end of the service a copy of the video will also be available on our website. Please visit the announcement section of our website for further information and other digital prayer resources.

I recognize that everyone may not have access to the online resources. If you and your family are not able to access our website or any of the other digital resources please contact the parish office so that we can discuss options to keep you connected to the parish and in worship during this time.

Ministry in the parish and the preaching of the Gospel continues even when we can't gather together in person. Please limit in-person visits to the parish office unless absolutely necessary and you are healthy. We rely on your generous financial support to keep the ministry going and to be ready to resume public services as soon as we are able to do so. During this time your offering may be mailed to the office or online giving is available at [donate.saintannsamsterdam.org](http://donate.saintannsamsterdam.org). Thank you so much for continued financial support of the ongoing ministry here at St. Ann's.

I urge us all to comply with the restrictions and guidance coming from the government at this time. All the government agencies are working to keep us safe and stop the spread of the virus. While we may be inconvenienced and we may not understand why, please follow the directives as they come out. If we all work together to comply with what is asked of us we can hopefully bring this outbreak to a quick end.

I remain available to assist you all in any way that I can. Please reach out to me at any point if you have questions, concerns, or just need to talk. Let us join together in prayer as we pray for all those affected by this virus, our government's response, and for a quick end to this outbreak. If there is anything I can do for you please let me know.

I look forward to being with you in our live stream service on Sunday. May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, may the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

In His Love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Neal +".

Fr. Neal

*Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. 2  
Thessalonians 3:16*