

Boston University Marsh Chapel

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Dear Friends,

Greetings and all good wishes to you, the faithful community of Marsh Chapel, Boston University. This letter carries two words, one pastoral and one devotional.

First, amid the changes, challenges and uncertainties of our current moment, please be mindful that I and our staff team here have you in prayer, and have a daily, watchful interest in noting ways to be of ongoing service and support. We are with you, we are for you, and we carry a daily pastoral embrace of you: [you can easily find our contact information on the Marsh website](#). The verse from Philippians comes to mind, 'in all things in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving lift your needs to God' (Phil 4:6). In that same spirit, I might suggest that you, day by day, lift one particular person, from our community, or from your own personal community, in quiet prayer. Our Lenten sermon series, relying on St. Theresa of Avila, as it happens, is centered on prayer. We will have an added dimension in our prayer lives, just now, given the challenges of the day and hour. We are praying for you.

Second, our worship patterns now will change here at Marsh Chapel, at least for the near-term future. While we have long been both an actual and a virtual congregation, our devotional rhythm will now shift fully to the latter, for the time being. Our worship service tomorrow, March 15, will be the last one with any public attendance at least through April 12. *In addition, we strongly encourage all to stay home tomorrow and worship in the virtual mode, through the [WBUR 90.9 FM](#) service broadcast* (though we will, tomorrow, receive here those who do come). After tomorrow, [following the BU protocol which begins March 16](#), we will be closed on Sunday to public attendance. Our current hope and plan is to continue to offer the service broadcast as usual, to an entirely virtual congregation—we hope including you—with only the worship leadership physically present in the nave, at 11:00 am on Sunday mornings, beginning March 22. I believe that, especially in this very time, the voice of Marsh Chapel may have something particular and helpful to offer, come Sunday. We look forward to virtual worship with you.

With affection and gratitude,

Bob Hill

The Rev. Dr. Robert Allan Hill
Dean, Marsh Chapel
Professor, New Testament and Pastoral Theology
Chaplain to the University, Office of Religious Life