



March 14, 2020

Message from Pastor Wesley

Grace and Peace be unto you from God our father and Jesus Christ our resurrected Lord. I invite and encourage you to continue to be in prayer with me and our church family as we all face and fight this global pandemic of COVID-19 that has shocked our world and our communities. I encourage you to remain vigilant and informed of this ever evolving crisis and be prayerfully led to walk in faith, not fear, but also in wisdom protecting your health, the health of those you love and live with, and being responsible in helping stop the spread of this virus.

In a recent video correspondence I shared with you that the leadership of the church, being led by prayer and taking into account the most up-to-date information we had, was canceling all non-worship related activities but we were going forth with weekend worship on March 14th and 15th. In that video I also asked you to be patient as this remains a very fluid and constantly changing situation. After the President's declaration of a state of emergency and with the most current information we have received about the spread of the virus, out of concern for each and every member's health, especially our vulnerable populations, we have changed that decision. Given the possibility of someone unknowingly carrying the virus for up to five days without any symptoms, and given the mere size of our congregation, the potential for exposing our membership and transmitting the virus in a large worship setting is too high and may be an unnecessary risk with other online worship options available. Therefore, we have decided, in the interest of safety and care, to close the Alfred Street Baptist Church campus. There will be NO ministry activities or worship services effective today, March 14, 2020 until further notice. We will continue to monitor the latest information about the virus and be guided in prayer and concern for safety and will communicate with you through email, your deacon, and information posted on our website. Once again, all ministry activities including worship are canceled until further notice.

I implore you to stay in your homes as much as possible, be diligent in washing your hands, be safe when venturing outside, be patient when shopping for supplies, and most importantly to remain prayerful. God will see us through this pandemic. Join us online for weekend worship. Our ministerial and Audio Visual staff have put together worship experiences that reflect the excellence of our ministry and honor the sovereignty of our Lord. Sermons will be posted, prayers will be lifted, and you will have the opportunity to continue to support the ministry and work of the church through online giving. Our Seek 2020 Fast continues with daily devotions and our Friday morning prayer line will also continue giving you many ways to continue to stay connected to your church family as we worship God together.

Together let us live out our faith in these difficult times by trusting God and loving all of God's people.

In Christ,

Pastor Wesley

Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, *Pastor*