

## **Update to Coronavirus Situation at Bethel**

As you can imagine we continue to discern how best to be the Body of Christ during this unprecedented, difficult time. We continue to listen to the guidance of the CDC to comply with the government's request of limiting mass gatherings and practicing social distancing. With those thoughts in mind here are a few announcements as it pertains to our schedule for this week, March 16-March 22.

**Worship:** We will once again worship online this week. You can worship with us beginning at 10:30. Note that you may have a lag in response if you try to watch live. Services are archived and available to watch at anytime of your choosing.

Services will be streamed online here:

<https://www.bethelchurchmidlothianva.org/messages/>

The service will also be available on YouTube. We will send the Youtube link in the Tuesday weekly email.

**Wednesday Night Activities:** Cancelled

**Thursday:** The Middle District Baptist Association meeting has been canceled

**Thursday Night Grace Fellowship:** Cancelled

This continues to be a very fluid situation so please monitor your email closely and check our website for further updates.

During this time let's do a great job of being the Body of Christ. This is our time to shine! To that end we want to let you know that we have some folks in our church that have volunteered to deliver supplies or pickup groceries to people who need to stay inside. If you have a need, please, please let us help you. We're here to be the hands and feet of Christ. If you need assistance please contact Jan Gilbert at (804) 912-4012 and Jan will get you the help you need. Please note when deliveries are made they will be thoroughly sanitized and can be left on door steps.

Finally, I want to offer a prayer based on Psalm 137. This Psalm was written when the people of Israel were taken into captivity. They spent roughly 70 years in exile and they had to adjust to a "new normal." Interestingly, their time spent in exile turned out to be one of the most creative periods for the Israelites. Many of the Psalms were written during this time. As we adjust to a "new normal" with this worldwide pandemic we pray the Lord will provide us with unexpected blessings along the way as we turn to Him. Here's Psalm 137:1-6 and a prayer to follow.

Psalm 137

<sup>1</sup> *By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion.*

<sup>2</sup> *There on the poplar we hung our harps,*

*<sup>3</sup> for there our captors asked us for songs, our tormentors demanded songs of joy;  
they said, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"*

*<sup>4</sup> How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land?*

*<sup>5</sup> If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand forget its skill.*

*<sup>6</sup> May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you,  
if I do not consider Jerusalem my highest joy.*

Dear Lord, many of us weep this day as we see a world turned upside down by this virus. We weep at the division in our country and the chaos of our world. We weep as many are gripped by fear and uncertainty. Lord, we confess we are scared. We ask a question similar to what the Israelites asked, "How can we sing songs of worship while we're adjusting to this new normal?" Help us to answer this question Lord. Help us Lord to see the many blessings that are already spread before us. Teach us new ways to worship. Give us new songs to sing and help us to always turn to you and seek you, especially in the midst of this chaos. Help us to remember that you are a God that brings order from the chaos and you are the bringer of peace. Bring your peace to us this day, in new, unexpected, profound ways. May your name be ever on our lips. May you be our "Highest Joy!" Heavenly Father we humbly ask for a cure for this virus and to please heal all of those who have been infected and we ask for blessings for doctors, nurses and first responders. Grant us double portions of wisdom, discernment, peace and joy this day. In Christ name and in the Power of the Holy Spirit I pray. Amen.