

Update from Redeemer Re-Opening Task Force:

- *Livestream Worship Only Will Continue through May with Plans to Begin Limited In-Person Worship June 7th*
 - *Recommendations and Guidelines for Smaller Groups Gathering for Livestream Worship*
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Please continue to refer to the RECOMMENDATIONS from the task force with guidelines for small groups beginning to participate in the livestream worship together.

We are hoping to begin some form of in-person worship services on June 7th! We will continue asking through **surveys** if you would anticipate attending based on different situations.

We are developing a system to request **reservations** and we will establish a system of **rotation** to ensure that all of those desiring to attend have equal opportunity. We will communicate out the information for making reservations the week prior to a given service. We are creating a seating chart to maintain appropriate social distancing.

The worship service will be modified for optimal safety and the experience will be substantially different from our normal worship experience. Yet we are eager to begin gathering together in a limited fashion.

We will continue to update our plans and procedures as the situation develops. And we will be sending more details about what to expect and how to participate well in advance.

For now, some things to be aware of as we plan for our first service:

- **Masks** will be required to be worn except for those leading on the platform. Masks and **hand-sanitizer** will be available when you enter the building.
- **Congregational singing** will be **suspended**. While we will not have congregational singing, we will continue to have music in the church with the aim of leading worshippers to make melody to the Lord with your heart. (*Ephesians 5:19*)
- **Social distancing** will be implemented in seating arrangements and all local social distancing regulations are strongly encouraged in all practices.
- We are planning to **not** have **communion** on June 7th but look forward to celebrating it in the near future as our system develops and we are able to add complexity.
- We will **continue** to **livestream** our worship services and we are supporting **smaller groups** who wish to begin gathering now to participate together in our livestream worship. All social distancing rules still apply and there are specific **guidelines regarding singing**.

5/22/2020

These are challenging times, and we are making difficult decisions. Please continue to pray for this task force and for a spirit of unity within our church.

Let's all reflect on these words of the Apostle Paul:

“For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.” (*2 Corinthians 5:14-15*)

“So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” (*Philippians 2:1-4*)

I encourage you to read this article from The Gospel Coalition to encourage your thinking as we all seek to love our neighbor as ourselves: “Church, Don't Let Coronavirus Divide You” <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/church-dont-let-coronavirus-divide/>

Please continue to refer to the RECOMMENDATIONS from the task force, with guidelines for small groups beginning to participate in the livestream worship together.

Grace and Peace,
David

Here are a few previously shared articles from The Gospel Coalition that you may find helpful as we plan to gather together:

CDC Document Outlines Guidance for Reopening of Churches

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/cdc-document-outlines-guidance-for-reopening-of-churches/>

Is Congregational Singing Dangerous?

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/congregational-singing-dangerous/>

Christians Are Not Immune to Conspiracy Theories

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/christians-conspiracy-theories/>

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CORPORATE WORSHIP

Our goal is to reinstitute some form of in-person corporate worship on Sunday, June 7th. We will continue to monitor the COVID situation in Central Texas. As the COVID situation evolves in our community, the form our Corporate Worship takes will also need to evolve. Unfortunately, for the foreseeable future, our in-person corporate worship will look very different than it did before COVID. For example, we will need to limit the number of individuals in the church as well as the contact those individuals have with one another. Our team is discussing the best mechanisms to do this and we will release our plan on Saturday May 30th.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OTHER SMALLER IN-PERSON GATHERINGS

We support the reinstitution of in-person gatherings as long as the below recommendations can be followed ([changes from previous document are blue](#)):

1. ISOLATION,

- a. If an individual has had close contact (<6 feet) with a person recently diagnosed with active COVID they should not attend in-person gatherings for the following 14 days.
- b. If an individual has just returned from travel to a location with a large number of active COVID cases they should not attend in-person gatherings for the following 14 days.
- c. If an individual has symptoms that could be related to COVID they should not attend in-person gatherings until symptoms clear and a negative COVID test or physician clearance is documented. Symptoms that have been associated with COVID include: Cough, Shortness of breath, Fever, chills, Muscle Pain, Headache, Sore Throat, Loss of taste or smell, Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea

2. SOCIAL DISTANCING, attendees should:

- a. Remain 6 feet apart at all times.
- b. Avoid physical contact (no handshakes, hugs etc.)

3. SINGING

- a. [Singing together conveys a higher risk of transmission than any other part of our liturgy, for this reason we generally discourage group singing. However, if a group elects to sing together then it should only be done outside, all singers should wear masks and exaggerated social distancing \(> 10 feet between families\) should be utilized](#)

4. HYGIENE, attendees should:

- a. Utilize sanitizer, hand sanitizer should be available and utilized
- b. Cover cough and sneeze with arm not hand
- c. [Bathroom use should be kept to an absolute minimum](#)

5. MASK

- a. Medical-grade or homemade cotton masks are recommended. These masks should cover both nose and mouth and individuals wearing masks must limit touching the mask

6. FOOD

- a. We recommend not sharing meals or snacks at gatherings

7. VENTILATION

- a. Outdoor activities & gatherings are preferred. If indoor meetings are held, try to optimize space & air turnover (ventilation).

8. CHILDREN

- a. Children should be encouraged to follow the above guidelines with the exception that children under 2 years old should avoid masks as they may be a choking hazard.

Finally, it is important that people not feel pressure to attend in-person gatherings. We respect individual autonomy, conscience and risk tolerance. When possible, please offer a virtual alternative during in-person meetings, for example Zoom, Face Time, etc.

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