

Dear Friends

Right now Saint Barts has an eerie feeling and it's quite close to how it felt on the days post Hurricane Irma. The island has been on shutdown for several days with all shops, bars and restaurants closed – except for supermarkets and pharmacies, plus the odd takeaway. There is very little traffic and it is the relative quietness which most reminds me of the period post Irma. But it is also the small smiles and nods when passing someone in the car or exercising on the side of the road which signals that we are all in this together ... and rooting for each other.

Also the difference this time is that we're not all scurrying around to make repairs and tidy up ahead of the next hurricane, but our concerns are to avoid ourselves, and our friends and loved ones, catching or transmitting the virus.

Just a few days after the island went on lock down Father Steve Huber, who was our visiting priest for March, decided that it was best to return to United States and he is now back in California. Fortunately for us on island, Father Charlie has remained here – and he has made it known that **we will all have his ministry available to us.**

During this shutdown we will not be holding any church services or weekday groups, but we have decided **to use social media to keep in touch** – by uploading videos of our Sunday Service; as well as the Taizé service on Tuesdays and for the meditation group.

The Sunday Service video will be posted on YouTube on Sunday at **9am** EDT/island time – **there is a link to our channel below.** Remember, just like going to church, you won't be able to watch the service before that time! The whole service is made of up 4 separate videos – Introduction & Gospel, Sermon, Prayers and Communion.

After you have had chance to watch the video (it's approx. 30 mins long as no music this week!) at **9.30am** I will try an experiment for a '**virtual fellowship time**' using **ZOOM** – mimicking what we usually do after the service! This will be available for anyone to join online with your webcam using your usual internet browser; on your mobile phone using the Zoom App; or by just calling a Zoom US telephone number on a normal telephone line and entering the meeting number – 9713397133! I hope that you will find it straightforward – see the details below.

We pray that the world will come together to defeat this virus and allow all our lives to return to normal. Our prayers are especially for all those affected by the virus; those who have died; the patients who have contracted the virus; those who may have lost their jobs; and particularly the health care workers We will also continue to keep all of you in our congregation, both on the island and afar, in our thoughts and prayers.

Do note the church and island still look serene and beautiful and will remain so – awaiting your next visit when we have conquered this.

Warm regards

Philip

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1. YouTube Channel: St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, St Barts

www.youtube.com/channel/UC9OdHPcmyT1NvhgqewkU85g

(please note that this is our first attempt, so bear with us ... the editing and sound will get better!)

2. Saint Barts Anglican Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: St Barts Church – Post Service Fellowship

Time: Mar 22, 2020 09:30 AM America/St_Barthelemy

How to Join the Zoom Meeting ...

Via the internet: <https://zoom.us/j/9713397133>

Via the Zoom App: Meeting ID: 97133 97133

Via your telephone : Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 97133 97133