



Grace to you...and Peace

**A conversation imagined by Pastor Jeff**

*Coronavirus:* “Church is cancelled now, right?”

*Jeff:* “No. Church is not cancelled, now or ever. The Church cannot be cancelled. The Church is the Body of Christ, the Bride of Christ, the People of God, the Flock under the care of our Good and Faithful Shepherd. The gates of Hades will not prevail against the Church. The Church is built on the solid Rock of Jesus Christ. The Church are the people filled with the Holy Spirit, united to Christ, absorbed in the love of God our Heavenly Father, and God’s love never ends. Therefore, Church is not cancelled, it never will be, it cannot ever be.”

*Coronavirus:* “Okay, fine. I get it. But worship is cancelled, right?”

*Jeff:* “Nope! Offering our bodies as living sacrifices is our worship to God. That means, entrusting ourselves to Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit, we offer to our Father our whole selves—every moment of every day—as our reasonable and acceptable act of worship to God. We are meant to offer our whole life as worship to God. Even after we die, we will continue to worship the Lord in love and adoration into all eternity. Worship is not cancelled.

*Coronavirus:* “You know what I mean! You’ve cancelled your Sunday morning gatherings when the Church worships God together, right?”

*Jeff:* “I know what you mean, but the answer is still no. Our Sunday morning worship services are not cancelled. They have, however, moved online. The worshippers the Father seeks are those who worship in spirit and in truth. In fact, I preached about that for our first online worship service on March 15! It is important for the church to continue to worship in spirit and in truth, and it is important for the church to share time together and worship together, to build one another up! And praise be to God, we have such wonderful technology that allows us to continue to gather as the Body of Christ, online, in spirit and in truth, if not in person.

*Coronavirus:* “Fine then...”

Dear Unity,

In all seriousness, neither the church nor worship is cancelled. In order to love our neighbors and to discourage the spread of COVID-19, we have closed our church building to all gatherings until further notice and for at least as long as the schools are closed. But **worship is not cancelled. Our services have just moved online**, and additional points of connection are being made available online as well. (Please see the next page for more information on that.)

We have been talking for months about becoming less busy and more engaged. Though this isn’t true for all of us, many of us have suddenly found ourselves much less busy! Will we stay engaged? Will we become more engaged, even? This season is a moment of truth...

May we, the Church, step up in this season, and become more engaged than we have been. May we be more engaged in encouraging and supporting each other, praying with and for each other, and building up the Body of Christ, as we continue to worship in spirit and in truth, and “gather” through the many means of connection we have at our fingertips.

Grace & Peace  
in Christ,

*Jeff*

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## Staying Connected and Engaged

Our worship services will be on Facebook.com/UnityPC and YouTube.com (just search for Jeff Bergeson) each Sunday at 11:00am. If you can use the internet, please worship with us this way! And if you know folks whose congregations have no online options, invite them to join in worship online with you.

If you are absolutely unable to use the internet to connect to the worship service online, then at 11:00am on Sundays, call 1 (312) 626-6799 and enter the Meeting ID: 414 977 275. You will be able to listen to the worship service through your phone! While it costs you nothing to use this dial-in service, it is not a toll-free or local phone number, so long-distance charges may apply depending on your phone plan.

For other ways to connect, I am starting “A Way to Pray” to teach and practice prayer on Thursdays and Mondays at 11:00am through Facebook and YouTube. Pastor Caleb McClure is hosting a Bible Study called “Wednesdays with Caleb” available on Facebook each Wednesday at 11:00am. Adult Discussion Group and Youth Group are now using a service called Zoom to gather for discussion and prayer online Sunday mornings before worship. The Tuesday evening Small Group that meets every other Tuesday is also using Zoom to meet online. Our Session and Deacons will also meet via Zoom.

If you would like to participate in one of the groups meeting online, or if you have a group you would like to have begin to “meet” online, please let me know, and I can help you get set up with Zoom. Do you want to participate but don’t have the computer technology to do so? No worries! Zoom meetings can also be set up for people to use their landlines and phone in! There are also other options for smaller face-to-face digital meetings such as Google Duo.

Don’t let social distancing keep you from social or spiritual connection! We need each other, perhaps now more than ever. Let’s *be* the church, engaged in joyful worship, connected faith, and prayerful service with each other.

