

Dear Cup family and friends,

As we near the climax of the Advent season in 2020 with the celebration of Christmas and the coming of Jesus, we are also living with the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic have brought to us in Western Pennsylvania. Your Session and I, your Pastor have prayed, conferred, debated, and finally arrived at a decision for our worship life together during the next few weeks that we believe will provide the appropriate balance of physical, spiritual, and emotional support, understanding that the Lord continues to be in control of our world and our lives as He always has been.

Here's our plan for each of our services from December 13 through January 3:

DECEMBER 13: 10:30 worship in the sanctuary, with masks worn through the service. The service will be streamed online via YouTube at www.cupepc.org.

DECEMBER 20: 10:30 worship in the sanctuary with masks worn through the service. We will be offering our traditional Christmas Eve LESSONS AND CAROLS service at this time, in a shortened format, and Communion will NOT be included as a part of the service this year. The service will also be streamed online via YouTube at www.cupepc.org. We will have some very special guests reading our Scripture Lessons 'virtually', so please join us one way or the other!

DECEMBER 24: WE WILL BE OFFERING A **PARKING LOT WORSHIP SERVICE** at **4 PM**. The format of the service is to be determined, but we will broadcast through a radio transmitter so everyone can keep their windows up! We plan on providing a variation on our candlelight conclusion that will be meaningful as we celebrate Jesus' birth and look with joy to his return. Come ready to sing! Visitors, as always, are welcome!

DECEMBER 27 AND JANUARY 3: We will be streaming the worship service at 10:30, but worship will be **ONLINE ONLY**. (www.cupepc.org) Only those directly involved in leading worship will be allowed in the building.

We pray that the current wave of virus cases will wane, and we look forward to being together in an easier way as soon as it is prudent to do so. Our final decision in how to conduct these services wasn't unanimous, but all of us as Ruling and Teaching Elders are able to support it, and believe the Lord has good plans and purposes for us as we reach out in His name in these days. God bless you all, and we look forward to worshipping our Lord with you now and throughout the New Year.

God's peace,
Pastor Scott