



CHURCH OF THE OPEN DOOR

Igniting a Passion for God

Hello COD, Pastor Bob here.

Back when I was in college, I went whitewater rafting with a bunch of friends on the Youghiogheny River. The river was high, running fast, very treacherous and because we had no guide, full of unexpected twists and turns. A few of us nearly lost our lives that day when we hit a rock, overturned and were thrown to the mercy of the churning waters. About one hundred yards later, after being sucked under the water and experiencing multiple cuts and bruises, we ended up in calmer waters. A few of us look back at that as one of the most harrowing experiences of our lives.

Today as individuals, a country, and a world, we find ourselves in similar waters. Many find themselves in great fear of catching this unseen virus, of losing their job, losing their life savings, or losing a family member. I confess, it's easy to give into that kind of fear. But today as I was meditating on the book of Isaiah chapters 40-54, I was reminded that our God is a God who comforts and guides us with truth as we navigate these waters. Here are a few verses for your encouragement:

"He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth..., The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth..., He gives strength to the weary..., those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength..., Do not fear for I have redeemed you..., When you pass through the waters I will be with you..., Though the mountains be shaken and the hill be removed, yet My unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor My covenant of peace be removed..., no weapon forged against you will prevail..."

During these days it's easy to ask, "Where is God in all of this?" The answer is that He's right where He's always been, enthroned and ultimately in control, but also right here with us. The truth of the Easter season is that we don't have a God far off, we have a God who has come right down into our mess, with His resurrection power, forgiveness, redemption, and grace!

This coming Sunday is Palm Sunday, it's the day we celebrate the coming of Jesus to Jerusalem which begins Passion Week, and ultimately culminates with Calvary and the Empty Tomb. Through our online service we're going to sing songs of praise to our God of grace and glory. We're also going to look at the Triumphal Entry of Jesus to Jerusalem from Luke 19:28-48. There we'll talk together about the ways that Jesus enters our lives, what He wants to accomplish for us, and how we can respond. It's going to be a powerful worship experience as we gather online.

Let me inform and encourage you with a few things:

1. **Join us for our online church service (<https://codyork.online.church>) this Sunday at 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am.** You can also access the COD service from our website (www.codyork.org) or Facebook pages. We also want to thank White Rose TV on **Comcast channel 16**, as they are hosting our service on: Sunday at 11:30 am, Monday at 12:30 am, Tuesday at 9:00 pm, and Wednesday at 10:00 am. Please let those who are not online to know of these offerings. For the foreseeable future all "in person" church activities are canceled.
2. **We also want to invite you to join us on Good Friday at 6:00 pm or 7:00 pm for an online service.** Our team is preparing a unique and interactive time of worship, reflection and communion. Please have available your own communion elements, of the "bread and cup", as together we'll celebrate Christ's death for us! This service will also be shown on White Rose TV, Comcast Channel 16, at 10:30 am on Friday, April 10.
3. **Sign up for the Journey to Change.** Come with us as we follow Jesus on the road into Jerusalem leading to the cross and then seeing Him conquer the grave! Text @codeaster to 81010 to receive daily scripture that follow the path of Jesus through this Holy Week.
4. **Keep praying for our church, our people, and the community.** Let me continue to encourage you to set your alarm for 1:06 each day to pray for COD and our community as we continue to be challenged by Philippians 1:6. Prayer is a big part of the solution to our current situation.
5. **Remain "on mission" during this time.** It's been a source of joy to see how many of us are posting online, making safe deliveries, preparing meals and goodies for others, paying for the groceries of needy people, going to work as doctors and nurses and technicians and first responders. COD, as I observe these acts of mercy, I am so incredibly grateful to be one of your pastors. The Church has always been its best in times of crisis!
6. **Stay connected with us** by calling the church office Monday through Friday between 8:00 am – 4:00 pm for updates, by connecting with us on Facebook or Instagram, and/or by visiting www.codyork.org where we post updates such as this one. COD Students and COD Kids are continuing to minister to the Next Gen through social media and other online platforms. Each morning we are also posting a short online devotional and you can access it through our Facebook and Instagram platforms, and on our website.
7. **Share your needs with us.** You can submit a prayer or needs request via the church website or by calling the church office. We are here for you during this time and desire to serve you as we are able!
8. **Continue to give as you are able through your regular tithes and offerings.** We are incredibly grateful for all who have continued to give through this time. You can sign up to do your giving online on our website, through the COD App, or by mailing in your gifts to our church campuses.

Please do your best to stay healthy and safe. I look forward to worshipping with you on Sunday, and then later in the week on Good Friday!

God's very best to you,
Pastor Bob