

March 27, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we live into our new reality, amidst the COVID-19 threat, we have suspended public worship. There are many opportunities to watch a worship service online on Sunday morning and many groups doing daily prayers by zoom or skype. It is also a good time for those of you with copies of the Book of Common Prayer at home, to pray one or all of the daily offices with your family, or alone. If you don't have a copy of the book at home, it can be accessed online.

This morning I got a text from a dear friend who is on the staff at Metro Health Main Campus, in downtown Cleveland. Dr. Bob sent this---

What if we thought of social isolation as the Jews consider the Sabbath—the most sacred of times?

Cease from travel.

Cease from buying and selling.

Give up, just for now, on trying to make the world different than it is.

Sing. Pray. Touch only those to whom you commit your life.

Center down.

And when your body has become still, reach out with your heart.

Know that we are connected in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.

Know that our lives are in one another's hands.

Reach out your heart.

Reach out your words.

Reach out all the tendrils of compassion that move, invisibly, where

We cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—

For better or for worse,

In sickness and in health,

So long as we all shall live.