



CHURCH OF
ST. LUKE &
ST. MATTHEW

May 27, 2020

Dear friends in Christ

O God, who on this day taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Grace and peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ. This Sunday we arrive in our liturgical year at the Feast of Pentecost. I can think of no greater assurance during this time of pandemic than the assurance of Jesus Christ, that he would send to all who ask the gift of the Holy Spirit, to be our comforter and advocate. We each have received the gift of the Holy Spirit, who was sealed within us at our baptism. Therefore we can all lean into God as Holy Spirit during this time of immense disruption and anxiety.

In-person services to resume in September

I write to primarily inform you that the vestry and I have concluded that we will delay the opening of the church building for in-person worship until mid-September. We were all of the same mind that the current uncertainty around the next few months as New York City reopens present too great a risk to you all to attend church in the sanctuary at this time. We are concerned with a second wave of the coronavirus materializing, the severe health and liturgical restrictions likely to be imposed by the Diocese for any resumption of in-person services (no hymn singing, no choirs, face masks for all, 6-10 ft separation, possibly no eucharist, no coffee hour), together with the fact that many of you are over 65, many require public transport to get to church, and the impact of excessive heat in the church building during summer.

Continuation of online services and new Noonday Prayer on Wednesdays from June 10

Instead of resuming in-person services on July 5, we will continue to provide our current online service of morning prayer, which has been well received and will implement two other ministry initiatives. The first being a phone-in Service of Noonday prayer on Wednesdays at 12pm from June 10, together with a time for open prayer, and some online meditations to support your spiritual journey. Phone 646-558-8656 and enter access code 5331484605. This will be the same dial-in each week. The second is a series of short meditations that will be available from the website. These are designed to help you in your spiritual life.

New weekly e-newsletter

Our weekly e-newsletter is being emailed out each Friday to many of you who subscribed. The vestry agreed to sign up everyone who has provided an email address to the parish so that more of you receive it. I have included with this letter some sample pages of the newsletter to whet your appetite. Should you wish to receive the newsletter by standard mail please call the parish office and leave a message. We will also send the newsletter and weekly bulletin to our home bound community as we were doing before the shutdown.

I pray for you each day that you may be sustained by your faith and comforted by your family and friends during this difficult time. Please let us know if you need any pastoral support by calling the office.

Peace and blessings
Fr Andrew Durbidge

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Durbidge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

520 Clinton Ave, Brooklyn NY 11238 – P: 718-638-0686
E: stlukeandstmatthew@gmail.com W: www.stlukeandstmatthew.org