

Message From Pastor Gary - week of April 5

From the Padre's Pen

As we continue to move forward through this unprecedented time, let us move with the assurance that "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble" (Ps 46:1), with the knowledge that we can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens us, and with the continual prayer that this crisis will be the catalyst that revives the church and awakens our nation so that many will turn or return to Christ and His church.

Well, corona virus or not, we are entering the most sacred season of the Christian calendar – holy week. This Sunday, April 5, is Palm Sunday. In each of our ONLINE ONLY services, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper even as we practice social distancing. The pastors will lead you to take the bread and drink the cup in your own homes. All you need is some bread (crackers, matzos, any kind of bread) and a dark-colored beverage (grape juice, prune juice, cranberry juice, etc). Even though we are the church scattered, we will celebrate our unity in Christ by taking the elements simultaneously.

Spanish Service (9:00 AM) "Causing Trouble All Over the World" Acts 17:1-15 Pastor Adolfo Ocampo. Watch Live at <http://www.facebook.com/Primera-Iglesia-Bautista-de-Flushing-NYC-Ministerio-Hispano-103654884345775>

Chinese Service (11:00 AM) "The Kindness and Sternness of God" Romans 11:1-24 Pastor Shih Wei Chiang. Watch Live at www.facebook.com/fbcflushingchinese/

English Service (11:00 AM) "How to Thrive in a Time of Crisis" Mark 4:1-34 Pastor Aaron Chan. Watch Live at www.facebook.com/fbcflushing/

Looking ahead to Easter weekend (April 10-12), we have made some adjustments to our services.

* On Good Friday (April 10), the congregational pastors will each lead their own service in their own language. The services will be live streamed at 7:00 PM. We will take the Lord's Supper together.

* On Easter Sunday, we will have our regular services at 9:00 AM (Spanish) and 11:00 AM (English, Chinese). Unfortunately, we will not have a Sunrise Service this year.

* As we enter Holy Week during the pandemic, let's remember, "it's Friday but Sunday's coming."

In addition to our live streamed services, we will continue to provide virtual fellowships for youth and adults through Zoom where you can connect with each other for a time of fellowship, prayer, and bible study.

The pastoral staff and church leaders continue to meet virtually for prayer, ministry, and planning.

We are very sensitive to the needs of the congregation at this time. If you need any help, even if it's just prayer, contact any of our pastors, ministers or deacons and let us know how we can serve you. You are in our hearts, as Paul wrote in Phil 1:7-8, "It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus."

We are grateful for the ways you have faithfully continued your giving. Your faithfulness helps us to maintain our day to day operations and missionary obligations during this season of limited gatherings. Together, FBC will not only survive but will thrive for the glory of God! You can donate through any of these options:

- a. FBCF app: <https://tithely.app.link/first-baptist-church-of-flushing>
- b. FBCF website: <https://fbcflushing.org/give>
- c. Send your check or money order to: First Baptist Church of Flushing, 142-10 Sanford Avenue, Flushing, NY 11355, or simply drop it off at the church during office hours, M-F, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Nahum 1:7 "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; He knows those who take refuge in him."

Choosing Faith Over Fear,

Pastor Gary