



NEDERDUITSE GEREFORMEERDE KERK

DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH

25 March 2020

Dear sisters and brothers,

The curtailing of individual freedom to move around and work may be a new experience for us. COVID-19 however is an opportunity for the church to do what it does best - serve those who are in need and bring hope and light to dark places and circumstances.

This is also a time to touch each other's hearts, by what we say, what we share, what we do – and what we do not do – to protect the lives God loves so much. In that love, we must adapt our modes of worship and fellowship to the needs of this time during the pandemic in order to avoid the risk of becoming sources of transmission rather than means of grace.

In the face of COVID-19, the global community is responding rapidly to minimise the spread of the disease and address its impact.

In our response as a church it is most important to heed the advice of the health professionals, whose expertise is to protect the community and prevent the spread of the disease and to be aware of public announcements. As the Church, we are part of congregations and communities that are relating to each other in proximity.

As the Church, we also need to respond in ways that are consistent with our vision -attending to people who are most vulnerable, to those who may feel anxious or isolated. This must be done adhering to the special measurements and protocols that has been put in place to curb infections.

As local congregations, you may want to think about your worship practices, including serving communion, passing the peace and greeting each other in ways that reflect our common life, and at the same time attend to the health advice that we are given.

The situation is changing rapidly, so please keep yourselves informed through official health sources in your state or territory.

For now, I offer you a brief prayer

Together in His service

Gustav Claassen

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