

April 7, 2020

Dear Gloria Dei Community,

As I write this, we are in the midst of Holy Week, the most “holy” week of the year. And we are living into our fourth week of physical distancing and staying at home. The width and breadth of emotions of this week is stunning. Palm Sunday and Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem is one of my favorite days of the year to preach. You helped make this past Sunday special by sharing your images for the palm procession and by sharing in communion together with me as you gathered in your homes. I felt so connected to all of you and I hope you felt that connection to each other as well.

For the rest of this week, we remember the last supper, the betrayal of Judas, and the arrest of Jesus, in addition to his trial, punishment, and crucifixion. These are somber moments in the church and in the faith lives of Christians. They are opportunities for us to reflect on Jesus’ humanity and on our own. And remember, Easter is coming!

I invite you to join us on Thursday for Dinner Church at 6pm from your dining room table and on Friday at 7pm for Good Friday services. You received an email with the details earlier today. Please keep that handy for livestreaming and Zoom information for each event or check on our website for the event details.

Being isolated can sometimes be frustrating, depressing, and even unsettling. Every week I share the same thought on Facebook – “It’s okay to not be okay.” You don’t have to try having it all together. I actually broke down and cried Sunday night. But then I remembered that I am not alone in this. God is with us. We’re all here for each other. We pray for each other. We check on each other. But it’s also okay to be struggling some. Let’s help each other out and carry some of that fear or frustration for each other for a bit. And we have to remember, no matter what, Easter is coming!

During this time, I want to give a special thank you to all of you for your continued financial support of Gloria Dei. These are tough times and your gifts mean the world to us. Your staff is working from home, sending out messages of hope, making calls to members, paying our bills, and taking care of the building as needed. We appreciate your support. You can give online at [GloriaDei.com](http://GloriaDei.com) or from the donate button on the livestream each Sunday. You can also always mail your offering into the office.

I pray for you daily and appreciate your prayers for each other and for me. My continued prayer right now is for all of us to come out of this more devoted to God and to one another, more appreciative of all we have, more caring of our friends and neighbors, more open to our spouses and families, more actively giving back to the world in personal and profound ways, and more aware of the gifts we all have to share. I hope you will continue to pray for your church, your staff, and each other. Remember - Easter is coming!

This Holy Week and always – God loves you and so do I.

Grace and Peace –

Pastor Karyn