

The Anglican Province of Christ the King
St. George's Anglican Pro-Cathedral
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2 April, AD 2020
Feria in Lent

To all the Faithful of the Anglican Province of Christ the King:

As mentioned in my Pastoral Letter, dated 19 March, the Council of Bishops of the APCK met on Tuesday, March 31st to re-evaluate the situation in which we all find ourselves regarding Covid-19. It was unanimously decided for the continued safety of all concerned, we are extending the closure of our Parishes and Missions until at least April 30th. If this pandemic shows signs of waning to the point it is no longer a threat before then, the Bishops will meet and reconsider their actions and possibly shorten this period. As it stands now, however, no areas of our country have experienced the peak of this scourge and the death toll is rising every day.

Consequently, it has also been decided that two of the three Annual Diocesan Synods are going to have to be postponed until later in the year. The Synod of the Diocese of the Atlantic States will convene in Bolingbrook, Illinois from September 8th – 11th and the Synod of the Diocese of the Western States will convene in Chico, California from September 22nd – 25th. The Diocese of the Southwestern States will remain scheduled to convene in Las Vegas, Nevada, from June 10th – 13th, for the time being; though this date is subject to change also because of the virus.

The Summer Seminary Session will go on as planned from July 20th – July 31st, though it will be completely in an on-line format taught from several locations. More information regarding the Summer Seminary Session will be forthcoming. As far as the Archbishop Morse Summer Youth Camp is concerned, no final decision has been reached, as of yet. A determination will be made by Easter.

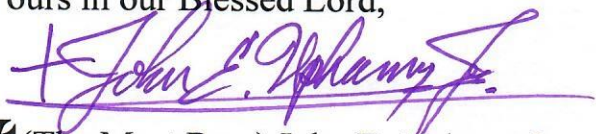
If there is a “silver lining” in any of this, it is to be found in the way many of our Clergymen have responded to the need of providing services to the faithful in this time of uncertainty. In each of our Dioceses there is at least one service, offered regularly, that is now being broadcast via social media platforms, such as Zoom, Facebook, and/or You Tube, which the faithful can view either live or recorded. Some are offering the Daily Offices and some are offering the Mass with Spiritual Communion. Above all, this is a time to turn to God! It is not a time for church politics, posturing, or posing. We are not and never will be in the business of “Sheep-Stealing”. These services are being offered across the Province to help bolster all people’s faith of any

traditional, Anglican Jurisdiction and *give them hope!* Therefore, I commend these several offerings to each of you and encourage you to call your Bishop if you do not already know who is offering virtual services in your Diocese. This is one very important way we can all stay in touch and connected with one another.

In the midst of this plague, all of us, among other things, are concerned about our church, business, and personal finances because of the complex and interwoven nature of our economy. However, even during these unparalleled times, full of innumerable unknowns, your Parish still needs your support and financial commitment. Please try your utmost to keep your church pledges current. Several parishes have set up Pay-Pal accounts and you can always mail your pledge to the church. All of our church Treasurers will appreciate it because the bills keep coming to the Church, even if none of us can be there, at present.

Finally, it always amazes me when I see how God works in our midst, especially during crises. God takes something as *seemingly* small and insignificant as one person's prayer and by His power transforms it into the greatest force ever seen. Prayer is one of the greatest gifts we receive from God. Please continue to use that gift as you pray for your family, friends, and neighbors; and please also continue to pray for your Clergymen, Bishops, the Province, your Diocese, and your Parish. Our Church buildings may be empty right now, but our Churches are not. You are the Church and you have been deployed!

For the Love of God and the Sake of the Gospel, I remain,
Yours in our Blessed Lord,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, reading "John E. Upham, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

✠(The Most Rev.) John E. Upham, Jr.
Archbishop
For the Council of Bishops of the APCK