



June 28, 2020

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world.

Your pastors and congregational leaders are pleased to announce some changes in worship at St. Paul's. These changes will be in effect for all worship services, beginning July 4, and until further notice. As has been the case throughout the entire Covid-19 ordeal, we are prayerfully trying to do the best we can in arriving at safe and responsible procedures as conditions change. Below is a detailed description of our procedures for July 4 and following. The items in **red font** are those items which **constitute changes from current practice**.

What Will and Will Not Be Offered

- 1) No on-campus Sunday School or Bible classes will be offered. Online Foundation Bible Class and Pastors Bible Class (KFUO) will continue as is.
- 2) No Fellowship Breakfast will be offered.
- 3) Physical distancing is stressed, even including signs on the center aisles pews to serve as guides of appropriate distancing when coming forward to receive Communion.
- 4) Shorter, 30-40-minute services will be offered on Sundays at **8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.** in the sanctuary and a 10:45 a.m. Living Stone service will be offered in the gym. A Saturday service will be offered at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. In order to keep services within these time constraints, parts of the service will be shortened or omitted.
- 5) People must register on the church website (or call the church to be registered) to attend one of the services with **a limit of 140 people in the sanctuary and 100 in the gym.**
- 6) Communion will be offered **on the first and third Sundays in the sanctuary and on the second and fourth Sundays in Living Stone. It will be offered in all services on fifth Sundays (Saturdays).** It will be distributed in a continuous, one-line walking distribution on the floor level of the sanctuary. The pulpit side will Commune first, followed by the lectern side in the sanctuary. All will practice social distancing while approaching the distribution point and while returning to the pew.
- 7) The 5:00 p.m. sanctuary service will be video-recorded and offered online that same evening.

We will continue to exercise the extensive safety precautions we have instituted. They include:

Precautions Being Taken

- 1) Worshippers will be asked to wear a mask, bringing their own if possible. A supply of masks will be available near the entrances for those who do not have a mask or forgot to bring one.
- 2) Worshippers will be asked to enter the church through the east and west lobby doors and to enter the sanctuary through the narthex. They will be asked to enter the sanctuary down the side aisles. The first worshippers to enter a pew will be asked to sit toward the middle aisle in that pew so others will not have to climb past them in the pew.
- 3) Worshippers will be asked to leave the sanctuary in a timely manner following the service by exiting out the doors in the front of the sanctuary, next to the sacristy and vestry, so that sanitizing steps may be completed and worshippers for the next service may enter and be seated.

- 4) For Living Stone, worshippers will be asked to enter through the south-facing door closer to Ballas Road (not through the school doors) and to exit the gym on the west-facing door on the Ballas Road side.
- 5) Worship bulletins will be placed on music stands for people to pick up when they arrive.
- 6) Pews will remain roped-off (every-other pew) in the sanctuary and chairs will be appropriately spaced in the gym to facilitate physical distancing.
- 7) Signs instructing worshipers concerning social distancing will be placed at each entrance/exit.
- 8) Pastors/Elders will wear gloves and masks for Communion distribution only.
- 9) Communion cups will be widely spaced in the Communion cup trays to avoid accidental touching of cups.
- 10) Each person will place their used Communion cup in a metal bowl on a table near the exit as they return to their pew or chair.
- 11) Those wishing not to take their worship bulletins home will be asked to place them in recycling containers located near each exit.
- 12) No offering plates will be passed. Instead, they will be placed in convenient locations near the exits for people to make their offering as they leave.
- 13) The sanctuary and gym will be sprayed with disinfectant once between each weekend.
- 14) Door handles will be wiped with disinfectant wipes between services.
- 15) The wooden tops of the pews will be wiped with disinfectant wipes between services in the sanctuary.
- 16) Hymns will be printed in the bulletin (no use of hymnals).
- 17) Hymnals, Bibles and all other materials will be removed from the pew racks.
- 18) Pastors will not greet worshipers before or after services.
- 19) No greeters will be utilized.

Attending or not attending public worship is a very individual decision, one that should be made considering a variety of factors including age and health challenges a person may already have. Please know that whatever you decide, I, Pastor Thomson, and Pastor Wade understand and support your decision. We realize that you may not feel safe attending worship services yet and that is why we will continue offering services online.

Finally, we find encouragement in God's promises to His people through the prophet Isaiah: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

Cordially in Christ,

Pastor Thomas

Rev. Dr. Glen Thomas, Senior Pastor