



시온장로교회

Korean Zion Presbyterian Church

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Dear Zion Presbyterian Church family members,

As we are passing the middle of March 2020, we are all affected by the unexpected illness, COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus Disease) whether directly or indirectly. As we can see, COVID-19 landed in Maryland, two weeks ago, on March 5, and a woman in her 80s in Harford County confirmed positive COVID-19 on March 8, and one Baltimore County resident who is in his 60s has been confirmed positive on March 12, where our church is located on. Baltimore county has 6 people who have been confirmed positive for COVID-19.

Zion Presbyterian Church session has continued to track developments concerning the COVID-19 both locally and globally. Paying close attention to the official news as well as the official statement of Maryland, the session has continued to discuss how to respond to the current situation and how to deal with it in the prayer. Currently, the total cases of COVID-19 confirmed in Maryland has increased from 12 last week to 63 yesterday (3/18), and the pace of infections is rapidly increasing. Under these circumstances, universities near Baltimore and all public schools in Maryland are closed for two weeks till March 27. In addition, the governor, Mr. Larry Hogan signed orders prohibiting gatherings and events of more than 250 people, including religious, recreational, any athletic or political event. He decided to postpone the Primary election which was supposed to be held on April 28.

Just as we announced on the bulletin last week, now the session has come up with updated decision to the Zion Presbyterian Church family after prayerful consideration:

The decisions are as follows:

1. Zion Church will do worship online for the next two Lord's Days (3/22, 3/29).
2. Lord's Day worship will be on 10 a.m. for EM service, 11 a.m. for KM service.
3. Other worships (Dawn, Wednesday, and Cell Group) and other meetings (Youth, Young Adult groups) will be suspended.
4. The offering will be collected in three ways.
 - a. We can offer our offerings to God in person on Saturdays 6 a.m.~6 p.m. and Lord's Days 1 p.m.~4 p.m.
 - b. Any member, who is uncomfortable to come to the church for the offering, may collect her or his or their offerings during their online worship service. Then later, when the onsite worship will resume, please bring them to the church at once.
 - c. Any member, who is uncomfortable to come to the church or have the offering at home, may mail the offering to Zion Church (Address: 9947 Harford Rd., Parkville, MD 21234). You want to send check instead of cash in this case.
5. Wednesday Worship Service will be replaced with Wednesday Word Meditation.

6. On each Wednesday, the pastor Lee will mail the followings: Bulletin for the next Lord's Day, Offering Envelope, Wednesday Word Meditation Material, The Session's Decision on COVID-19(This letter).

Once again, the session will continue to provide updates periodically, as the situation develops. Clear thing is that our church will keep "Lord's Day Worship," the core mission of our church as the church saved by Christ's cross and resurrection, via the God-provided system (online worship).

✚ *During this period, the session would like to ask to the families of Zion Presbyterian Church for the following cooperation.*

❖ **Guidelines for Online Worship Service**

- 1) First, worship is not meant to be seen by people, but it is a precious time for us to remember, confirm, acknowledge, confess, and appreciate our salvation in Jesus Christ so that we could come back and rely on our heavenly Father through our lives. Please remember that we worship before God, not the computer.
- 2) Since Lord's Day worship will be on 10 a.m. for EM members, 11 a.m. for KM members, please connect to the Internet 10 minutes before each service to prepare for the worship service.
- 3) Please check in advance if the audio is good or not. (The church will check it, too)
- 4) We recommend dressing neatly, and the whole family sit in front of the screen.
- 5) Please bring your Bible and a hymn book.
- 6) During the service, please follow the guidance of the pastor and participate actively in every order in the worship service.
- 7) Each family prepares the offering in order. The head of the family or the person who leads the worship gathers the offering and put it in the offering box in the church when the worship service is normalized (except when you come to church for offering or send the offering to the church).
- 8) Even though we cannot get together face to face, we invite you to say hello to each other by phone or message. Let us share prayer requests, pray for each other, and continue the beautiful fellowship among the Saints.

❖ **Guideline for Wednesday Word Meditation**

- 1) Wednesday Worship will be replaced with Wednesday Word Meditation for individuals and family.
- 2) Please follow the Wednesday Word Meditation Material during the meditation.
- 3) Sing hymns, either individually or as a family, for a while (The family can select hymns).
- 4) Read the Word of God together and follow the guide for a moment to meditate.
- 5) If you are an individual, take time to rely on God who is our refuge during the meditation.

- 6) If you are a family, we recommend taking a moment to share what you meditate on for a while and have a time for relying on God.

❖ **Biblical Guideline for the Offering**

- 1) The offering is given to God, not people.
- 2) “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt 6:19-21). Teaching this passage to his people, Jesus tells us that the offering is to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven and helps us live in this world by focusing our interests on the everlasting life in heaven.
- 3) The offering is a faithful and humble act of confessing that God is our Creator, Savior, and good Shepherd.
- 4) Through this faithful and humble act, we can experience that the living God definitely takes care of and guide us.

❖ **Although we are passing through this confused and difficult time, we trust in God who is sovereign over history and our lives. By knowing that our times are in the Lord’s hand, let us trust and confess our faith in God.**

Here are our prayer requests:

- 1) For the Zion family to be safe from COVID-19 and to strengthen the elderly and the sick.
- 2) For the vaccine to be developed rapidly with God’s grace, so that people who are suffer and fear from COVID-19 can be quickly recovered.
- 3) For those churches of the Lord all over the world which are so small in size that they do not have enough facilities for live streaming for their church families.

At last, the session humbly bows down and prays that God's faithful comfort, peace, and hope will be enriched to the members of the Zion Presbyterian Church!

In Jesus Christ,

Zion Presbyterian Church Session

❖ How to participate in Live Worship.

- 1) The Church website (www.thezion.org)
 - a. When you enter the church website, there is a “Live Worship” menu.
 - b. Click on it then it will lead you to the YouTube screen
 - c. If you click the play button on the YouTube screen, you will join the worship service.
- 2) YouTube
 - a. Go and type “youtube.com” on the Internet browser and put “시온장로교회 메릴랜드” in the “Find” or “Search” section of YouTube.
 - b. If you click the play button of the Sunday worship service, you will join the worship service.

❖ Basic knowledge and recommendations for the prevention of COVID-19.

- 1) What are the symptoms of COVID-19?
 - a. If you have a runny nose and sputum (sputum), you probably have a cold.
 - b. COVID-19 usually has a dry cough without a runny nose and sore throat.
- 2) Characteristics, symptoms, and progress of symptoms
 - a. This new coronavirus is not heat-resistant and is known to die at a temperature of 26-27 degrees Celsius (79-81 degrees Fahrenheit). Novel Coronavirus is vulnerable to solar heat.
 - b. Dry cough without runny nose, high fever of over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, difficulty breathing, and neck pain for 3 to 4 days can be the possible symptoms of COVID-19.
 - c. In 5-6 days after being exposed, the virus in the throat mixes with the liquid and goes into the airway and lungs and causes viral pneumonia.
 - d. If you have pneumonia, high fever and dyspnea occur.
 - e. The symptoms of stuffy nose are different from the normal case. It develops severe difficulty breathing like breathing in the water.
 - f. If you experience any of the above symptoms, please contact a as well as your senior pastor (Sungheum Lee: 267-934-9452).
- 3) How COVID-19 Spreads?
 - a. When an infected person sneezes, the virus flies approximately 10 feet (about 3 meters) and falls to the ground.
 - b. However, if the virus lands on a metal surface, it will survive for at least 12 hours. If you touch a metal surface, be sure to wash your hands as quickly as possible with a disinfectant or soap.
 - c. The virus can survive for 6 to 12 hours if it lands on a textile. However, since this virus can be dead by a general laundry detergent, laundering clothes can help.
- 4) What can I do to protect myself?
 - a. Because the virus can survive on your hands for 5 to 10 minutes, wash your hands frequently, for at least 20 seconds each time.
 - b. Drinking warm water is effective against all viruses. Drinking plenty of warm water is a great help. Please avoid drinking cold water with ice.
 - c. Brush your teeth frequently, or even gargling. It is good to rinse your mouth with warm-salt water.