



The Mustard Seed

If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed...Matt. 17:20

May 2020

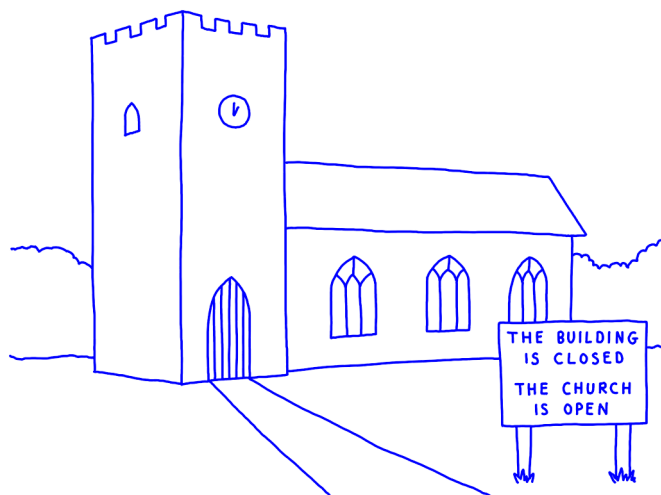
From the Pastor's Desk



On April 30, 2020, the Municipal Mayors in Shelby County determined May 4, 2020 is the date that we can begin Phase One of our Back to Business re-opening plan. In addition, close contact businesses will be moved into the first phase, with the opening date of May 6, 2020.

As soon as a schedule of when activities will be resume, a new calendar will be sent out. If you need anything during the interim, email the church office at: colliervillepresbyterian@gmail.com.

Should you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Rev. Wright at 901.591.0206 or markwrightsemail@gmail.com.



CartoonChurch.com

Simple cartoon. Important message.

It's certainly a strange time we are still living in. We may have seen the movies about frightening, rogue viruses, but I don't know how many of us actually thought about or expected to live through one. Who knows what to do? We just do the best we can. We trust the epidemiologists and those who've been thinking about this sort of thing.

It's no different for the church. The doors are shut. Even on Sunday right now, the doors are shut! Which one of us ever expected that?

The doors are shut, but does that mean the church stops being church? It can't mean that. We can't let it mean that. Jesus is Lord. God should be worshiped. People must be served in Jesus' name. Like the cartoon says, "The building is closed. The church is open."

This is a time when we've got to take seriously that thing that we always say: "The church isn't the building. The church is the people." How are we doing that? One day our doors will be open again and we'll get to gather like we always have, but things will never be quite the same.



Pastor Mark Wright
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~ 20 PRAYERS TO PRAY DURING THIS PANDEMIC ~

by Jen Pollock, Christianity Today, March 2020

In recent days, as COVID-19 has been declared a global pandemic and countries have taken urgent measures to stem the spread of infection, I wish I could say that my first impulse has been to pray. It's probably more honest to say that I've obsessively refreshed my feeds.

The crisis is urgent, and I feel powerless. But perhaps feeling small is the best reminder to pray. Prayer is how we actively practice believing, so simply, so confidently, that God has the whole world in his hands. It's where we "let petitions and praises shape our worries into prayers, letting God know our concerns" (Phil. 4:6-7, The Message). Prayer is never the last resort of God's people. It is our first point of action.

With that in mind, I've put together a list of 20 prayers to pray during this pandemic. Each one addresses the specific needs of a specific community. I'm fortunate to be a part of a church with many medical professionals, some of whom gave me advice on how best to pray for them at this time. I've included their responses here. I've also tried to think broadly about how the rest of us are impacted by the current crisis. This list isn't comprehensive, of course, but it's a good place to start. My hope is that it can provide words for us as we pray collectively (if also virtually!) as a church body.

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Image: Illustration by Rick Szuets / Source images: Diana Simumpande / Unsplash / The New York Public Library

~ FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK ~ *cont'd from p. 1*

At least I hope they won't. I hope that we learn something through this time. I hope that we broaden our thoughts and our imaginations and open ourselves and our church life up to some of the good things we learn. I mean, we know the verses from Romans. We love the part where Paul says that God will somehow use all the things, even the bad things, for good for God's people.

That is some really great news for us! God will use things no matter what, somehow!

What do you think those might be?

What might the good things be that God can bring the church -that God can bring CPC- though this confusing, difficult, even frightening times?

Please think about them, so that when we can open our doors again, we can be better followers of Jesus and better neighbors to all.

We are the church, the Body of Jesus Christ in the world, no matter what our doors are like!

blessings,
Mark<><



~ MOMENTS OF REFLECTION ~ Kevin Robinson

Since we have not been able to have Sunday School, some of that time each week can be spent reviewing Scripture. For many of us, work is always stressful, but even more so during times like these. While I feel fortunate to have a job, the level of work/stress/hours has increased for some as we are dealing with 'regular' work issues and then working through the challenges of the coronavirus, whether at work or at home. The following are passages that have helped me:

2nd Corinthians 1:3-7

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth." ~ Genesis 9:16 (NIV)

A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne. ~ Revelation 4:3b (NIV)

Did you know that a rainbow is a Promise? The Bible, God's Holy Word, begins with a rainbow and ends with a rainbow:

- ◆ In the Book of Genesis, it says: The rainbow of God's Promise shines across the world.
- ◆ In the Book of Revelation, it says: The emerald rainbow shines around the Throne of God in heaven.

A rainbow is an arch of light exhibiting a wide range of colors. It is caused by drops of water falling through the air. It is usually seen in the sky at the end of a rain shower. Because of this, God said every time we see a rainbow it would remind us of His promise never to flood the whole world again and remind us of His love for us.

Do you know what each color in the rainbow means? I found something that explains it:

- ◆ **RED** represents the blood Jesus shed for us.
- ◆ **YELLOW** is for God's perfect light, the sun so bright.
- ◆ **ORANGE** is coming from night into life through Jesus.
- ◆ **GREEN** reminds us that God created the earth and trees. Like the grass in spring, it represents the new life we have in Jesus.
- ◆ **BLUE** represents the color of water. God created the oceans & seas, and this reminds us of the baptism that identifies us with Jesus.
- ◆ **BLACK** represents our sins and God's darkest day.
- ◆ **PURPLE** is for Jesus' hours of sorrow, so that we can gain the crown of life.
- ◆ **PINK** is for our new tomorrows.
- ◆ **WHITE** represents God's purity and the cleansing of our sins thru God's grace.

Rainbows appear after mighty storms, when things look their worst. Just when the sky is darkest, out of heaven a rainbow appears. God first sent the rainbow to Noah, as a sign that his word is true.

The rainbow's message still speaks to you and me. The rainbow is a sign of God's promise that he will guide us through any storm. When you feel battered by life's storms and you are filled with doubt, just remember God's rainbow is coming and He'll be there for you!

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for your rainbow and the promises you make with each color. Help us to remember that you love us and will see us through each storm. Amen.

Source: Sermons4kids.com



After The Storm by Yongsung Kim

Continued from p. 2

We believe there is a God who bends his ear to listen, and so we pray:

1. For the sick and infected: God, heal and help. Sustain bodies and spirits. Contain the spread of infection.
2. For our vulnerable populations: God, protect our elderly and those suffering from chronic disease. Provide for the poor, especially the uninsured.
3. For the young and the strong: God, give them the necessary caution to keep them from unwittingly spreading this disease. Inspire them to help.
4. For our local, state, and federal governments: God, help our elected officials as they allocate the necessary resources for combatting this pandemic. Help them to provide more tests.
5. For our scientific community, leading the charge to understand the disease and communicate its gravity: God, give them knowledge, wisdom, and a persuasive voice.
6. For the media, committed to providing up-to-date information: God, help them to communicate with appropriate seriousness without causing panic.
7. For consumers of media, looking to be well-informed: God, help us find the most helpful local information to equip us to be good neighbors. Keep us from anxiety and panic, and enable us to implement the recommended strategies, even at a cost to ourselves.
8. For those with mental health challenges who feel isolated, anxious, and helpless: God, provide them every necessary support.
9. For the homeless, unable to practice the protocols of social distancing in the shelter system: Protect them from disease, and provide isolation shelters in every city.
10. For international travelers stuck in foreign countries: God, help them return home safely and quickly.
11. For Christian missionaries throughout the world, especially in areas with high rates of infection: God, provide them with words of hope, and equip them to love and serve those around them.
12. For workers in a variety of industries facing layoffs and financial hardship: God, keep them from panic, and inspire your church to generously support them.
13. For families with young children at home for the foreseeable future: God, help mothers and fathers to partner together creatively for the care and flourishing of their children. For single mothers and fathers, grow their networks of support.
14. For parents who cannot stay home from work but must find care for their children: God, present them with creative solutions.
15. For those in need of regular therapies and treatments that must now be postponed: God, help them to stay patient and positive.
16. For business leaders making difficult decisions that affect the lives of their employees: God, give these women and men wisdom, and help them to lead self-sacrificially.
17. For pastors and church leaders faced with the challenges of social distancing: God, help them to creatively imagine how to pastor their congregants and love their cities well.
18. For college and university students, whose courses of study are changing, whose placements are canceled, whose graduation is uncertain: God, show them that while life is uncertain, their trust is in you.
19. For Christians in every neighborhood, community, and city: May your Holy Spirit inspire us to pray, to give, to love, to serve, and to proclaim the gospel, that the name of Jesus Christ might be glorified around the world.
20. For frontline health care workers, we thank you for their vocational call to serve us. We also pray:
 - ◆ God, keep them safe and healthy. Keep their families safe and healthy.
 - ◆ God, help them to be knowledgeable about the diagnosis and treatment of this disease, as well as the changing protocols.
 - ◆ God, help them to stay clear-minded in the midst of the surrounding panic.
 - ◆ God, deliver them from anxiety for their own loved ones (aging parents, children, spouses, roommates).
 - ◆ God, give them compassion for every patient in their care.
 - ◆ God, provide for them financially, especially if they fall ill and are unable to work.
 - ◆ God, help Christians in health care to exhibit extraordinary peace, so that many would ask about the reason for their hope. Give them opportunities to proclaim the gospel.

God, we trust that you are good and do good. Teach us to be your faithful people in this time of global crisis. Help us to follow in the footsteps of our faithful shepherd, Jesus, who laid down his life for the sake of love. Glorify his name as you equip us with everything needed for doing your will. Amen.

Happy 30th Anniversary Melanye & Ron Lunsford



April 14, 1990



April 14, 2020

*We thank God for His grace through the years
and the love our CPC family.
Ron & Melanye*



Enough discovering joy through simplicity and generosity

Now more than ever, CPC needs your commitment and support. As a reminder, we have several options: PayPal, Automatic Bill Pay, and you can always mail donations directly to the church. If you ever need help in setting the electronic payments up, please contact the church office. We'll be happy to help you.

Thank you for your continued and faithful support of CPC.





At church



Online

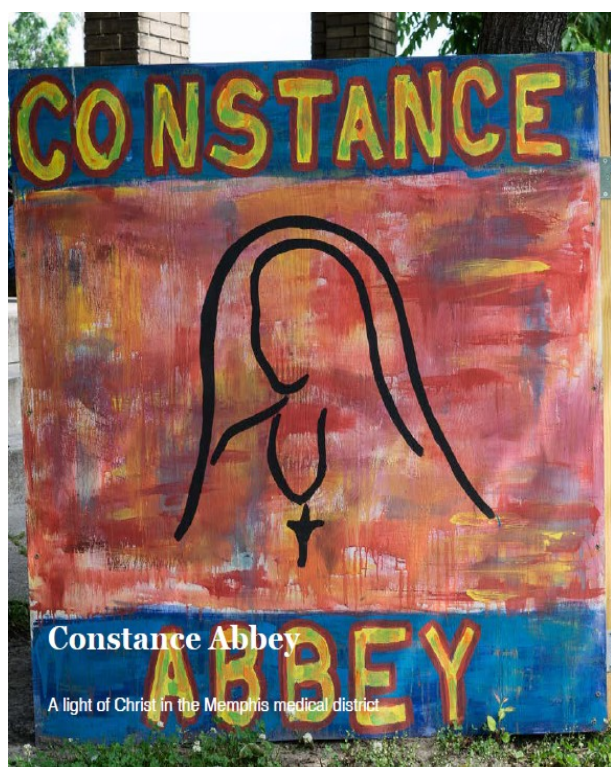


Auto Bill Pay



Mail






Use your phone to scan the QR code



You can still donate items for Constance Abby. All items need to be pop-top (no can opener required). And, please, no items with chocolate. Items can be placed in the bin under the covered entry by the door. Suggested items:

protein bars | fruit snacks | potted meat
tuna | Vienna sausages | drink pouches
sardines | peanut butter/cheese crackers
trail mix | snack pack items

Go to constanceabbey.org for more information.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 ☺ Birthday ♥ Anniversary					1 ♥ Justin & Jessie Robinson	2 ♦ Virtual Worship (5pm)
3 4th Sunday of Easter ♦ Virtual Worship (10:30am)	4	5	6	7 	8	9 ♦ Virtual Worship (5pm)
10 5th Sunday of Easter ♦ Virtual Worship (10:30am)  ☺ Danny Kerr	11 ☺ Susan Miller	12 ☺ Hayes Walker	13	14	15 ☺ Ansleigh Mae Walker	16 ♦ Virtual Worship (5pm)
17 6th Sunday of Easter ♦ Virtual Worship (10:30am)	18	19	20 ☺ Ann Cross	21 	22	23 ♦ Virtual Worship (5pm)
24 7th Sunday of Easter ♦ Virtual Worship (10:30am) ☺ Megan McArthur	25 	26	27	28 ♥ Scott & Joy Sutherland	29	30 ♦ Virtual Worship (5pm) ☺ Melissa Allen
31 Day of Pentecost ♦ Virtual Worship (10:30am) ☺ Amanda Gurney				