

It is with heartfelt gratitude and Christian fellowship that I warmly greet each of you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It goes without saying that I miss your presence, your tangible expressions of joy and vitality, and your living embodiment of love and mutual support. But even in the midst of these strange and unanticipated times, the lessons we have learned and shared during our recent pursuit of #OneAnother have served to keep us together as a people and cement the bonds that have helped us grow and mature as a congregation.

With the onset of this unprecedented coronavirus pandemic, we have all faced challenges that we have never faced before, but somehow the Holy Spirit has enabled us to keep pressing forward. Though governmental and medical restrictions on our gatherings have been imposed upon us over the past few months, your faithfulness and commitment to the ministry have been amply displayed. Your active participation in our Sunday streaming services, intercessory prayer sessions, Holy Week devotionals, stewardship opportunities, and support of our bereaved and shut-in members speaks highly of your steadfastness and strength of character. To God be the glory for the things He has done with and through you and your family.

To be sure, we have no insight about how long this crisis may endure, but we encourage you to continue walking by faith and not by sight. We may not understand why and how we have become immersed in these circumstances, but we have the confidence to know that God is in control. Be not dismayed, because we have the assurance that God will take care of His people. As we wait patiently for the mitigation of this situation, let us not be weary in well-doing, for we know that this will pass in due time.

I cannot state emphatically enough how thankful I am that you are a part of this body of Christ, and I urge you to remain engaged by:

- Staying connected to the proclamation and study of the Word
- Praying for God's working in this encounter that His will may be accomplished
- Heeding the advice of knowledgeable experts to guard the health of ourselves and our loved ones
- Remaining cognizant of the needs of others in our congregation and beyond (food, financial assistance, communication, counseling, etc.)
- Providing comfort and encouragement to bereaved and shut-in individuals and families
- Being available for service opportunities
- Redeeming the time by pursuing personal and family devotions

Remember that we are all in this together. May the peace of God keep your minds and hearts through Christ Jesus.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Jerry M. Carter, Jr.,
Senior Pastor