





**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
WILL HOLD A  
“VIRTUAL” EASTER MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE**

Dear FPC Family,

Once again, we have had such a positive response to our second virtual worship service video which appeared on FPC's Facebook page on Sunday, April 5,

2020 (Passion/Palm Sunday). And, as always, the video remains available for viewing at any time: just go to <https://www.facebook.com/fpcovictoria>, and scroll down until you see it.

Thanks to Bob Whitaker, the sound has been improved immensely, and people also liked the placement of the “small pulpit” (complete with a purple Lenten parament!) to the side of the altar. This week I have received calls from as far away as Illinois from folks who have been in our church before and who are now so happy to see it still being used for worship.

Please continue to spread the word! The Holy Spirit is surely among us as we provide a source of comfort, hope, and affirmation for people who are struggling with the devastating effects of the coronavirus. Please also keep watching and keep providing comments. I have a feeling that we will not cease making our worship service available online, even after we resume gathering in person back in our beautiful Sanctuary. If that becomes true, then we want to continue to use this time to learn how to improve what we are doing, and that is how your feedback helps us so much.

This Sunday, we will celebrate Easter, even if we do so virtually. We have had to cancel our traditional Good Friday Service, but we are not going to skip Easter! Linda Patterson will not be able to create another of her remarkable lily crosses this year, but we will have lilies on the altar. Be sure and watch for them.

Also, we are going to set the Lord’s Table and celebrate communion. Jack Kleinecke, our Clerk of Session, is going to join me in person as I invoke the words of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, and then he and I serve each other the elements. If you have bread and grape juice or wine at home, have them beside you, and join us in this sacred remembrance of our Lord’s death and resurrection.

In the Presbyterian tradition, the liturgical words that I say do not literally turn the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ. What we do is a reverent *symbolic act of remembrance*. We hold the act of communion sacred, but in these upside-down times, we can remember the death and resurrection of Christ even while we are practicing social separation.

This is what The Second Helvetic [Swiss] Confession, written by Henrich Bullinger in Zurich in 1561, says about the observance of the Lord’s Supper:

*We think that rite, manner, or form of the Supper to be the most simple and excellent which comes nearest to the first institution of the Lord and to the apostles' doctrine. It consists in proclaiming the Word of God, in godly prayers, in the action of the Lord himself, and its repetition; ... in a fitting remembrance of the Lord's death, and a faithful thanksgiving; and in a holy fellowship in the union of the body of the Church.*

Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Part 1, Book of Confessions

§5.208.

Join us again this Sunday, Easter Morning, as we celebrate the greatest day in Christendom!

Peace, grace, and mercy,  
Your Pastor



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