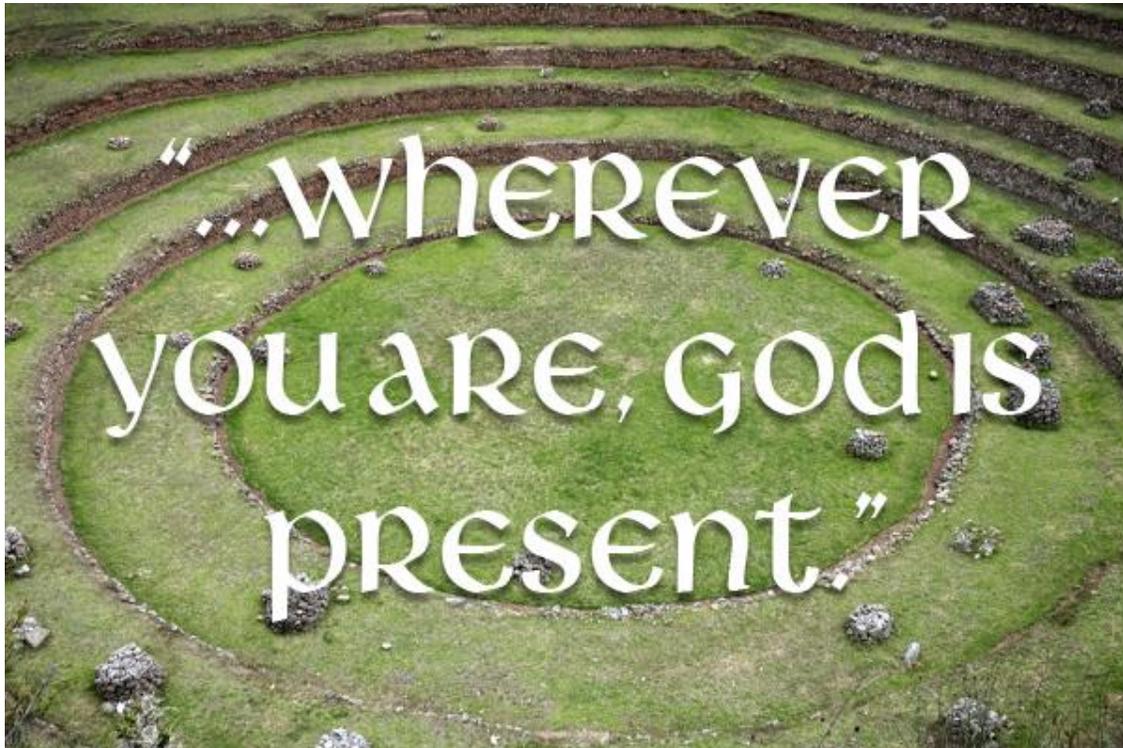




Pine Street Presbyterian Church in the City of Harrisburg



Dear Members and Friends of Pine Street:

Session met in an online meeting on Monday. Technology is an amazing gift to our world. Using an application called Zoom, your elders and staff, staying in their homes by their computers or phone, were able to gather in an official meeting, listen to reports, and make motions. We were physically distanced, but not socially! In the midst of the Corona Crisis, we are maintaining the ties of love, affection, and commitment that bind us to each other. It was a very joyful time to see online your elders and staff.

At the beginning of this crisis, Session had decided to postpone worship and activities through Sunday, March 29. Unfortunately, that postponement has been extended. Session has now decided that all worship services scheduled for the sanctuary and all activities in the church building (including funerals and weddings) will be postponed until the government and health

authorities permit large gatherings of people. **That means the sanctuary will not be open for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter services.** We will continue to livestream the services from the sanctuary. Part of our livestream services will include the Lord's Supper on Sundays and Maundy Thursday. We will also livestream from the sanctuary a modified Tenebrae Service on Good Friday.

This all feels so strange. While I have been encouraged by your good words about our livestreaming worship (Forgive our glitches!), worship doesn't feel the same without you in the building. Still, Jesus did say that where two or three are gathered together in his name, he would be in the midst of them. When I am not feeling quite right, I claim that promise, that promise that the Holy One is always in our midst. The ancient Christian Celts had a sense of the pervasive and penetrating presence of God. They believed that God was not outside of time and space but deeply present in the midst of everything. Bruce Epperly, an interpreter of the Celtic tradition, has written: "If God is the circle whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere, then wherever you are, God is present." Hold on to that truth in a time of isolation, and in our worship, although online, we will hold on to God and to each other.

Blessings on you all!

Grace, peace, and love,

Russell



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