



ANG MO KIO METHODIST CHURCH

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Third Pastoral Letter to the Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church Family on the Covid-19 Situation (21 Mar 2020)

Dear Family and Friends of AMKMC (TRAC),

By now you should already know that **our worship services are suspended for at least two weeks**. This suspension is taken as part of our nationwide effort to flatten the Covid-19 infection curve. As responsible citizens, we must love our neighbours just as we love God. As to whether services will resume on Palm Sunday, 5 April 2020, please pray that God will grant wisdom to the pastoral office and church leadership to decide wisely. All I can say is that this decision has to be made also in consultation with our two sisters churches, AMKCMC and AMKTMC, and any decision we come to will always be in the collective interest of everyone's good.

To be clear, the suspension of our worship services is **not because we have a confirmed Covid-19 case**. I have received several fake news of this nature and I remind all of us to stay vigilant at all times. We will be completely and immediately transparent if such an incident does occur.

In addition, **the suspension of worship services does not entail church closure**. Many of you have asked if ministry events and cell groups should continue meeting in church these two weeks, and the answer is yes – with good social distancing. However, in line with MOH's advisory, seniors and the vulnerable with pre-existing conditions are asked to refrain from participating physically. Everything I have stated in my second pastoral letter – with the exception of Sunday worship services – still apply.

Let me end with Psalm 24:1, 3–4, which declares

¹The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;

³Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?
Who may stand in his holy place?

⁴The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.

We must remember we can praise God anywhere. Importantly, Ps 24:4 reminds us to have clean hands – figuratively but also literally for everyone now. Yet that same verse also reminds us to ask for a pure heart – something only God can do (cf. Ezekiel 18:31). Lent has traditionally been the season for repentance and self-examination. With the government urging all of us to stay home as much as possible, there is no better opportunity to practise Lenten disciplines of silence, solitude, fasting, and reflection.

Yours Sincerely,

Rev Anthony Lee