



April 8, 2020

## ***HOUSE CHURCHES***

Christianity does not need church buildings.

Don't get me wrong. I long for the return to worship in our sanctuary. I long to see each other's faces and hear each other's voices in the hymns we sing. I long to worship together in that place, and I know that—whenever we return to church—we will know even more fully what a gift it is to enter those doors.

But in the meantime, I find it helpful to remember that Christianity does not need buildings.

Worship in the Christian faith began in people's homes. And now we have recovered that practice in strange and new ways. In the New Testament, when Paul closes his letter to the Christians in Corinth, he includes these greetings from Christians in other places: "The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, greet you warmly in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 16:19).

That's not a passage that I've ever given much attention. But now it stands out to me like a billboard: "THE CHURCH IN THEIR HOUSE."

Aquila and Prisca met Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:1-2), and then they moved to Ephesus. So it is natural that Paul would send their greetings back to the Corinthians. They knew each other.

Aquila and Prisca might be our saints for this time in quarantine. They made space for church in their homes, just like all Christians at the time. There were no Christian church buildings in those early decades.

And now we are making space for worship in our homes. We are posting virtual worship services each Sunday as videos on the church facebook page and website, at the links below, and many of you are watching from your own homes, creating space for prayer and reflection, singing and communion.

I know that we will return to worship at 207 Washington Street at some point. And when we do, our lives will be different in many ways. Among these changes will be our recovery of an ancient Christian practice. We will have learned how to create space for church right in our homes.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster  
Senior Minister