



EAST PALMYRA CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

2057 Port Gibson Road

Palmyra, NY 14522

March 20, 2020

Dear Congregation,

“Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.” (Psalm 124:8)

I hope that this letter finds you healthy and well!

As you are aware, the recent outbreak of the COVID-19 virus is having a major impact on our nation and that impact is being experienced by churches like our own. Because of recent government guidelines as well as our own desire to care for the welfare of the congregation, the Council of EPCRC has determined that we will need to change a significant part of our ordinary ministry—at least for a short time.

The most significant of these changes is that we will not be gathering for worship on the Lord’s Day (at least through the month of March). Additionally, we will not be holding other congregational and group gatherings, and pastor and elder visitation will not be carried out in person. These decisions have not been easy, but they have been made with a view to the safety of our members and our desire to be in compliance with the guidance and restrictions that have been put in place by federal, state, and local authorities.

It is our desire to continue EPCRC’s ministry as best as we are able during this difficult time. Each week I will prepare and email Lord’s Day devotions for us to use in our homes on Sundays. (Those not having email will be sent a paper copy). These devotions will include the reading of scripture and the offering of different prayers. (You are also welcome to add the singing of Psalms and hymns if you would like!) Additionally, I will record a sermon that will be posted to the church website (www.epcrc.com) for you to use in your Sunday devotions. (Those who don’t have internet access will receive a CD copy).

In the coming days, I will seek to regularly communicate with each of you by phone and email so that we can pray together and encourage one another. I will also seek to provide ways for us to study and reflect on the Bible together even if we cannot meet in person. Also, if you have any physical needs that arise during this time, please feel free to contact me.

Please continue giving to the Lord and the ministry of this church through your tithes and offerings. Though we are unable to pass the offering plate in worship, we will continue to need your support for present and future ministry. During this time, we also want to continue supporting the ministries that are supported by the “Second Offering” in our worship service.

Finally, let me encourage you to look to our great and holy God and his Son, Jesus Christ! Remember, this is all part of God's sovereign plan, and he is working through all of it for good. I have already been able to see a number of prayers that have been answered by our present circumstances. Consider too that the Lord is providing us with an opportunity to grow in certain ways. This can be an opportunity for us to grow in faith, in prayer, in godliness, and in our love for the Word of God. We may also be given opportunities to tell more people of God's grace in Jesus Christ. Let's not waste this season that God has given us! Let's seek to glorify God and his Son through it! Please remember to keep our church family in your prayers. I will be praying for all of you.

May the Lord bless you.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Michael Saville

"I lift up my eyes to the hills— where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1)