

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Isaiah 49:16 remind us that God has inscribed us on the palm of God's hand. I do not know about you, but I find great comfort in this. This verse appeared in one of my devotionals this week with the focus that even when the world's events seem to be swirling around us and our world seems unsteady, we can tell ourselves the truth that God is with us and is ever close. In our times of great stress, we just need to recall that God has us inscribed on the palm of God's hand. As the new program year begins and things seem chaotic (which has been true for the many parents and educators I have talked to) and for those struggling with the societal divisiveness related to the pandemic and politics, we can keep in mind that God is near. Emmanuel is always with us.

Let us find comfort in knowing that no matter what changes are occurring or are not occurring, that what we might want to happen, cannot overcome that God is present every step of the way. God continues to be present in all the ways we worship here at ESPC. This week we return to our phase 1 in person worship. As I mentioned last week, Worship will remain the same until any new direction from the governor is given. This means we will continue to allow 25 people in the sanctuary, which includes those leading and running technology, but overflow rooms are available to view the live stream. We also continue to also stream live on Facebook and YouTube for those who can and desire to remain worshipping remotely, allowing for more room for those who cannot worship at home. Additionally, we are mailing pastor's letters, bulletins, and copies of sermons to those who have no other means of worshipping with us. Furthermore, very soon, Children's Sunday school boxes will be being delivered. These boxes will contain all the necessary supplies to have time to learn more about our ever-present God at home. May we all find comfort in a God who is with us in all times and in all places.

In Christ Peace,

Pastor Nicki

Some helpful links...

Click on the link below near the time the service begins at 10:00am to watch the live stream

<https://www.facebook.com/espresbyterian/>

YouTube live and video recordings <https://www.espresbyterian.com/worship/> or

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ESPresbyterian>

Additionally, bulletins and an online hymnal have been put on the website and can be found at <https://www.espresbyterian.com/worship/sunday-bulletin/>