

## A Message from Pastor Karyn

Greetings –

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10*

I wanted to let you all know that I am thinking of you and praying for you daily. The truth is we can only get through this together ... even if we are physically separated. I believe to the core of my being that we are not alone. God is with us. We are called to be faithful in a time of fear and uncertainty. That's not an easy thing to do for many of us, but this text assures that God strengthens us and upholds us.

John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, asked a friend at Oxford what to preach when he doubted. His friend responded, "Preach faith until you have faith." This is true for us, too. We have to keep preaching, speaking, and living hope until we have hope. Our faith and hope is in the Lord.

When we feel alone or discouraged, it's perfectly normal. Wanting answers or a clearer plan ahead is human. But right now we don't have that. What we can do in the middle of uncertainty is look out for each other, pray for and with our community of faith, and reach out when we need help. We can be there for one another virtually. We can also take care of each other's needs when they arise. We don't want anyone to go without food, medicine, or needed supplies, so please contact me if you need assistance ([kwiseman@uls.edu](mailto:kwiseman@uls.edu) or 704.796.5073 - we will keep it confidential). We want to help, please reach out if you need it.

I've had some amazing conversations with some of you this past week and I keep hearing the same thing – gratitude for each other. Gloria Dei is more than a church, it's a family. Keep loving each other, keep checking in on each other, and enjoy spending some quality time with your family (even though some of us may have just about had enough of ours – LOL). Whether you are an introvert or an extrovert, these are tough times. Hang in there.

A few more things –

1. We will have worship every Sunday at 10am live-streamed on our website, <https://gloriadei.com> until we are allowed to gather in person again. Please join us and share the service information with others.

2. We still have bills to pay, ministries to keep up, and employees to pay. If you are able, please continue to give either by mailing in your check or donating online at our website by clicking on the tab "Online Giving" at the top and using the site to process your donation. We so appreciate your continued support.

We are stronger together than we are apart. We are beloved children of God and God is with us. Join me in this prayer.

Lord, be with us in these troubled times. Be with healthcare workers, first responders, and those impacted by the COVID-19 virus. Be present with us in our isolation and in our fear. Grant us strength and perseverance. Grant us patience and understanding. Lord, be with us all. Amen.

Grace and Peace –

*Pastor Karyn*