

**Announcement to Agape Baptist Church regarding the
Suspension of Church Services for 2 Sundays (22 & 29 March 2020)**

As of Friday, 20 March 2020

Dear Agapians

Some of you might have received news regarding the temporary suspension of church services in the Anglican Diocese of Singapore. These services are to be suspended until 3 April 2020 for the purpose of creating a two-week break in church gatherings in order to make a contribution towards the concerted national effort to ‘flatten the coronavirus curve’.

In relation to this news, I was informed by the Vicar of Christ Church on late Thursday evening, that this suspension also affects us in Agape Baptist Church. **This is because our rented church premises at OneDorset belong to the Anglican Diocese. As no service is allowed in any Anglican church premise, Christ Church has requested that we also suspend our services for the upcoming 2 Sundays (22 & 29 March), while allowing us to continue with live streaming from the premises.**

While the elders in Agape would have loved for our services to continue as per normal, we agree that it is only right that as a tenant, we respectfully accede to this special request from Christ Church. We have thus decided to suspend our church service for both 22 & 29 March, but will continue with our live streaming on both Sundays. In doing so, we also recognise God’s sovereign timing in leading us to take this course of action at this exact point of the COVID-19 outbreak in Singapore.

In Agape, time and again, we have emphasised the biblical value of church community in love of God and one another. So even though we cannot meet together as one church for these 2 Sundays, we do not want to give up the habit of meeting one another. Instead, we want to do our utmost to find other ways to come together in worship, prayer and fellowship.

In view of the suspension of services, here is our plan for the Agape service for these 2 Sundays.

Plan for Sunday Service at 9am on 22 & 29 March	
<i>Members/regulars who are unwell (or under Stay-Home Notice)</i>	<i>Stay at home to follow the live streamed service via Facebook.</i>
<i>Members/regulars who are already connected to a cell group in Agape</i>	<i>Cell leader will seek to bring the cell members/regulars together in 1 location to follow the live streamed service via Facebook together. Bigger cell groups may choose to split further into 2 or 3 locations. Cell leaders will seek to do so, starting this Sunday (22 Mar). Those who are unable to do so, can also begin the following Sunday (29 Mar).</i>
<i>Members/regulars of who are NOT part of a cell group in Agape</i>	<i>You are highly encouraged to contact one of our following pastoral staff –Sok Hwee, Karen or Pastor Nun – who will try to connect you a suitable cell group for this cell-based Sunday service gathering (if not this Sunday, then the next.) If not, you may follow the live streamed service via Facebook as well.</i>

For those of you who have been rostered to serve for the Sunday service in church, your respective Heads of Ministry would let you know regarding your specific role for these 2 Sundays.

This season is highly volatile for church gatherings worldwide, but the good news remains. Our hope is in a faithful God who never changes. Surely, the steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end. Let's give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for us!

I hope that by the grace of God, we would be able to meet again soon as one church, come Sunday, 5 April 2020. We will confirm these details when the date draws nearer. Truly appreciate all your kind understanding, prayers and support during this time!

In the mean time, as we prepare our hearts for Holy Week under such exceptional circumstances, let's continue to walk by faith and not by sight, prayerfully trusting in God for the good of our church and Singapore!

**On behalf of the elders in Agape
Pastor GL**

**Senior Pastor,
Agape Baptist Church**