Greetings Zion Hill:
I want to express my gratitude to the congregation for your support in these difficult times. It has been a time of challenge and opportunity. Our biggest challenge was making the transition from the sanctuary to online. We have been working hard to develop our capacity online. It has been a learning process. God’s faithfulness has been evident throughout our efforts. From the beginning, we had access to the basic tools that were needed to get started. We were able to go from the sanctuary to online without missing any worship services. The transition to online worship during this health crisis has opened an opportunity to expand our base. Our theme for 2020 is “Expanding the Base.” Being online enables us to reach many more peoples. We are being followed by individuals from all over the country. I could not have imaged that coronavirus would be the vehicle God would use to expand our base. So, while I miss being the sanctuary, I thank God for the opportunity of kingdom expansion.

We have been dealing with this national health crisis for four months. Everyone has had to make adjustments to the most mundane aspects of our lives. The disruption caused by the coronavirus has changed the way we work, shop, celebrate, and worship. Our worship has been affected. We are working hard every day preparing for a safe return to the sanctuary. When we return, things will be different. The worship service will reflect changes to our safety protocol. Worshipers will have their temperature taken, masks and social distancing will be required.
Our worship fellowship and music ministry will be modified. Also, there will be some modifications made in the building to accommodate live streaming. While our primary goal is worship, safety for all segments of our congregation is a priority. There are several things we have done to ensure your safety. First, the entire building has been sanitized. We have purchased touchless hand sanitizer units. Also, we have purchased infrared thermometers that are quick and safe. Entering and leaving the building will be unidirectional and congregating will be discouraged while on the premises. These efforts are to prepare us for Church worship. Although we have not identified when we will reopen, we want to be ready when that time comes.

Finally, it is my hope that we remain strong as a congregation. Fellowship is important to accomplishing this goal. There are several ways to stay connected. Ministries can connect by using the zoom meeting application. We have been using Zoom for online prayer since the health crisis began. Our Women at the Well Ministry is now using zoom for its meetings. Using Zoom is an option for all of our ministries. If your ministry is interested in Zoom, but you are unsure how to use this online service, contact Rev. Grace O. Douglass at pastord@zion-hill.org for assistance.

This season that we are in will pass. It is my hope that we emerge on the other side a better and more faithful people. I am praying for God’s riches blessings to sustain you in this season. Keep the faith, “The Best Is Yet to Come!”

God Bless you,

Rev. Dr. Richard Douglass
Rev. Dr. Richard Douglass, Pastor