



Dear friends,

I hope that many of you were able to worship with us digitally on Sunday, either at the 8:00 AM meditation I post to Facebook or at the 11:00 morning prayer service streamed on the Aspen Chapel website. The Facebook posts are archived and can be reached either through the CEC Facebook page or the CEC website. We hope to be archiving videos of the morning prayer services on the CEC website and are working on resolving the technical details.

I do not have the analytics for the morning prayer service yet, but here are the analytics for the three services we have put on Facebook to date: Sunday, 3.15, 76 views/14 likes; Sunday, 3.8, 91 views/14 likes; Ash Wednesday, 2.26, 148 views/15 likes. Churches across Colorado are reporting similar responses, with greater online attendance than previously measured in person attendance. The internet is proving to be a powerful tool for sharing the gospel message. Something to think about as Christ Church looks to the future beyond this immediate crisis.

This coming Sunday, we will offer three online worship opportunities:

- 8:00 AM My meditation on the gospel and prayers on Facebook Live [here](#) or [here](#).
- 10:00 AM A Diocesan-Wide Webcast from Saint John's Cathedral with Bishop Kym. More information will be shared widely via the Episcopal Church in Colorado [Facebook page](#) and [website](#).
- 11:00 AM Morning Prayer live streamed from the [Aspen Chapel](#), a joint service of Christ Church, Aspen and St. Peter's, Basalt. We hope to have a link directly to the CEC website by Sunday.

The Rev. Wendy Huber of St. Peter's and I have begun thinking about Holy Week in the Roaring Fork Valley. Given that Pitkin County Public Health has essentially closed church at least until April 8, and given that the CDC [recommends](#) no large group meeting for eight weeks, making plans for in person, in church, services is rather difficult this year. Your suggestions are appreciated. Here are a few ideas:

- I could do a daily meditation on Facebook Live.
- We have ordered palms and can consecrate them for distribution outside of church.
- We might have a small (5-10) person ceremony on Maundy Thursday that focuses on stripping the altar and giving the sanctuary a thorough cleaning.
- We can do the Prayer Book Good Friday liturgy either online or in person, if permitted. The evening Tenebrae-like service done last year may be harder to pull off.
- Easter is the great unknown at this point. I'd hate not to celebrate eucharist on Easter, but must await guidelines from the diocese.



NOW THAT THE KIDS ARE HOME:

[Here](#) are some useful guidelines from the CDC about speaking with your children about COVID 19.

[Here](#) is a free downloadable church school curriculum from Virginia Theological Seminary. It has everything you need to teach your children basic lessons about our faith and is broken into three age appropriate packages: preschool/kindergarten, grades 1-3 and grades 4-6.

On a personal note: I feel a bit odd serving as your bridge priest, without the ability to meet many of you face to face. I hope that we will be able to gather together in worship before your interim rector arrives, but if not, rest assured that I will return next year to greet you, visit family and to ski. Until then, please drop me an email at stephentayres@gmail.com just to say hi or to let me know what else I can do as your online pastor through this challenging period in our lives.

Peace be with you,

Steve Ayres

“If there is anywhere on earth a lover of God who is always kept safe, I know nothing of it, for it was not shown to me. But this was shown: that in falling and rising again we are always kept in that same precious love.”

— **Julian of Norwich**