

April 3, 2020

Dear CF family,

Thank you for reading this entire letter as it contains timely updates, encouragement and information for individuals, families and groups.

***“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”***

***Zechariah 9:9***

This passage is a foretelling of Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Read Luke 19:28-42 for the full biblical account of the story. As we approach Holy Week, in particular Palm Sunday, we are reminded of this story where great crowds gathered ***“to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen...”***

In April 2020 we won’t see many “great crowds” gathered anywhere – in fact we are scattered one from another. However, that should not prevent us from praising God and acknowledging the mighty works He has done and will do. This Sunday...this week, be encouraged and add your voice to many others in an anthem of praise and worship to our King, Savior and Lord.

***“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”***

***Luke 19:38***

The rest of the letter contains some valuable **new information about Holy Week activities** as well as some repeat information that we trust will help you stay connected while scattered.

CF GATHERING - Until further notice, ALL ministry and program gatherings at CF are suspended. Remember, our purpose and intent of being ***the church*** does not change even while some methods are temporarily changed.

STAFF VIDEO ENCOURAGEMENT - Take a few minutes to view Friday’s ***video encouragement from Donna Schnaufer, Director of Women’s Ministry,*** posted at [commfell.org/coronavirus](http://www.commfell.org/coronavirus) and on YouTube at [youtube.com/watch?v=gZTWads0Ecg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZTWads0Ecg).

WORSHIP ON SUNDAY - We invite you to join our Palm Sunday worship service via live stream at [**facebook.com/commfell**](http://www.facebook.com/commfell)at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday. An event specific URL for this video stream will be available on our website and social media prior to the service. The service will include music, Scripture, prayer, and ministry updates. Pastor Ben will give a reflection on ***“What good is a Shepherd?”*** using Psalm 23 as his text.

If for some reason you cannot view the service during the live stream, you should be able to view it at a later time at [**facebook.com/commfell**](http://www.facebook.com/commfell) or on the CF YouTube channel. A video of only the sermon will be available to view or share at ([commfell.org/sermons](http://commfell.org/sermons/))

HOLY WEEK ACTIVITY – In the shelter of your own home please take advantage of a wide array of Holy Week offerings (see details below) including **daily video reflections** on Monday - Friday, **Good Friday Seder experience** and celebrating the resurrection of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on **Easter morning**.

MORNING REFLECTIONS – Each morning, Monday – Friday, we will post a **video reflection by 6:30 a.m.** on YouTube as well as on the CF webpage – [commfell.org/holyweek](http://www.commfell.org/holyweek/). The video will include scripture reading, a reflection from God’s word by a CF ministry partner, prayer and maybe a song. Whether you are alone or with your family, brew as cup of coffee and listen, learn and meditate from these morning reflections, that focus on the final words of Jesus.

Monday Matthew 27:46 *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?* Genzo Yamamoto

Tuesday Luke 23:34 *“Father, forgive them...”* Margaret Bangert

Wednesday Luke 23:43 *“...today you will be with me in paradise”* Joseph Weaver

Thursday John 19: 26-28 *“Dear woman, here is your son!” and “I thirst”* Heidi Appleton

Friday Luke 23:46 *“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit”* Jeff Payne

GOOD FRIDAY PASSOVER SEDER – We are not able to gather together on Good Friday evening. However, we encourage you to **observe a live streamed Seder event** offered online by Jews for Jesus. The live stream event is offered multiple times throughout the week but in an effort to do this together and to replace our usual Good Friday evening service we encourage individuals, families and small groups to schedule time for the Seder event on Friday at either 6:00 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. Regardless of when you decide to participate in this live stream Seder event we know it will be meaningful. You will need to register for the event at <https://jewsforjesus.org/christ-in-the-passover-online>.More information and instructions are available on the CF webpage – [commfell.org/holyweek](http://www.commfell.org/holyweek).

EASTER SUNDAY MORNING – **“Death could not hold Him...”** Invite family and friends to join from the shelter of their own homes as Community Fellowship celebrates the Risen Lord with a live stream service at 10:00 a.m. on Facebook live or YouTube. Pastor Will’s message will be from Acts 2: 22-39.

STAY CONNECTED TO CF – Use these links to stay connected with CF and to help us stay connected with you during this time that we are scattered.

* FOR PRAYER Submit prayer requests to cfprayer@commfell.org
* FOR NEEDS Let us know your needs for care and support info@commfell.org
* FOR GIVING To give tithes and offerings [commfell.org/give](http://commfell.org/give/)
* FOR DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES available each week [commfell.org/coronavirus](http://www.commfell.org/coronavirus/)
* UPDATES, ENCOURAGMENT and INFORMATION [commfell.org](http://www.commfell.org)

[commfell.org/coronavirus](http://www.commfell.org/coronavirus/)

[facebook.com/commfell](http://www.facebook.com/commfell)

* VIDEO REFLECTIONS and ENCOURAGEMENT – [youtube.com/channel/UCmcw\_-aKchY2NNWg4Tp7zOg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmcw_-aKchY2NNWg4Tp7zOg)

TITHES AND OFFERINGS - While scattered, here are a few ways that you can continue your faithful and generous giving to CF to help sustain the operations, ministries and outreach of the church.

* Use online giving ([commfell.org/give](http://commfell.org/give/)) to establish a recurring gift via ACH transaction.
* Mail your check to Community Fellowship, 28w240 North Ave., West Chicago, IL 60185.
* Through your bank establish a recurring or onetime electronic bill pay transaction.

Gather together virtually this Sunday to learn more about **“the Good Shepherd”** from Psalm 23. May this Psalm and the teaching encourage us in our own discipleship and spur us on to shepherd others.

***The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me***

***beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.***

***Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surelygoodness and mercyshall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.***

***Psalm 23***

Continue to find refuge, comfort, peace and hope in the presence of your “gentle Shepherd.”

Scattered but still **partnering together** for worship, service and witness for God’s glory.

CF Staff and Elders