



March 2020

Dear friends,

I hope this email finds you well and in good health. I am emailing you to acknowledge that we are living in a strange season with the devastating COVID-19 pandemic whirling around us. It's changing our plans and making us all feel a little uncertain of what might come of it all. But we at Global Mission are holding tight to what we know--that through it all, God is still in control and God is still at work.

During this time, we are continually working with our partners, listening to government sources, and communicating with our missionaries to try to keep up with the changing situation and make the best, most informed decisions possible.

The RCA Global Mission staff is doing the same things many of you are--working from our homes, canceling all but essential travel, postponing events, and changing all of our meetings to video calls. As we are physically separated, our team has stepped up our communication through text messages, WhatsApp, and video calls to stay in even closer connection with our missionaries and partners, to pray with them, and to help them think through their situations.

In light of the diversity in location and context within which our missionaries serve, we have neither required nor forbid any of our missionaries to return to the U.S. We believe these decisions are best made on a case-by-case basis by those who are most aware of the local situations. In light of that, a couple of missionaries have returned to the U.S. in the last few weeks. Some have returned due to the declining health of family members, and others due to the U.S. being a safer context during this time. Please know they are still actively connecting with their constituents on the ground and they are carrying out their call to mission from afar until they can return to the field. We are working with them to ensure that the integrity of their ministry is not compromised in this tough chapter of human history. Your continued support is important during this time as we navigate the ramifications of COVID-19 together. We are truly grateful for your partnership in mission and we are eagerly awaiting the stories of God's goodness that will come from this strange time. Thank you, too, for remembering our missionaries as you face your own challenges.

Know that we are continually praying for you. In return, we ask that you join us in praying in the following ways:

Pray for our missionaries and partners on the ground. May God protect their health and give them the strength they need to continue their work, especially those working with the least of these and providing healthcare in difficult circumstances.

- Pray for Global Mission leadership. May we lean heavily on God during this season and make decisions filled with grace and truth as we respond to the rising pandemic.
- Pray that we would all shine Christ's light and love.

I want to leave you with these words of hope from our favorite book:

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13

Thank you for joining us in this journey.

Grace and Peace,
JP Sundararajan;
Director of Global Mission

FRONTSTREETER: APRIL 2020

The Reformed Church of Canajoharie

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Pastor's Page

Greetings to my brothers and sisters in Christ. I don't know about you but these weeks of inactivity have taken a toll on me. Every Sunday morning at around 11:30 I get ornery due to the lack of interaction with you all, (as well as the chance to talk without being stopped). So I miss you all and can't wait until we can join together in worship.

And yet, wait we must. It makes me wonder why. Some folks have gone so far as to complain that it must be some kind of deep-state, left wing plot, that the panic about Covid-19 is a big hoax meant to impact the election. Although the President himself disavows this notion in his better moments, the belief persists.

I prefer, as I often do, to think theologically and Biblically about this peculiar time. Why would God allow, or in a Reformed sense, ordain this time of quarantine? Does he not desire to be worshipped? Yes. That is what we are made for. But it seems as though he has given us a time-out from worship. There is something more important for us to understand, perhaps. I cannot speak to individual motivations for joining in worship, nor can I tell you that God is sending you a personal message here. But God does speak to his church, and I think there can be at least two possible lessons to be learned here. Take them for what you will.

- A) First of all, the world needs to take a Sabbath. People are so busy that we tend to pay attention to what calls most stridently for our time and effort. We run around and around, busy, busy, busy, like the creatures in Lewis Carrol's Caucus Race in *Alice in Wonderland*. They race around and around in a circle until they finally stop and everyone gets a prize. Alice gets her own thimble back, so her race has been particularly pointless. This time we live in has forced us to stop racing aimlessly and has given us many hours to slow down, take a breath and think. Those who are able to set their minds on things above, or at least take the time to do deep thinking, have a chance to thrive during this time. It could set us up for the next ten years of life, helping our feet touch the bottom of reality in the midst of a river rushing with the fluff of contemporary culture.
- B) Secondly, the possibility remains that God wants us to think deeply about worship, why we do it, and what its purpose is. To do so, we need to take a step back from corporate worship. In Isaiah, God has strong words for those who engage in public worship without being oriented toward him in their lives. In Chapter 1 he asks the people why they are coming in and trampling his courts when their hearts aren't right with him. Is he then going to receive their offerings and sacrifices when they come from bloody hands? No. Trouble, big trouble is coming to them because of their idolatry, and their mistaking of attendance of worship as being the pinnacle of living for him. It is not. Public worship is an offering

done in response, as an addition to the worship engaged in during daily living. In the chapter, he tells them to give up their evil ways. And then do what is right. Help those in need, seek justice. In other words, love their neighbors. In Romans 12 Paul says the same thing. "Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God. This is your spiritual worship." Right worship begins with letting the light of your faith shine in your daily life. Every day love the Lord your God with everything you have. Love your neighbor as yourself. God light the world, and then God will be pleased with us lighting candles for him in the context of corporate worship. When God's people remember to do this, reject idolatry of the self, of a soft self-serving spirituality, he will be ready to receive our praise.

Pastor Matt

As we experience this unprecedented pandemic that changes daily, it is important to stay rooted in our faith and connected as the body of Christ. If able resources are available for you to use online via our website: www.canjoreformed.org and follow us on Facebook at Canajoharie Reformed Church.

Finally, please know that we are praying for you and that we care. Anyone who may be in need of help or counsel may contact the church office at: 518-673-2816 - we will get back to you.

May God comfort you and give you His peace.



Prayers for those in need of comfort and healing for: David Van Wormer – currently hospitalized with pneumonia; Cathy Smith – recovering from a fractured ankle; Mark Fowler – recovering from knee surgery; Brett & Jacci Robinson (*Son & Daughter In-Law of Nancy Robinson*) expecting twins; Rocas Family – recent death in the family; John Snyder – undergoing cancer treatments; Jane Hawkins – recovering at home; Charles Jones – health concerns; Pat Bruchetti - health concerns; Janet Rocas – health concerns; Jessica Eiss – health issues; Cathy Smith – health concerns;; Emory Luck – health concerns; John – health concerns; Cynthia Clements – health concerns; Bob Mount – health concerns; Melvin Smith – health issues; John Sowizdral – health concerns; KK - recent shoulder surgeries; Frank and Chubby - possible knee surgery, good behavior for Chubby; Patti - prayers for rehab and be able to come home; Sharon - hoping to sell home soon; Wayne - facing foot surgery; Brian - in hospital; Nicole - help with health concerns; William - in hospital with cancer; Jeff - nursing home for rehab; Mark and Family - loss of home in a fire; Loretta - hospital with leukemia; Nancy - for healing; Dawn - waiting for allergy test results; Gloria - problems with leg; Robert - hoping for rides; Anna who had successful cataract surgery; a Comfort Zone member who is receiving help for hearing problems.

Prayers for those Homebound or in Healthcare Facilities: Alice McEwan (*Carol Cechnicki's Mother*) – St. Johnsville Nursing Home, 7 Timmerman Ave., St. Johnsville, NY 13452; Paul Flint – St. Johnsville Nursing Home, 7 Timmerman Ave., St. Johnsville, NY 13452; Stan McMillan – Palatine Nursing Home, 154 Lafayette St., Palatine Bridge, NY 13428.

Prayers for: Dan Cauwenberghs – (*Bobbi Cauwenberghs son*) who is working in Kosovo.

Prayers for our Missionaries: Felipe & Janelle Silva – serving in Romania; Mark, Deb & Zach Wilson – serving in Cambodia.

Prayers for those who are incarcerated: Scott Cole – DIN# 15B2351, Great Meadow Correctional Facility Box 51, Comstock, NY 12821-0051.

Daily Bible Readings

God's Word is rich with encouragement, insight, instruction, and inspiration!
When we read it regularly and are willing to submit to the Holy Spirit's guidance and are open to being transformed, it is a vital part of our growth as disciples of Jesus.

APRIL 2020

- 1 Matthew 21:1-11
- 2 Isaiah 50:4-9
- 3 Psalm 31:9-16
- 4 Philippians 2:5-11
- 5 Palm Sunday – Mark 11:1-11
- 6 Mark 11:15-19
- 7 Mark 12:1-12
- 8 Mark 13
- 9 Maundy Thursday – Mark 14:10-25
- 10 Good Friday – Mark 14:47-72, 15
- 11 Mark 12:28-34
- 12 Easter Sunday - Mark 16:1-11
- 13 Acts 2:14, 22-28
- 14 Acts 2:29-32
- 15 Psalm 16
- 16 1 Peter: 3-9
- 17 John 20:19-23
- 18 John 20:34-31
- 19 Luke 24:36-43
- 20 Acts 2:14, 36-41
- 21 Psalm 116:1-4
- 22 Psalm 116:12-19
- 23 1 Peter 1:17-23
- 24 Luke 24: 13-27
- 25 Luke 24:28-35
- 26 Luke 24:44-49
- 27 Acts 2:42-47
- 28 Psalm 23
- 29 1 Peter 2:19-20
- 30 1 Peter 2:21-25

April



- 2 *Barb Seeley (Ridge Rd ARC)
- 3 James & Betsy Westman (1993)
- 10 Catherine & Edward Smith (2010)
- 12 Catherine Smith
Scott Cole
- 13 AJ Perozzi
- 17 Rebecca Hawkins
- 22 Teresa Draffen
- 26 Kurt Sunderland
Charon Davis
- 28 Kelly Boucher
Harry Perozzi
- 29 Matt & Teresa Draffen (1989)

* Please send all ARC cards to:
Liberty Day Hab
66 Church St.,
Canajoharie, NY 13317

Gifts of the Spirit

