It’s an understatement to say, but we live in trying times. The new coronavirus has hit King County with a strong hammer. The current count is that XXX people have been diagnosed as positive with coronavirus, and 13 have died, and there are more awaiting results or even waiting to be tested at all. The Life Care Center in Kirkland has had 7 elderly residents become infected and die from coronavirus. There are even 2 young men in their 20’s positive for coronavirus in Swedish Hospital here in Issaquah. That means each of us has some measure of risk of becoming infected. And people over 60 years of age are more at risk having severe illness if they become infected. Anyone here over 60? That’s why you’re sitting a seat apart rather than beside each other. It’s why we changed how we received your morning offering. And we’re not shaking hands or hugging. Not because we don’t love each other, but because we do and one way to love one another as neighbor is to protect each other from this virus.

Besides being the epicenter of coronavirus in America, the stock market is showing the stress people are feeling, the uncertainty about the future. When investors are uncertain, they tend to sell of stocks which tanks the stock market and makes everyone else nervous too.

If you have been to a grocery store or Costco, you will see that certain items are sold out- toilet paper, hand sanitizer, hand soap, disinfectant, Kleenex, canned goods, bottled water. Why? Because nervous people tend to hoard stuff to feel safer. We live in trying times.