



How is Calvary Baptist Church handling the recent COVID-19 outbreak?

Many have seen the recent responses offered in our surrounding communities regarding the COVID-19 virus. I have had many asking about what our plans are as a church. There is no easy answer to the questions we all have. I urge you to remember that as Christians we are citizens of another kingdom. We serve a God who is never surprised or taken off-guard by what is developing. We are called to be like Him. We know we are not to dwell in a spirit of fear, “for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” (2 Tim. 1:7). And we have no reasons to be anxious about things in this world according to Philippians 4:6 which says, “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” I am praying that God will grant each of us the strength needed as we face the unknown in this situation. God is in complete control. When we are in His hands, what transpires around us need not trouble us at all. Remember Ephesians 1:11 where it says that God, “works all things according to the counsel of his will.” He decides, and in that knowledge we can live according to Philippians 4:7, “7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” It is our desire as a church to minister to your needs and the presence of COVID-19 does not change that in any way. Please reach out to me personally if there is a way I can help. We can certainly all pray.

Even in understanding all this, we should still act wisely. So what shall we do in this current situation? Given the number of sheer unknowns at this point, it seems sensible to still meet this Sunday for our typical morning worship. Our allegiance lies with our sovereign God and our worship is still due to Him. We will proceed to hold physical worship in our normal way until He chooses to move the authority structures He has placed over us (our government) to limit gatherings at which point we will reassess the situation. This situation has the potential to develop rapidly and we will adjust accordingly as needed. We are called to act wisely and this means that individually you may need to make a different decision than to gather physically to worship. We fully respect your right to do so and expect you to do what is best in your situation. Please know:

- We will be meeting for physical worship as usual this Sunday, March 15th.
- We will evaluate the situation as things continue to develop.
- We will have hand sanitizer available as usual, but we will eliminate the greeting time to avoid physical touching as much as possible.
- Please use your own discretion in deciding if you should come to worship. If you are in a high-risk demographic we urge you to stay at home.
- If you just do not feel safe in gatherings of people, we recommend you stay at home also. You have the discretion to make the best decision for yourself and your family and we respect that.
- We will evaluate the continuance of our evening worship as well as our midweek activities as things develop.



It seems very possible that COVID-19 will develop much more than its current manifestation and we will very likely need to cancel services in future weeks. This may very well be the last week we are able to meet physically. We certainly have the capability and desire to continue to offer you services that you can livestream from your home if needed and we will explore that route more as things develop.

We have the ability to send text messages to keep people informed. If you would like, please text calvaryvc to 84576 to join in receiving text updates. You can also join through the web at www.flocknote.com/calvaryvc

Grace and Peace,

Dr. Philip Carlson
Senior Pastor