

Subject: Redeemer West Side worship services are canceled as a public health measure



Renewing the West Side socially, spiritually and culturally

Dear Redeemer West Side Family,

As you know, our ministry year theme has been focused on what it means to love our West Side neighbors through the gospel. Redeemer has always sought to be a church for the city. Thus, through much prayer and discernment, and with the state's and city's recommendation to slow the spread of COVID-19, we have made the difficult decision to close, starting Friday afternoon, W83 which includes our regular Sunday worship services and all other in-person activities.

We've made this decision because we believe the clearest way for us to love our neighbors right now is by not gathering together in person, but instead by "being the church" wherever we are throughout the city, practicing social distancing with the hopes of slowing the spread of COVID-19.

Please know that we will continue to monitor NYC Health and CDC Guidelines, and will adapt to new guidelines as soon as they are announced. We will let you know immediately if we hear a confident recommendation to reopen at some point in the future, but for now the decision to cancel activities is indefinite.

For this Sunday, March 15, we are preparing a short video with worship songs and a reflection on Scripture, with the hopes of encouraging and strengthening us during this season. That video link will be sent to you by email on Sunday morning around 8 a.m. and it's our hope that you'll take time yourself (or with your family or roommates) to worship with us through song and Scripture.

Going forward, even though we won't be gathering in person on Sundays, we are committed to developing ways for us as a congregation to remain connected, equipped to be salt and light in our city, for such a time as this. Your West Side staff and leaders are actively working on a plan for how we will conduct Sunday worship, pastoral care, and other ministry opportunities over the coming weeks. We'll be in touch with follow up items soon.

Ministry will look different because it will be online, but we are crafting a way to set up video conferencing options to meet with pastoral care staff. If any member needs help beyond prayer/spiritual support, consider filling out the Diaconate Care Request Form online at redeemer.com/care.

Get up-to-date information about services and programming on our website at westside.redeemer.com/information. You can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter: @redeemerws

We cannot predict how long this will last. We certainly hope it won't be more than a few weeks, but we are preparing for various scenarios. We are monitoring this situation every day and will keep you informed of any change as soon as possible.

As a church family, let's walk with hope and faith through this season, resting in these glorious promises: "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'"

In Christ,

Pastor David

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