

3/22/20

NEW UPDATE FROM BISHOP PALMER:

“Grace to you and Peace in Christ Jesus:

After lots of conversation, processing of data and prayer, I am asking you not to hold public worship services at least through Easter. As I type this I am trembling, but I am convinced it is the wise and faithful thing to ask of all of us. I share this now so that you have more rather than less time to plan well for creative, online approaches to engaging your congregation and community in worship. We will continue to push out to you information about as many of our congregations as we have knowledge of that do some form of digital worship. The cabinet is preparing a specific resource about sacraments in this crisis. I will continue to do my best to connect with you digitally. I am learning some new tools that I have neglected until now.

As you already know Easter does not come on the same date every year. Therefore we can, in a crisis especially, celebrate it anytime. We do that to some extent every time we gather for worship with Jesus at the center. Put another way, because of the resurrection of Jesus ***we are called to live in the Joy and Victory of Easter every day.*** While we and our practice of ministry is changing, and some things will change for a long time to come, we live in the confidence of this promise: "The eternal God is our refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."

Yours in Christ Jesus,

+Gregory V. Palmer”