

April 3, 2020

## A Word to HBC Amidst COVID-19

In light of recent developments, with respect to COVID-19, we are officially replacing our Sunday morning worship services with service recordings, until further notice. We are moving in this direction in order to protect the vulnerable in our midst, love our neighbor and in deference to the current State of Emergency in Ontario.

As we consider tuning into the recordings from our homes this Sunday, we encourage everyone to ponder the following points:

### We need to pray.

- for those who have been infected by the virus
- for those who are anxious about the current world situation
- that we, the Church of Jesus Christ, would be the aroma of Christ in the midst of all the unknowns (financial markets, adjustments to plans, medical precautions, etc)
- for organizations and institutions making difficult decisions right now.

**We need not fear** – In times like this we need to remind ourselves of the truths found in Scripture such as Psalm 46, 121, and Philippians 4. Let's be a church that sits in these passages over the course of this month. *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling."* (Psalm 46:1-3)

**We need to be wise** – We need to ensure that we are following the proper guidelines that the government of Ontario and Ministry of Health have recommended. Whether or not we consider our personal health to be at risk, we recognize the demands that could be placed on our healthcare system if the virus spreads significantly in our area and therefore will take the necessary precautions.

**We need to care for one another** – This is a time to share what we have in common, as needed. Consider picking up the phone and calling those in our midst who are struggling with their health. Ask them if they have any needs in this time and if they are being cared for. We encourage you to follow up with the elderly and vulnerable to ensure that their needs are being met.

### We need to witness

This is a perfect opportunity to prompt people to think about questions like:

- "Is there a God?"
- Am I at peace with Him?
- What hope do I have after death?
- Am I eternally secure?"

There will be a multitude of opportunities handed to us as events unfold – may we have courage and be prepared to give an answer for the hope that is in us. Knock on your neighbour's door and check to see how they are doing. This is a time to forge relationships.

**We need your support** – As a church we want to see God's work continue. To that end, please consider contributing your tithes and offerings electronically, via e-transfer, during this unique season in our church's life. Details about giving electronically can be found in the bulletin.

Please let us know if you are struggling in any way - **we want to support you**. If you are especially fearful or anxious contact us. If you have tested positive for the virus, please contact us. We would value knowing so that we can care for you in this time. Please also make us aware of any needs that you know of in our congregation. You are not alone. We can be contacted via email or phone (we can access voicemail remotely), and we will respond as soon as possible.

We will continue to keep you in the loop about ministry related matters.

Much love in Christ,  
The HBC Elders