

The Methodist Church in Singapore

新加坡基督教衛理公會

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Dear fellow Methodists,

May God grant you peace!

For a few weeks, we have started getting used to attending worship services online. As you attend in your homes and rooms, do prepare your spirit in the same attitude as you would in church; coming into the presence of the God of the universe. Wear appropriate clothing, sit or stand with the liturgy, and sing with your heart and soul in worship.

More and more, we as a community have become the front lines of the battle against the pandemic. The Healthcare System is our last line of defence whilst the war will be won in daily battles by us, disciplined physical distancing and stalwart adherence to the guidelines given by the authorities. It is in the nature of humans and the church to be social and to meet; however, at this time, we have to refrain from this.

All care groups, cells, committees, classes and courses should meet on teleconferencing platforms as much as possible. We have already implemented live-streams, podcasts, audio MP3s and recordings for you and will continue to do so and improve on the sense of 'being together though apart' in the congregation. Be prepared that should the situation take a turn for the worse in Singapore, these communication platforms would be our only means of ministry.

There will be members who are unable to do so, and we must not leave them out; do so with care and consultation with your Pastors. We should not leave such members stranded in isolation. However, we should encourage those that can to restrain their natural desire to congregate.

It will be a long war ahead, with many battles. It must be fought as a country, but most importantly, it will be won with God's people in prayer on their knees and on their faces. We must unite the faithful to come shoulder-to-shoulder in prayer and petition. Let us as the Methodist Church in Singapore respond to the trumpet call to the front lines and fight with honour and courage.

Isaiah 60:1-2

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you*
Your fellow servant in Christ,

Together with you in Christ,

Bishop Dr Chong Chin Chung
The Methodist Church in Singapore