

Sainte-Chapelle Stained Glass - created mid-13th Century

When Will We Meet Again?

Seven Sundays. It's been seven weeks since we decided that meeting together physically as a Church wasn't a good idea for our neighbors and community. Mother's Day is this weekend. Happy Mother's Day. We love you moms!

At the time of the shutdowns, I'd hoped we'd be able to gather again for Easter. Resurrection Sunday has come and gone, now we stand at the threshold of Summer still with unanswered questions. The greatest of the questions I've heard is, "When will we meet again?"

The short answer at this moment is we don't know. Things seem to change every day. Anyone at the forefront of this will tell you the same thing. Each day brings new challenges and normals as this thing unfolds and we now live in a fundamentally changed culture. Even by the end of the day, we may understand something new or have a new protocol under which to live. With that fact, the answer to the greatest question we have about RCC doesn't yet have an answer.

I want you to know the RCC eldership is meeting this week to begin to discuss the Church's emergence from the COVID-19 shutdowns. Beyond the greatest question, there are a truckload of new questions to unpack as a result of the shifted landscape. Here are some of the things we need to think about as a result of COVID-19:

What if our worship gathering is initially limited to no more than 50 people? What adjustments will we make to the Lord's Supper, baptisms, and our group ministries? Are we going to continue offering children's church? Are we

going to continue hosting any special events or groups? Are we continuing to provide coffee on Sunday morning? What do we do with the RCC Live Stream thing? What do we do with a changing volunteer base? What's our strategy to clean and sanitize the church building as we go? Do our greeters do their jobs differently, or at all? Is this a time to suspend or end greeting time? Because people may return very slowly to church, how will we determine "Church attendance" or if we are reaching people? Should we add and/or shorten worship services to allow for social distancing?

Again, like the greater question, we've not yet answered any of these subsequent questions. But I want you to know this week marks the beginning RCC restarting our full public ministry. It begins by deep and meaningful discussions at the eldership and ministry leadership levels. It begins in awakening to a new terrain the world has given us and engaging it.

In restarting, RCC ministry leaders must not wade into the shallowness of the current public discourse. This discourse is regrettably short-sided and reactionary. Fears or even the factual presence of government repression or political conspiracy are irrelevant to the Gospel mission of Jesus Christ. The Church historic has survived and thrived, by the grace of God, under far greater constraints than we are experiencing today. We are not being persecuted. Conversely, thoughts of our neighbors well-being or our own self-preservation from any virus should be overshadowed by our concern with the destiny of people's eternal soul. We've got a job to do. While the gathering of the Church is important, the center of our role in the Kingdom of Christ is the transmission of the Gospel to people and the development of our faith to that end. Anything otherwise means we are not fundamentally being the Church.

Know and take heart in this. The Church dispersed is a central feature of the New Testament. The people of God longing to be together and missing the hugs and smiles of a worship gathering is a feature of the true people of God. Christians that loved each other dearly in the 1st Century parted for a time to spread the Gospel to those who'd receive the Lord Jesus Christ. Many times they did this understanding that a temporary separation from each other paled compared to eternity together before the Glory of Christ. This is the attitude we must have in these light and momentary troubles.

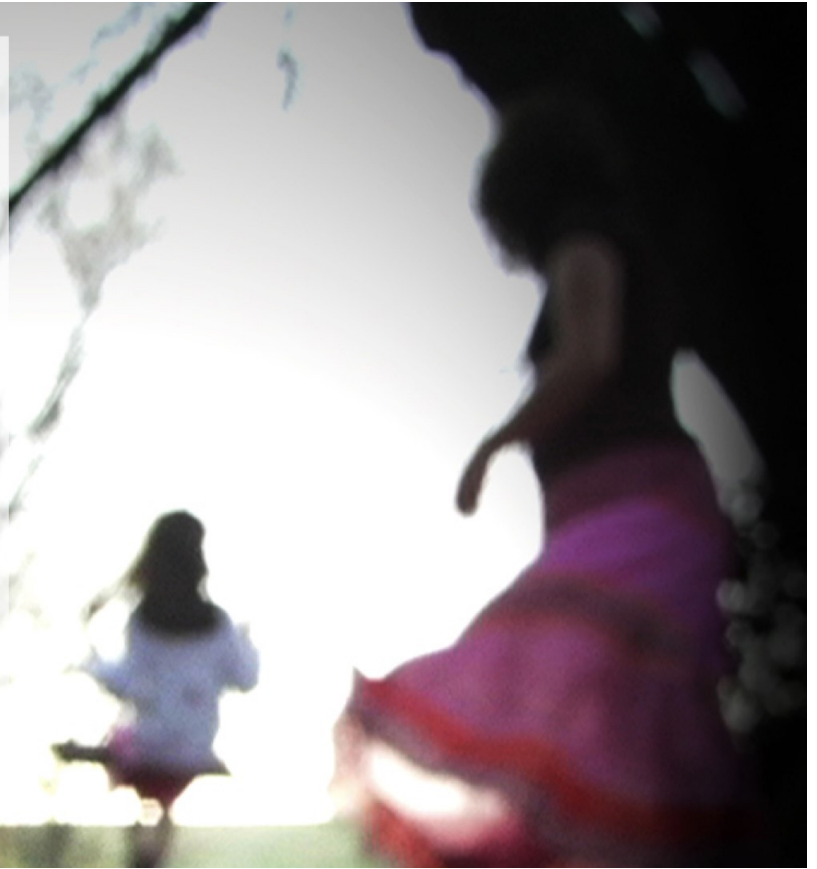
Love to You All, Pastor Jason

Happy Mother's Day - Moms are the Best!

Sonnets Are Full of Love

Sonnets are full of love, and this my tome
Has many sonnets: so here now shall be
One sonnet more, a love sonnet, from me
To her whose heart is my heart's quiet home,
To my first Love, my Mother, on whose knee
I learnt love-lore that is not troublesome;
Whose service is my special dignity,
And she my loadstar while I go and come
And so because you love me, and because
I love you, Mother, I have woven a wreath
Of rhymes wherewith to crown your honoured name:
In you not fourscore years can dim the flame
Of love, whose blessed glow transcends the laws
Of time and change and mortal life and death.

Christina Rossetti



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2020!

*May he grant you your
heart's desire and fulfill
all your plans.*

Psalms 20:4 ESV



LaMoine
Christian Service Camp

Greetings my dearest Brothers & Sisters! It is with a heavy heart that I announce the extension of the LCSC suspension of operations thru May 31, 2020. As you are all aware, the IL governor has extended the Stay-at-Home order through the month of May. This will likely impact summer programming; the Board will be making some difficult decisions on Thurs, May 14. Please be in prayer between now and then and take a moment that evening between the hours of 5-9 pm to pray that God will direct us through this difficult time. Thanks. We love and appreciate you all.

Gordon Blankenship, Camp Manager
Lamoine Christian Service Camp (217) 654-2238

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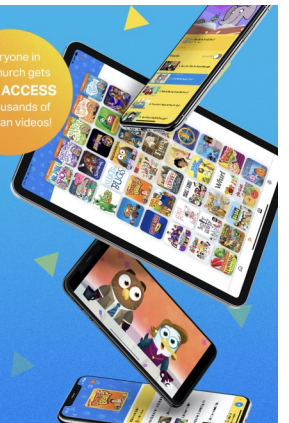
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Prayers & Praises

Updated: 05/06/2020

JBS Employees - Covid outbreak

Family of Jan Thompson

Family of 4 mo. old Brixtn Cox

Donovan Anderson - Rehab after surgery to remove benign brain tumor

Jan Anderson - (Donovan's mom)

Family of Paul & Judy's Brazilian daughter, Jessica's great aunt & uncle passed away from Covid19 in Brazil

Kailey Orwig passed ACFT! Graduated April 24th

Alex - (soldier in Kailey's unit) on suicide watch

Dave Nicholson (Jason's stepfather) cancer/transition to home health

Jane Wright - help losing weight for health reasons

Marla Spencer - health/dementia

Marvin - deliveries to Chicago

Congratulations to Drew & Loren Ralston on the arrival of Cooper James on April 21!

Carolyn Wiggins recovery - broken back

Shannon Hughes (cancer)

Nursery Point Person

Financial Point Person

Brian Wallace

Thelma (health/caregiving)

Josh Triplett (future decisions)

H.S. & M.S. ministries

Associate Pastor search

Church Building Need

Abigail Norton (health)

Tony (ICU Cancer)

Paul's niece Jessica (cancer)

Liz Wood (cancer)

Garret Collins Praise - final Chemo treatment!

Aaron Trone (Safety & Salvation)

Rick Ashcraft (Chemo)

Charles Slaughter (Cancer)

Dan Norton (Stroke recovery)

CHURCH OFFERINGS:

April 5 - \$1190.00

April 12 - \$1809.80

April 19 - \$3233.30

April 26 - \$3036.85

May 3 - \$2217.55

Benevolence Offerings - \$ 270.00

Prayer Requests can be submitted and updated through the online Prayer card. Find it at rushvillechurchofchrist.com

