LETTER FROM KAHU

I ko mākou pule aloha, welina ma ka inoa o ka Makua, ke Keiki a me ka 'Uhane Hemolele. To our beloved church, greetings in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As this letter reaches you, I am excited to announce that our church will be reopening for public worship on Communion Sunday, November 15, 2020. As we do so with responsibility (kuleana) for each other, please note that VIRTUAL STREAMING ONLINE THROUGH FACEBOOK LIVE AND YOUTUBE LIVE will continue to be available, should you choose to stay at home. As we continue to stay informed regarding the guidelines and ordinances of the CDC, State and City, please remember that the following areas will be strictly required upon your arrival each Sunday.

- 1. A <u>temperature monitor device</u> will be utilized to determine the health of all worshippers before entry to the church. The gate nearest the cemetery will be the <u>only access</u> to both entering and exiting of the church.
- 2. Social distancing of six feet apart will be established. A <u>seating chart</u> will incorporate separate sections for individuals and families (two or more who live together). Personal information will also be required for our records and reporting purposes.
- 3. Deacons will be responsible for assisting all worshipers and directing them to their proper sections and seats.
- 4. <u>Hand sanitizer stations will be readily accessible in multiple areas of the church.</u>
- 5. <u>MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED</u> (except for children under the age of two).
- 6. There will be <u>NO Children's Ministry or Sunday School.</u>
- 7. <u>No handshaking</u> will be allowed.
- 8. There will be <u>no congregational singing</u> without a mask since the virus can be spread through the saliva that comes from the mouth. Filters and plexiglas has been installed for our worship team.
- 9. <u>No worship programs or church bibles</u> will be available. Please feel free to bring your own.
- 10. <u>There will be no fellowship following the service</u> or <u>post-service meals</u>. However, a snack may be provided and if so, will be distributed to individuals with gloves.
- 11. A box at the front entrance has been setup for all tithes and offerings.
- 12. <u>RETURN ONLY WHEN YOU FEEL SAFE</u> (We recommend that for the safety and wellness of our kupuna, those over 65, those with asthma or other conditions that may compromise your health to PLEASE, STAY AT HOME.

Lastly, I have initiated a COVID-19 ADMINISTRATION TEAM. The role of this group is to oversee, evaluate, review, and approve/disapprove all COVID-19 cases. The team consists of Ralph Kanoho, Jr. (Vice-President), Aunty Jean Kanoho (Deaconate Chair), Haunani Jaber (COVID-19 Coordinator) and me. If anyone has tested positive for COVID-19, a protocol and plan of action has been established. I have attached a copy of the RETURN TO CHURCH GUIDELINES for your review.

In closing, I know that in this time of uncertainty, fear may raise its head, but, if you want to make the most with what God has given you, you'll need to adopt His perspective. You exist for God to fulfill the purpose that He has for your life. In fact, God tells you in Jeremiah 29:11, that He has a "good plan" for you when you seek Him and His will for your life. Even through the trials that we have endured together and the negative realities we face each day, God is still working all things together for good to those who love Him and "called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28). Every day, we should be loving God, drawing near and experiencing Him.

I want to encourage you today that, "in all these things (trials, struggles, pain) we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us" (Rom. 8:37). What is amazing in this scripture is one word that gets my attention. Do you know what word that is? I know you might be thinking "conquer" or "overwhelmingly", but it's not. The most important word is "IN". We often believe that God will keep us "FROM" the trials, tests, even in a pandemic and when He doesn't come through, we feel disappointed and let down. But here's something I what you to know: <u>God never promised to deliver us FROM</u> all things. <u>He promised that IN all things, we will overwhelmingly conquer</u>.

As we reopen our Hale Pule for in-service worship, we may not know what is around the bend, but we know who does. As the old hymn goes, "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow; all fear is gone because I know who holds the future and life is worth the living just because He lives". Life is too important and too short to miss out on all that God has for you. We are in this together with the Lord and as we receive the benefits and blessings from heaven, let us come together to experience a deep and meaningful time with God once more.

I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH! Please take care and stay safe!

"Aia mākou i kāna pa'a". We are in His grip together.

Kahu Wendell B.K. Davis, Senior Pastor