

Re-opening Information and Guidelines

People of Hope,

Gathering together for worship as followers of Jesus Christ is a Holy privilege and one of our greatest joys. This season of responding to the realities of COVID-19 has been a real challenge for churches everywhere as we seek to worship together. I am deeply thankful for the technology that has allowed us to gather together even though we are apart. It is important and will continue to be a key worship opportunity. Physically gathering together to pray, sing, and offer God our thanks and praise is also very important to our souls.

As we begin to re-open the physical facilities (church) that the people of God gather together in, here are some important considerations (subject to change) for our safety:

PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING

Per current CDC guidelines maintaining a 6ft social distance between people is important to help prevent the transmission of COVID-19. Refrain from touching others.

WEAR A MASK

Per current CDC guidelines, masks are required with the exception of children under the age of two and those with underlying health conditions. If you forget your mask, we will have one available for you.

IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL, PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE BUILDING.

BATHROOMS ARE AVAILABLE

Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

WASH AND SANITIZE

Please wash your hands. Hand sanitizing stations will be available at multiple places in our facilities. Thorough sanitizing and cleaning will be done between services and ministries.

These considerations have been developed by our leadership. As a large congregation that gathers all generations together regularly it is important that we be wise in our procedures and practices.

I fully recognize that we all have different comfort levels and personal considerations regarding gathering together. We will continue to live stream worship and offer online opportunities for children, youth and adults. Please engage our online opportunities if you are vulnerable or have concerns.

I also understand that we can not fully eliminate the potential for COVID-19 transmission. Our goal is to mitigate the possibility as best we can.

This is a stressful time. We live with a lot of difficult decisions, conflicting news and deeply divided people over a myriad of issues. Our world is broken. Our sinful nature can divide us and blind us to the needs of others. As followers of Jesus Christ I urge you to follow the wisdom of Colossians 3:12. "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

Our Lord Jesus calls us to be humble servants in this world. To put the needs of others before ourselves. To sacrifice and love with great love. In fact, our loving response to each other in this difficult time may be exactly the thing God uses to bring someone into an eternal-life-saving relationship with Him. We are people of great Hope. Our Hope is not in the powers and principalities of our world but in our Lord Jesus Christ and He's got the whole world in His Hands!

God's peace in Christ,

Pastor Paul Nynas

