

Port Royal Baptist Church



Maundy Thursday, April 9, 2020

Neighbors and friends across the miles,

We write to you this week with a mixture of disappointment, love, and even hope. We all wish to be together to celebrate our most holy day of the year. It is not the first time in human history that illness or some other catastrophe has kept folks from gathering, but it is the first time in living memory for us. Even as we know that staying home is necessary, we long for you and for the days when we can embrace one another again. There will be better days. We know this. Yet, the disappointment we feel is real and understandable. The first Easter morning was big enough for a mingling of all sorts of emotions: despair, love, fear, joy, confusion, doubt, faith, hope, and more.

This Easter, we trust that the day of our Lord's resurrection can hold all the emotions that reside within us. We will worship as we have done the last few weeks: together in spirit. We will say aloud: "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" We will find noisemakers in our homes and make the great noise together as we sing the chorus of "Low in the Grave He Lay," recreating the resurrection earthquake. We will read the resurrection story, where the angel reminds us that Jesus did what he said he would do (Matthew 28:6). We will find new ways of celebrating together (see below). We will trust in the Lord's love and in God's power in and over death, and in the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit with us.

We hope the enclosed documents will be beneficial to you and yours. You should have an adapted-for-home worship guide for Easter morning, April 12. On the back of this letter will you find the text to the hymns in the worship guide. Finally, there is an Easter coloring sheet. We are glad to hear several of you are enjoying the coloring sheets! With these documents in hand, join us in the worship of God this Sunday. We may be able to post some video resources for those who want to check them out, but we are mindful that many do not have such access.

If you or someone you know is in need of financial assistance, please let us know. 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.

Easter PRBC Caravan Parade: While we were unable to provide adequately a drive-in or drive-thru opportunity, we hope to post some video resources on our church Facebook page. If you would like to take part in an *Easter PRBC Caravan Parade* please arrive in the church parking lot by **10:00 am**. Rain-proof car décor is encouraged. We will proceed together to drive by the homes of those who do not have internet or who are staying home alone. If you would like the *Easter PRBC Caravan Parade* to come by your home, please let Amber or John know. We will call you a few minutes before we are due to drive by your home.

Grace and peace to you all,

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