

March 17, 2020

**Dear RPC Community,**

As you may have already heard, gatherings of more than 50 people have now been banned by the province as a measure to decrease the possible transmission of the COVID-19 virus. We all need to work together to flatten the curve of transmission and to make sure that the most vulnerable in our midst are protected and cared for.

The Session, in response to the new restrictions, **has decided to suspend worship and all other church related activities for the immediate future.** We have also decided to close the church facilities to all user groups, whether RPC or others. **The church building will be effectively closed until the situation improves.**

**This does not mean that our ministry, work and witness as a Christian community and congregation will stop.** Our worship services will still be offered at the same time, but through live streaming on Facebook. We will also continue to post recorded services on our YouTube page. The Session will also seek ways to keep in touch with our congregation through other ways of encouraging conversation, reflection and growth in faith during this challenging season. Many of our small groups, whether bible studies or committee meetings, can take place through online services such as Zoom or Google. **We will send you additional emails later this week about how to access our live stream worship services.**

We are also making sure that pastoral care will be offered to all who are in need of it. Your elders will be in touch with you regularly and any need for pastoral care should be first addressed to your elder, who will then contact the ministers as needed. **If you have an emergent**

**pastoral care crisis, please contact either Victor or Young Tae for immediate response.**

Let us all be reminded that the Lord is our Shepherd and though we walk through the darkest of valleys, we will not fear, for God is with us and God comforts all God's people. In this season of Lent, as we journey with Jesus through the 40 days, we also know our destination, Easter. We are a people of resurrection, a community grounded deep in hope. With the love of our risen Saviour, let us live in this time as a people of compassion, hope and grace, serving those in our community who are vulnerable, caring for our neighbour, being sustained by the assurance of God's presence with us and with our world. May we as the body of Christ, continue to be the hands and feet that serve our world, as Jesus serves us. **Let us live in ways so that "when they see us, they will see Jesus!"**

May God's peace and blessing be with us all.

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**VICTOR S.J. KIM**

MINISTER, RICHMOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH