I wonder how ‘love in a time of coronavirus’ is going in your house?

To give you a tiny window into the Mainwaring home, let me paint you a picture. What once were bedrooms and places to relax are now classrooms. Computers and books and schedules abound as does a little mayhem every now and then. There are two clergy folk here bothering the children, meeting their people via Zoom and on the phone and by now easily answering more emails a day than my mother posts cat videos on Facebook. That’s a lot of emails.

I am sure that you have your own ‘working at home’/‘retirement at home’ stories. I’m sure like ours, they are not all pretty. When it gets round to the evening, I wonder if you have also found yourself watching a TV show and thinking how real life is actually more surreal than fiction these days. It feels a bit like an episode of one of my favorite Netflix shows of recent years, a BBC production called W1A, where a small number of BBC employees get lost in the old ‘Television Center’ building and try as they might to weave their way through the maze of corridors, they remain stuck there, wondering how long it will be until they finally make it out.

That’s the question, isn’t it: how long will it be until we finally make it out of all of this? In a letter you should have recently received from me, our working assumption is that we will be at this for eight weeks. Could be less, could be more, and it’s not just the markets that don’t like uncertainty. People don’t like it either.

So how might we go forward? We can give into the fear of it all, hunker down, try to block the world out and hope for the best. Probably a good policy for avoiding infection, but not necessarily the best for staying sane. We could go the other way, roll our dice with the universe and keep on going about our normal lives, hoping to stay well while doing so. Neither seem quite right to me, and so not for the first time as a cradle Anglican, the middle way looks appealing.

Plotting our course through a middle way between legitimate anxiety and our in-built desire for community is how we are seeking to go on this particular journey as a church. As we preach and teach and explore together what all of this means for our life of faith, we do so holding onto both hope and fear. It is in many ways a remarkable Lenten journey, the way of Jesus that does not lead to a neat resolution that somehow sidesteps Christ’s passion on the way to Easter’s promise of resurrection. This is, no doubt, a way of suffering that our nation and world face ahead of us. People will get sick, and many will die. Others will lose their jobs and face months to years of economic rebuilding when this is long gone as a public health crisis. We will recall with one another who we were working with or living alongside the year the coronavirus changed the way we led our lives entire nations at a time.

Yet with all that we will endure together, we will remain, always, an Easter people. Life prevails. Love prevails. We will prevail, in the end, because in the final analysis, all of this life is a gift from God, and the God who made us will remain the God who loves us in this world and forever.

So, keep the faith dear saints of God. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one, evil for evil. Support the weak. Comfort the afflicted. Honor everyone.

And may God bless you, now and always.

With peace and thanksgiving for you,
Frequently Asked Questions

How long will in-person worship and other church activities remain suspended? When will we back in the church?
The rector, staff, and vestry continue to monitor the situation daily. Following the Center for Disease Control’s March 15 recommendation to suspend public gatherings for 8 weeks, we are prepared to gather and worship exclusively online through early May or longer, though we hope that this period might be shortened.

What will happen to hourly staff at All Saints’, such as sextons, paid singers, nursery caretakers, and security personnel? Will they still be paid?
Some of our hourly paid staff are currently doing a limited amount of work on our campus, such as cleaning and providing music for online services. Regardless, we are committed to providing all budgeted compensation to our staff and will treat any lost hours as paid time off.

Are the clergy still available to provide pastoral care?
Yes, however, nearly all pastoral care will occur via phone and other electronic channels. Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have a pastoral need. Email Pat Kiley at patkiley@allsaintsatlanta.org.

How do I pay my pledge?
You can make pledge payments online here, or you can send checks by mail. We continue to receive mail at the church office.

What about vestry nominations and election?
The election and nomination of new vestry members will be postponed until a later date (TBA). The current vestry will continue serving until such time as our COVID-19 protocols are lifted.

What about funerals?
Unfortunately, in accordance with our Bishop’s directive, we will not host funerals until after the COVID-19 protocols are lifted.

Helpful Links:
GA Department of Public Health: https://dph.georgia.gov
Episcopal Relief and Development: www.episcopalrelief.org/what-we-do/us-disaster-program/faith-based-response-to-epidemics/

Carrying On

COVID-19 Info and Resources Page
ALL of the church buildings are closed and there are no meetings on our campus at this time, including 12-step and support group meetings, until further notice. Please note that all scheduled online worship and meetings are subject to change at any time. Please visit allsaintsatlanta.org/covid-19 for the most current information.

Worship
A Change in Online Worship
At the end of March, Bishop Wright directed all clergy to remain online for worship and not in-person until Sunday, May 24, which is a few weeks longer than our own schedule of Sunday, May 10. To follow this directive and the executive order issued by the Mayor of Atlanta’s office, we pre-recorded our Sunday services and will broadcast them in the weeks to come.

As all of our services have been pre-recorded, be assured that our staff are safe and at home during this period of social distance. Please do continue to comment on Facebook and Vimeo and we will respond to your comments live during the service, including your prayer requests.

Join our Online Worship Community
Please follow us on Facebook and Vimeo to view our online worship services. Links to view the services as well as worship bulletins can be found on allsaintsatlanta.org/covid-19.

For our Saints who are not on Facebook: You shouldn’t have to create a Facebook account to view any of our online videos. Facebook might be persistent in trying to get you to create an account, but you can click “Not Now” and still watch the stream. Note that you might have to do this multiple times throughout the stream.

Sundays: Holy Eucharist, Rite II at 10:00 a.m.
Coffee with the Clergy: Following the online service, take a quick break to grab a cup of coffee and then join our clergy for discussion and reflection time.

Monday through Thursdays:
Noonday Prayer at 12:05 p.m.
Coffee with the Clergy: Monday through Thursdays, clergy for discussion and reflection time. Monday through Thursdays, grab a cup of coffee and then join our online service, take a quick break to

Adult Formation
We have groups that will continue to meet online during the week via Zoom, a great, free-to-use tool to facilitate online meetings and help us stay connected. For help accessing Zoom, visit support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting. To view a complete list of offerings and learn more, visit allsaintsatlanta.org/online-formation.

To request assistance with Zoom, please contact Jocelyn Cassada, Director of Digital Communications, at jcassada@allsaintsatlanta.org.
Stories by the Saints
Have you ever thought about trying your hand at storytelling? Learn the basics of storytelling from our Refugee Ministries Director, Louisa Merchant (Atlanta Moth Slam winner). In just 4 weeks you’ll learn how to tell a 10-minute story of faith, meaning or change to share with fellow parishioners online and in person (neither are mandatory) when we return to in-person worship and group meetings.

Mondays for 4 weeks
11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
(Note this event began March 23)
This event requires a Zoom registration.
Information to register can be found at allsaintsatlanta.org/covid-19

Basic Spanish Conversation for Beginners Lesson 1
Have you ever wanted to learn to speak Spanish but never had the time? Learn some basic Spanish phrases and conversational tips from our Refugee Ministries Director, Louisa Merchant, who holds an MA in Spanish and has taught in colleges and universities for 15 years. Learn some fun phrases, a little grammar, and some basic pronunciation. It’s a great stress-breaking way to spend some online time with other parishioners during these challenging days.

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
(Note this event began March 25)
This event requires a Zoom registration.
Information to register can be found at allsaintsatlanta.org/covid-19

Postponements
• Threads, our children’s clothing ministry, will remain closed until further notice.
• Refugee Ministries and Midtown Assistance Center have temporarily suspended all in-person volunteer work.
• Youth Confirmation Field Trip to The Temple, originally scheduled for Friday, March 13 (new date TBA)
• Faith in the City forum on Sunday, March 15 and follow-up discussion on Wednesday, March 18 (new dates TBA)
• Women’s Lenten Retreat, originally scheduled for Friday, March 20 to Sunday, March 22 (new dates TBA).

Vestry Notes
From the meeting on March 16, 2020
Mike Nadal offered a meditation about the value of optimism and his quadriplegic friend who is a model of optimism for him. Ellen Hayes gave a report on progress of the 2020 Canvass, which to date has an encouraging number of new pledges. In the Treasurer’s report, Sheldon Taylor noted that the church’s financial picture is positive. The vestry voted to approve the selection of a new independent auditor at the recommendation of the Finance Committee. Todd Silliman gave the Senior Warden’s report, in which he commended the leadership of Ellen Porter with the phone tree effort to communicate church closure to parishioners.
Simon Mainwaring offered appreciation for the staff’s extraordinary work to temporarily cancel in-person operations of the church and to achieve the online streaming service on Sunday. Simon presented an overview of a working document detailing current plans in the programs and operational areas of the church. The vestry voted to extend their term and to postpone vestry election and diocesan council delegate elections until such time as the COVID protocols are no longer in place.

During the period when the church is closed for in-person gatherings, meetings of the vestry will be held by videoconference and teleconference. Parishioners who have questions or concerns for the vestry are invited to reach out to the Rector, the Senior Warden, or the Junior Warden. We will resume normal, in-person meetings of the vestry when the church reopens.

Transitions
Births
Evelyn Grace Dickson Staton,
daughter of Patrick and Ellen Staton

Transfers In
Stephen Putnam, from First Baptist Church, High Springs, Florida
John Marks, Jr., from The Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta

Transfers Out
Tom Shillock and Cathy Anguilla-Hans to Grace Episcopal Church, Gainesville, Georgia
Casie Yoder to The Cathedral of St. Philip, Atlanta
Jennifer Shoemaker, Shelley Jones, and Emily Pate Jones to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Decatur, Georgia

Clyde Tuggle to St. Alban’s Episcopal Church in Washington D.C.
Mark Kooyman to St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church, Atlanta
Wayne, Lauren and Alastair Cartwright to St. Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church, Atlanta

Weddings
Caitlin Huber and Scott Gorham
Matthew Bailey and Dexter Wells

Deaths
Lynn Randolph
John Terry Clegg
John Sholar Langford
Temporarily Moving our Community Online

As you know, all in-person activities and events as a church have been canceled or postponed, in order to help slow the spread of the coronavirus. We continue to worship as a community online; some of our formation groups will be meeting virtually as well.

Here’s a quick run-down of our online worship schedule:
• Holy Eucharist, Rite II at 10:00 a.m., Sundays
• Noontday Prayer at 12:05 p.m., Monday through Thursdays

To view online worship services please follow us on Facebook or Vimeo. If you don’t have a Facebook account, you will still be able to view our videos by using the link found on allsaintsatlanta.org/covid-19. (Each time you are prompted to login or create an account, please select “Not Now”). There you'll also find a link to open a PDF of each worship bulletin, so you can follow along at home.

For a full and current listing of Adult Formation offerings online, please visit https://allsaintsatlanta.org/covid-19.

Please know that we are holding everyone in prayer during this difficult time of social distancing.

Contact Jocelyn Cassada, Director of Digital Communications, at jcassada@allsaintsatlanta.org, to request assistance.

The deadline for The May issue of Monthly is Tuesday, March 31. Please make your submission via our website, at allsaintsatlanta.org/news-and-events/announcements/. Thank you!