



March 13, 2020

Kaleo Church,

Today we find ourselves living in what feels like uncharted territory. The uncertainty of the future is on all of our minds as we try and figure out how to make our way through this difficult season. I can't imagine what it would be like to try and navigate these times without our God.

But you and I don't have to do that. Our God is in the heavens and He calls out to each of us saying, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine" (Is. 43:1). Kaleo church we have a good Father who loved us so much that he gave his only Son to rescue us from sin and death and hell. That is a God that we can trust even when the mountains in our lives seem to be falling into the heart of the sea.

As your pastors our desire is to faithfully shepherd you as we all work through what it looks like to live out our faith during this particular season. We encourage you not to hesitate to reach out to us with questions or specific needs that you may encounter in the coming weeks. In this particular letter we want to specifically address changes we are making to our weekly gathering in order to better love our neighbors and protect our community from the spread of this virus.

### **Saturday Evenings & Missional Communities**

As of now we want to encourage you to continue to gather with the church on Saturday nights. At this time, public health agencies are allowing groups of under 250 people to continue to gather together. However, we do ask that you love your neighbor and do not attend any Kaleo Church gathering if you feel sick and/or have a fever (or have had a fever within the last 24 hours). The same applies to your children. If you feel ill, the best way to love your neighbor is to stay at home.

### **The Lord's Supper & The Offering**

As a precaution we will be changing the way we do communion for the foreseeable future. Each of the three tables in front will have 2 plastic cups stacked together, the bottom one will have the bread and the top one will have grape juice. After our communion prayer people will be able to come individually and take communion anytime during the final three songs. This will allow us to take communion without having to congregate in a line or around the table.

Additionally, we will no longer be passing the offering bag. Instead we will place offering boxes in the front of the sanctuary on the same tables where the Lord's Supper is served. You can feel free to put in your offering at the same time that you take the Lord's Supper.

### **Social Distancing**

We are aware that some people are more vulnerable to this virus than others and we want to make sure we do everything possible to protect them. We also want to ensure that anyone who desires to practice “Social distancing” is able to attend the service. In order to do this we have reserved the first 12 rows of seats on the right side of the sanctuary for those who want to keep at least six feet between their family unit and any other family unit. There is also a separate door available for those who desire to take advantage of this. The door can be found in the alley on the right side of the church. This door will allow you to get directly to a seat at the front right side without having to walk down the aisle or come into contact with anyone else. There will be an usher watching this door from the alley until the service begins. For those of you who might be particularly vulnerable, but desire to attend the service if there is anything else we can do in order to ensure that you feel safe please don't hesitate to reach out. We care deeply about the safety of the most vulnerable and we want to ensure that it is possible for those who desire to, to be able to attend our service with less social contact than they would have on a trip to the grocery store.

### **Kaleo Kids Classes**

This Saturday, Kaleo Kids Classes will offer all classes except for Eagle Class. These classes are merely optional and any parent who desires to keep their kids with them in the service is more than welcome to do so. We will take extra measures to wipe down door handles, hand rails, etc. And, as always, in the Kaleo Kids classrooms, we will wipe down hard surfaces (toys, tables, etc.) to ensure a clean environment for our little ones and volunteers. Also, snacks will not be provided as an extra measure.

### **Please Use Common Hygiene Practices**

We also want to encourage everyone, especially in a time like this, to take the following steps to protect themselves and others:

- Washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, particularly after being in public spaces;
- Using hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available;
- Not touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick;
- Staying home if you feel sick, or have had a fever within the past 24 hours;
- Covering your cough or sneeze.

### **Going Forward**

We will continue to monitor the latest news and recommendations released by the CDC, as well as by state and city officials. Because the situation is still developing it is possible that there will be more changes next week. If we are going to make any changes we will make sure to send out an email by Friday night so that you will have it on Saturday morning.

For those of you who cannot join us for the service because of sickness or for any other reason we urge you not to isolate during this season. Even if you aren't able to have person to person contact please reach out to your brothers and sisters via phone and let them pray for you and encourage you. For those not comfortable coming to the gathering but who do feel comfortable in smaller groups please make an extra effort to be around your brothers and sisters so that you can be reminded of the goodness and beauty of our great God.

Lastly, let us be a people of prayer. We need God, we need him so desperately. Please take your fears and uncertainties to God and know that he cares for you. Take the suffering you read about or hear about or are experiencing yourself to your Father and ask him to lead you during this season.

One of my favorite prayers in the Old Testament was prayed by a King who cried out to God saying, “For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.” Kaleo church, this is a season to keep our eyes on our great God. Amen.

Clinging to Christ with you,

Tim & Wes

March 19, 2020

Kaleo Church,

We hope you are all doing well and walking by faith in this strange time of ever-changing circumstances. We have been working hard to keep the pillars of the Kaleo (Worship Service, Missional Communities, DNA's, and Devotions) accessible to you all during this time of isolation and quarantine. We are incredibly thankful to God for using some of you to help research and setup technological avenues so we can worship together from a distance. Listen below are some of the details that we are changing over the next 2-3 weeks. Please let us know if you have any questions, needs, etc.

### **Saturday Evenings**

For now, we will be providing audio and video options. The audio option will be the same as it is now being offered on the website and through podcast. This will be the sermon only. As far as video goes, we will be videoing the worship service this Saturday night (it will not be live). This first week, the video will be posted to YouTube, and we are hoping that everyone will gather in their home with their family, roommates, etc. and watch the service at 10am. Our goal is to get the link out through the church email, post in on FB, share through GroupMe, etc. The video will include:

- Call to Worship
- A couple songs (not live) by popular Christian artists we already sing
- Sermon
- Communion (more details below)/Prayer of Confession/Thanksgiving
- Song
- Offering prayer (more details below)
- A couple more songs
- Benediction

### **The Lord's Supper & The Offering**

We highly value the Lord's Supper. Although we are not necessarily gathering in person, we want to receive the Lord's Supper together at a distance. The Lord's Supper will be introduced, there will be a prayer of confession/thanksgiving, and you will be free to take it. We do ask that you do your best to find some bread and wine/juice. As a family, we ask the parents to use this as a visual teaching time with their children. If the child has not been baptized, please withhold the Lord's Supper from them but use it as a sweet time to talk to them of what the Lord's Supper symbolizes and why we do it. If you need help with this, please contact Tim or Wes.

Additionally, we will continue to pray for and receive the offering. We understand that these are confusing times and ask that you continue to give generously as you always do (2 Cor. 8:1-4). However, if your job is changing and funds are not as reliable right now, please talk to a pastor or missional community leader. We are currently working to expand the Mercy Ministry budget for this time. We realize there are some people in the church who are working overtime and have the ability to bear the burdens of others, but we also realize that some people's jobs may become less reliable, making finances a bit more difficult to manage. Again, please ask for help if you need it.

Giving at this time can be done through two avenues:

- [tithely](https://tithely.com) is our online giving platform. You can give on the website, through their app, or even through text message (442-500-1690)
- Bill Pay: You can set up automatic bill pay through your online bank account. Please write all checks to Kaleo Church and mail to 9395 Harritt Rd. #14. Lakeside, Ca. 92040.

### **Missional Communities**

We have started using an online video platform called Zoom. This will allow Missional Communities to meet on their computer. There will be a link provided to you through your Missional Community leader and/or on the website. This link will give you access to your Missional Community meeting. We do ask that you will please give a little room and understanding as these new things roll out. We are learning as we go but really want to provide you all with quality help. Please let your MC leaders know what is working best, what is hard, etc. These new things will definitely have some kinks, but let's make it better together.

### **DNA/Counseling**

We will also be working through providing Zoom links for DNA groups and counseling meetings. Wes and Tim will have priority with the Zoom access for counseling and pastoral check-ins. We hope to use Zoom for the DNA's but are not sure of the extent of its capabilities. In the meantime, please feel free to FaceTime, download the Marco Polo app, etc. If you find some good tools, please let us know what is working best.

### **Going Forward**

We will continue to monitor the latest news and recommendations released by the CDC, as well as by state and city officials. As you are aware, changes are still happening somewhat frequently. While we know this has the potential to get you down or confuse you, we are praying that God would use such a time of need to bring about a greater dependence on Him. Imagine if, because of this time, God began to work revival amongst his people and we could one day look back together and praise God because of Covid-19? Let's not waste this time, brothers and sisters, but fix our eyes upon the victorious and glorious King of kings (Colossians 3:1-4).

Clinging to Christ with you,

Tim & Wes