

Port Royal Baptist Church



Eastertide
April 16, 2020

Neighbors and friends across the miles,

We write to you this week with joyful hearts for the Easter renewal at work among us and with hearts longing to be reunited with you all in spirit *and* body. How wonderful it was to see many of you on Easter morning as the PRBC Easter Caravan Parade made its way from Port Royal to Turners Station to Lacie to Campbellsburg to Carrollton to Pleasureville. Thanks to all who took part by automobile, driveway, front porch, window, and mule team. We have heard from many who were deeply touched by the traveling Easter joy.

As the days and weeks wear on, we are aware that efforts to protect public health are straining us, our relationships, and our institutions. The strain is testing our patience with our neighbor. The strain is revealing, once again, that we do not always agree on how best to be a neighbor to one another. Yet here we are, trying to make the best of a challenge with no easy answer and no scheduled conclusion. We have watched and noticed how so many of you are finding old and new ways to choose love over fear. Thank you for your example. We are under strain, but we live on, together.

This moment, while difficult and admittedly frustrating, can at the same time do the filtering work of straining out habits large and small that should not have been taken up in the first place and should not survive into the future. The work of laying aside that which destroys and taking up that which sustains is new every day. The Apostle Paul wrote that “the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done” (I Corinthians 3:13). The fire of this moment is revealing our work. Can we muster the strength and courage to let it refine our work? The possibility of deep, true, and abiding work remains, and is today more necessary than yesterday. Let us consider together what is truly good and abiding and then put our hands to the common plow, never looking back (Luke 9:62).

We hope the enclosed documents will be beneficial to you and yours. You should have an adapted-for-home worship guide for Sunday, April 19. On the back of this letter you will find the text to the hymns in the worship guide. There is, as always, a coloring sheet. With these documents in hand, join us in the worship of God this Sunday.

If you or someone you know is in need of financial assistance, please let us know. There is enough. As always, those wishing to correspond with the church during this period can send an offering or benevolence fund check to PRBC at PO Box 45, Port Royal, KY 40058.

Grace and peace to you all,

Amber & John Inscore Essick
Co-pastors, Port Royal Baptist Church