



TYLER STREET CHURCH

Our Worship Cancellations

Coronavirus Latest: Just after 10pm Thu. March 12 Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins announced that Dallas County had just listed *five new cases* (our first daily multiple increase) and explained we are at the beginning of *community spread*. Further, he explained Dallas City Mayor Eric Johnson had just signed a *declaration* stating Dallas is now under a *state of disaster due to this health emergency*. This designation gives them authority to make rules that govern our public life as a means of containing viral spread. In content related to public gatherings they officially forbid 500+ and discourage in the strongest words possible 250+. Should cases increase they will forbid 250+, then lesser and lesser numbers. Remember too the cases will likely change daily, altering these size restrictions. Further, they *strongly discourage groups of 10+ with anyone over 60 years old*. The case numbers are likely to change daily and at any moment they have the authority to alter the prevention measures.

Related to Worship: 11am Fri. March 13 our own Bishop Mike McKee, who had interacted with Judge Jenkins in a faith-related groups forum, released a letter urging *all congregations* of the two Dallas districts to *cancel all worship services* to help avert this crisis. For us, this automatically applies to all open public gatherings, including **both services, The Branch, youth, children, Sunday School, Choir, Connect Groups of 10+, meetings of 10+**. The big question is for how long? Best cast scenario, we have actively prevented a local outbreak, we hope to rejoin for Sunday worship on Palm Sunday, April 4. (That's **three weeks minimum**. Just let that sink in for a moment.) However, it could even go on longer as matters can change quickly, so we of course will closely monitor updates to conditions and procedures. During these weeks the office remain open Mon-Thu.

Worship Substitute: Pastor Rudy and I have poured over the details and concluded that based on complications with facilities, technology and personnel we are only able to offer video recordings of sermons, complete with words of comfort, information and prayer. We anticipate these being about 30 minutes in length and done with impressive professionalism. During this crisis these will be posted by 9am each Sunday morning on our church website, ***www.tylerstreet.church***, and on facebook – ***Tyler Street Church*** and ***Tyler Street Church Family and Friends***.

Word of Grace: We both realize that the magnitude of this local state of disaster affects us differently in all the wonderful variations of life in which we find ourselves. No one likes the disruption to Dallas life; yet no one wants to unwittingly carry harm to anyone else either. Some of us feel a sense of freedom; others feel virtually cut off from the real world. Some of us are relieved by cancelling services; others feel frustrated. Either way, this is the current reality in Dallas and as disciples of Jesus Christ we are committed to walking in faith and making the best of it. So, whenever we reopen our doors to gatherings some of us will likely not feel ready. We assure you we will continue to provide something online during that season of transition. Further, as needs arise both pastors are readily available to meet with you by phone or in person.

Work of Worship: This big adjustment is gonna be work, folks. Did you know one of the New Testament words for worship literally means *the work of the people*? So here are three ways Pastor Rudy and I ask you work at worship during these uncertain days. 1) Please put into practice Romans 12:12, *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer*. This will help us keep a good attitude about helping through prevention. 2) Please sincerely pray for one another, our local area, and against the coronavirus pandemic. 3) Please, for the love of all things good at and through Tyler Street Church, continue giving while away physically. You may give online (website or app) or send a check (927 W 10th St, Dallas, TX 75208.) If you need assistance just call the church office, 214.946.8106.

Whew! [long breath in, slow breath out] Jesus, walk with us individually while we refrain from gathering, personally as we all make decisions related to our own adjustments, and affectionately when we feel disconnected from You. Amen.

Together... while we're apart,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. J. Garrett", written over a light blue rectangular background.

Rev. Jeff Garrett, Lead Pastor