



Rooted in Jesus, Growing in His Love, Branching Out to Serve Others

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Good afternoon Church Family,

As you may already know, the CDC has changed their guidelines again, recommending gatherings of less than 10 people for 8 weeks. As you may have discovered, this includes Holy Week. Our Worship staff met yesterday to process this new reality.

Please be encouraged by Pastor Tom's message below:

"We join all of you in the emotion of grief and the experience of loss. To imagine NOT gathering together as a church family for the next several weeks leaves a hole in our hearts. More than anything else on a day-to-day basis, we get ready for and lead worship. The bigger sense of loss comes from imagining a Holy Week without the rhythms we are used to. Short of a miracle, Holy Week 2020 will be unlike any other in the past or future. By then, we will have found some avenues of being the Church that are new and life-giving, tried and failed at a thing or two, and gained new evidence of God's faithfulness and power. Then there are our heartbeats of discipleship and mission that will be greatly challenged - Children's and Youth Ministry, small groups, ShareFest and more. What we will do is unknown for now; THAT God will show us what, how and when to do something new is undeniable. This is why we have to listen more closely than ever; be still and expectant. This is why we must discern and do God's will together. Maybe the last few years of learning to slow down and listen together was preparing us "for such a time as this!"

If anyone in our church family is in a situation where you cannot or would rather not go out to places like the grocery store and do not feel comfortable ordering them online; we have a host of people who are very willing to pick up your grocery list and money, go to the grocery store and bring them to your front door. Please call the church office (242-1923 or email office@firstpresgj.org) and we will connect you with one of these people.

Please be on the look out for another video message from Pastor Tom on Sunday along with Jason's sermon that will be posted here on our website and our [Facebook](#) page.

Blessings to you and your family on this beautiful day,

FPC Staff