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Blessings, people of St. Thomas'! Let's begin with new things that I need to announce:

- OUR CHURCH BUILDING IS CLOSED. The Diocese has asked that all traffic in the church be curtailed. If people MUST go in, they may only go in 1 person at a time. They must sign in and out with the date and time. This is for tracking, in case someone should become ill. We need to know where they've been—and who else might be at risk. All people must disinfect their hands and the pen coming and going.
- Susie is working at the church for very limited hours, and remotely.
- Jon is nearly finished disinfecting the building. He will only be there sporadically to check the building.
- I am working from home.

Here's what the Bishop says—all churches are being discouraged from streaming Eucharist services, and videos and live streams need to be done with only one person present in the room. The Bishop encourages all of us to look toward the day when we all come together again for Holy Communion. He asks that we take advantage of all the other services in the prayer book at this time. If it helps—he says—we can think of ourselves as being “in exile.” Hoping that things will soon be back to normal is understandable, but not likely. It is very possible we won't be back in the church until mid-May. Meanwhile:

- I'm doing Noonday Prayers Monday- Friday live on Facebook
- Compline on Wednesdays and Sundays at 8 p.m. live on Facebook
- I encourage you to pray either Morning or Evening Prayer.

I will also be putting out informational videos, as well as short videos with prayers and guided meditation. Share them with your family and friends. They will be on our YouTube channel and our website. I will also link them to Facebook. And speaking of Facebook—if you have always resisted Facebook, I applaud you. I did, too. But rethink your stance now. If you are on Facebook and LIKE our page, you will receive notices in your feed of upcoming videos and services live online. Get used to going to our church page. Click [here](#) for the link. This is a great way to share pics—either on your own Facebook page OR the church's, to chat online in real time, to stay connected. If you need help getting started, CALL ME.

How about this? Make an altar in your home. All you need is a space you intentionally put together for remembering and thanksgiving. Assemble things on it that have personal meaning to you. Light a candle there. Be still and watch the flame and remember that Christ lives in you. Christ is with you. Even now. I will be sending out materials for you and your families to use during Holy Week. Make this Holy Week a year to remember—a year unlike any other—as you follow Jesus' walk to the cross.

The Bishop says we might all think about *moving to Washington for Easter*—not literally—but online. It would be cool to have thousands of people all worshiping together virtually. Then, call each other on the phone and wish each other Happy Easter! Don't forget the kids!

Our watchwords for this time are Creativity and Adaptability. Instead of focusing on what you are missing (and believe me, I understand...) focus on what we are finding out! Expect to discover ways of meeting God in this time of uncertainty. Share those journeys if you are comfortable—with the community, on Facebook, or with me—and if you like, I'll make sure they get posted on our website to encourage the community.

Above all, pray for each other. Call each other. Email each other. Send encouraging notes. We are the church. And the church will always continue as we walk with God and each other.

Bless you all!

*Lisa+*