

COVID-19 & Restricted Movement Order (16 March 2020)

The government has imposed a **14-day Restricted Movement Order** or partial lockdown from **March 18 to 31 nationwide** to curb the spread of the Covid-19 infection in Malaysia. The Restricted Movement Order (“the Order”) is imposed under the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 and well as the Police Act 1967, which cover a range of activities. (Source: [NST March 16, 2020 11:05pm](#)) This order effectively closes all places of worship within the stated period.

Therefore, in compliance with the Order, and joining hands in the battle against Covid-19, we now encourage all members to worship *in their own homes* (instead of being gathered as cell groups) following the broadcasted online service. We encourage households to seize the opportunity to establish a ‘family altar’ around the service. The respective congregations’ services will be broadcast at the usual times.

We also encourage cell groups to continue to gather *virtually*, as much as is practical at the usual time. In times like this, we need to share love and care, more than ever with one another and the people around us. To help cell groups maintain this time of fellowship, we will prepare and circulate a guide to the technologies available.

The Order applies to *all* church activities (e.g. prayer meetings, training classes). Online alternatives are being pursued to allow some of these activities to continue substantively. More information will be available in the next day or so.

The above will be in effect as per the Order, from 18 till 31 March 2020.

At this time, when many would be anxious, let’s encourage each other by sharing devotional learnings, praying for each other’s needs and for our beloved nation beleaguered by Covid-19. Use your WhatsApp groups as a channel of Christ-honouring encouragement. In the spirit of Lent, let us embrace the pain of inconvenience, turn aside from our self-preoccupation and be mindful of the deep pain of others. Especially those who do not yet know the Prince of Peace.

Let us be fervent in prayer, continuing to uphold the ones severely affected by this pandemic, especially the medical personnel on the frontlines of this battle.

May the words of the Psalmist anchor our hearts and minds in the LORD God Almighty:

- ⁵The LORD watches over you— the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
 - ⁶the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.
 - ⁷The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life;
 - ⁸the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore
- Psalms 121:5–8 (NIV)*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Pastor Chris Kam
Senior Pastor, Damansara Utama Methodist Church

Dated: 16 March 2020