

April 6, 2020

Good Monday!

This is going to be one of those weeks that seem so out of character we may not be sure how to go through it. For many of us, Holy Week and the great anticipation of an Easter Celebration in Church is something that we look forward to every year. Maundy Thursday, Community Good Friday Service, Sunrise Service, Sunrise Breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt, and then the traditional Easter Celebration—all cancelled. Well, cancelled in the traditional sense. For some of us, we will try to recreate a part of this special week as creatively as we can. But it's not going to be the same. So what do we do?

The first thing we need to do is understand the reasoning. At Leipsic First Christian Church, our Elders and I made the decision that the correct thing to do was cancel all gatherings because we felt we had a responsibility to our congregation to help “flatten the curve” and doing our part to stop the potential spreading of the Covid-19 virus. It was the right thing to do as well as the safest thing to do. The governor of Ohio, along with the President of the United States, began to define the size of groups and the length of time that the stay-at-home order and social distancing should take. Initially we thought we would be back in the Church by Easter Sunday. But such is not going to be the case. Again, we choose to be subject to the governing authorities (Romans 13:1) believing (as it says in that same verse) that “there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.” All of this makes life just more difficult and stressful.

Reflecting on Jesus' last week, it certainly was stressful for him. On Palm Sunday he arrived in Jerusalem in a triumphant fashion. He certainly was (and is) the King of kings that day. The crowd was all over him, shouting praise and adoration and the day was certainly His for the taking. He spent the week teaching about the Kingdom of God and being confronted by the religious hierarchy of the day. Thursday became a bit more somber as he gathered his disciples for what we now know as the Last Supper. Then the betrayal, the scattering of the disciples at His arrest, the fake trial, and then...the horrible death on the cross. Not necessarily how He wanted the week to go, but exactly the way it was supposed to go. His week was pretty tough. And all we have to do is stay at home.

I want to encourage you to make the most of this Holy Week. Since many of us have the time, go through each of the Gospel accounts of Jesus' last days on earth. The passages are Matthew 21-28, Mark 11-16, Luke 19-24, and John 12-20. Allow the accounts of what Jesus did for each of us soak into our lives as we celebrate Holy Week as individuals and families. Check into the online services that will be taking place. We at FCC will have Maundy Thursday devotions which will go online beginning at 5:00 PM which will include a Communion Service (BYOE--Bring Your Own Elements). There will be another online Worship Celebration Service Easter Sunday beginning at 10:00 AM.

Remember I am praying for you and asking God's protection on you as well. Please stay safe and know that we will soon be out of all this. When we get together again, we will have quite the celebration.

Blessings to you,

Pastor Tim