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Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

The words of Psalm 46:1-3 are gloriously true!

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in 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, ESV*

I know that the reality of COVID-19 outbreak is on many of our minds. Many of you know that nursing homes in our communities are closed to all visitors, many events are canceled, and universities are going to 'online education'. And the headlines just keep coming. Concern is a very natural and right response – yet in the midst of these headlines I'd remind all of us that we serve the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and that He and He alone declares the end from the beginning. As followers of Jesus we mustn't give way to fear but rather walk faithfully trusting in the Lord!

That said we're continually evaluating new information as it becomes available and we are suggesting several 'common sense' measures to help everyone feel comfortable and value peoples safety.

1. We want to remind everyone that if you are coughing or experiencing other symptoms of this illness please say home.
2. If you feel that you are more vulnerable (or at greater risk) from this virus please don't feel any pressure to come. I'm sure most of us are aware that generally speaking risk increases with age and preexisting conditions.
3. During our much loved 'greeting time' we will be asking that handshakes and hugs 'take a break' -- 'fist bumps' and a wave to say hello is great. I know this will be an adjustment but we'll do it together.
4. We're planning to receive the offering in the back at the end of the service so that the plate is not passed over everyone's hands.
5. Please understand that we're going to be continually evaluating what the best response is as this ongoing challenge develops.

All of this is out of an abundance of caution. I'd invite all of you to be regularly praying for those who are affected by this virus and for those who are in positions of authority and expertise and are making very difficult decisions as we speak. A lot of people are very afraid -- let's be different. Let's be people who model a prayerful dependence on God that drives out fear. I'm praying that we'll have opportunities to share Jesus though these challenges.

Trusting Jesus!

Pastor Dave