

# TEMPORARY CHANGES AT MET

Lenten Greetings Metropolitan!

I want to update you as to some changes we are making as we continue to monitor and respond to the spread COVID-19

As the World Health Organization wrote in a recent communique, this is a time to let "hope be the antidote to fear," "solidarity be the antidote to blame," and "our shared humanity be the antidote to our shared threat." By walking together, and placing our whole lives in God's hands, we will find a way.

We are considerate of the fear that is spreading and, at this point, want to implement preventative measures to meet the challenges posed by the spread of COVID-19 without completely curtailing our common life and worship:

- Most of our worship services and regular events will continue. If you are not feeling well or would prefer self-care, please stay at home. Our worship services are broadcast live on CJBK 1290 at 11am or the Scripture and Sermon can be found on the Metropolitan Website. Our custodial staff continue to maintain and clean our space as well as topping up our hand sanitizers.
- Our 9:30 service will not include the Eucharist until it is deemed appropriate to resume.
- The Passing of the peace will be in a non-contact manner, until it is deemed appropriate to resume.
- All committee's and groups who can meet via media or phone, please do so.

Please continue to check-in with one another- ensuring that those who are in need, are heard. Please be especially aware of those who might be in quarantine for a set period of time.

We are in unprecedented times and are offering the best we can, with the information that we have. We are following the leadership of the Federal and Ontario Government, the City of London, the United Church of Canada and our Metropolitan leadership. As events unfold, we may need to make other changes as necessary. We believe that we are being prudent, but it is hard to predict the reach and extent of this pandemic. So we

ask for your empathy and patience as we try to serve you faithfully, just as we respect your decisions regarding what you feel you are called to do.

Please be sure to exercise your best judgment regarding your own health and safety. Rest assured of our continued love and affection for you no matter what you decide regarding your own participation and attendance.

I am grateful for our staff who have helped me make these important changes so that we remain connected together in Christ.

Please let me know if you have questions, concerns, or want to help-  
[jeffcrittenden@metropolitanchurch.com](mailto:jeffcrittenden@metropolitanchurch.com)

As we take these steps to help keep ourselves safe, let us find new depth in our prayer life. To that end, let me offer the following prayer from my friend, the Rev. Dr. Bill Danaher

*Loving God, we pray for those who are sick and their loved ones, and for those who have died because of this virus.*

*We pray for those who are oppressed by fear and for those who are losing the income that sustains them.*

*We pray for all those who offer care and support to those who are sick.*

*We pray for those in the medical, scientific, research and pharmaceutical communities devoting their time and talent to counteract this pandemic.*

*We pray for all our elected officials and all those who hold the common trust that their wisdom and compassion will increase.*

*Finally, we place our unshakeable need in you, our unshakeable God.*

*Be our consolation during these anxiety-producing times, in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Yours in Christ,

Jeff and Gregg