

April 28, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Easter greetings to you all! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

In light of Governor Reynold's revised state of Public Health Disaster, we will resume corporate worship at Mt. Calvary on May 3.

However, things will not just snap back to the "old normal." We need to take certain precautions and considerations because of the health risks in our world currently. Also, some ministries that have been completely stopped will need some time to be restarted. We will do what we can when we can as we seek to gather around God's Word for comfort and hope in this time.

With all of that in mind, here is what our worship will look like:

1. Normal Service Times. We will observe our normal service times of 8:00 and 10:30. Our service at 8:00 will continue to be live streamed on Facebook and will be available there for people to view on-line at their convenience.
2. Special Service for "At Risk" Members. Pastor Vanderbilt is offering a special, shortened service for all members over the age of 65 who may not feel comfortable worshipping in a large group. This service will begin on Thursday, May 7 at 9:30am. We will have a time of singing, a short message from Pastor, and the Lord's Supper. Pastor will take special care during this service, to include wearing a mask while distributing Communion. We want to provide some time for our "at risk" members to meet and fellowship around God's Word in a safe environment.
3. No Ushers or Greeters. In the May volume of the "Shadow," we scheduled ushers, greeters, acolytes, and lectors as normal. However, ushers and greeters will not be used. Lectors and acolytes may continue to serve as scheduled. However, if you are scheduled to serve as a lector or acolyte and you are not comfortable attending worship or serving during this time, please contact the Church Office and we will find a replacement for you.
4. Masks are encouraged. All attendees are encouraged to cover their nose and mouth because it greatly hampers the spread of the virus from an asymptomatic

carrier. We are working on having some masks available, but it is best if worshippers make arrangements for their own.

5. Hand sanitizer positioned prominently. We will position tall café tables near the entrance with bottles of hand sanitizer conspicuously placed. We also recommend that worshipers wash their hands upon arrival.
6. Alternating seating. Each pew will only be half-filled, and those halves alternate from right to left. Worshippers may not sit in sections marked with an "X." The round tables in the Fellowship area will be used for any overflow seating.
7. No formal collection of Offering. Offering trays will be left in the Fellowship area for people to place any offerings they may have brought. We will NOT pass the plates through the congregation.
8. Sharing of the Peace in voice only. We will encourage people to greet one another but will discourage any physical contact.
9. The Lord's Supper. For the time being, we will not celebrate the Lord's Supper corporately due to concerns of the close physical proximity that is required. Pastor will continue to offer appointments for private communion throughout the week until such time as we deem it appropriate to reinstate the Supper.
10. Service Attendance Capped. We will only be seating approximately 40-50% of our capacity, following the spirit of the governor's guidance to restaurants. Therefore, once all the allocated spots are filled, we may have to turn people away. If this becomes a problem, we will look at adding additional services Sunday afternoons in the future.
11. No Fellowship or Education Hour between services. People gathering around a food area violates the spirit of the governor's guidance regarding malls and food courts. Therefore, we will not have a Fellowship time between services. Likewise, Alex and the Board of Education need some time to get Sunday School moving again. Alex and I have tentatively set June 7 as the date for Sunday School and Adult Bible study to begin again.
12. Disinfecting between services. We will ask for volunteers to use provided supplies to do a cursory surface cleaning after each service, wiping down pews and hymnals to limit the spread of any contagions that may be present.
13. Take things a week at a time. Pastor and the Elders will continue to monitor the situation and discuss how changes impact our worship together. We may tighten or loosen restrictions as the situation dictates.

For some of you, it's too soon to take these actions. If this is your opinion, I pray for your forgiveness and understanding. For others of you, we should have been doing this long ago. If this is your opinion, I pray for your forgiveness and understanding. If you are not comfortable coming to worship, I understand, and I pray you would know God's peace. If you are comfortable coming to worship, please follow the above guidelines to help our members who are still tentative about meeting together; it's a simple way to serve our neighbor and give him or her peace of mind.

Thank you for all your prayers, calls, notes, and messages through this time. We aren't out of the woods yet, but we can see daylight through the trees. Let us continue to walk carefully and cautiously together.

Peace be with you all!

Pastor Tom Vanderbilt