

Subject:

Date: April 8, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Newton Presbyterian Church,

The Session of NPC invites you to take part in a Good Friday Vigil. We will be participating in this remotely, emphasizing that though we are physically absent from one another, the Lord's Spirit binds us together spiritually.

Good Friday has always been a moment of bleakness in the Christian calendar, even a time to feel despair. Our Lord's cry from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?," rings in our ears and does not let us easily escape the immensity of this moment in the life of the world. The Christian's response has not been to try to escape this moment, but to take some time to contemplate both the sin that created the necessity for such a calamity, and the overwhelming love the Father has for us that he would sacrifice his son so we might live.

NPC has had vigils on Good Friday in the past – times when believers would sign up for a time to be in the church, praying. We are doing this differently, because of the coronavirus. We are asking people to respond to this e-mail – to Ward – and sign up for a ½ hour time slot. We are asking that during that time slot, we would covenant to put aside our other tasks, and spend ½ an hour in prayer, and in contemplation. Then, another believer will take up that task of praying and meditating on the grace of Jesus, and on humanity's need for it.

The slots are these:

9:00	_____	12:00	Ward Holder
9:30	_____	12:30	_____
10:00	_____	1:00	_____
10:30	_____	1:30	_____
11:00	_____	2:00	_____
11:30	_____	2:30	_____

Please join as the spirit moves you and let me know – we will publish the vigil list to this e-mail chain on Friday. More than one person can be praying during one time slot.

In Christ's mercy,

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