

# Church of the Redeemer Reopening Guidelines

August 2020

The Church of the Redeemer is planning to reopen for the worship service on August 2, 2020. The only meeting will be the worship service beginning at 10:30 AM and ending by noon. There will be no Sunday School classes or nursery.

The purpose of this document is to detail our practices and guidelines that we will ask everyone to observe. This document will not attempt to justify the decisions. If you need further clarification on the rationale behind the decisions please ask one of the elders. But, please, do not expect the elders to give all of the medical reasons for a given decision. We have tried to take into account the best advice from numerous resources. Resources are available on the internet that address the concerns we are attempting to address.

If you are in a high-risk category, please do not feel obligated to attend church services at this time. Please do not attend if you are experiencing any symptoms of illness.

If you know that you have been exposed to COVID-19, we request that you follow the CDC guidelines and quarantine for 14 days. Please do not attend church during that time.

Church practices will be modified as follows:

- The nursery will not be open or available due to the confined space.
- There will be no food prepared or available.
- There will be no coffee or other refreshments.
- There will be no choir.
- Communion will consist of prepackaged servings placed in the pews ahead of time.
- We will not have congregational singing.
- The offering will not be passed. There will be a box at the back of the church in which you can place your offering, or you can mail it to the church. Please do not give it to anyone in person.
- We will not be using the registration pads on the backs of the pews.
- Bulletins, if available, will be placed on the pews ahead of time.

The guidelines that we ask everyone to observe are as follows:

- We request that everyone wear masks for the protection of others. While seated you may remove your mask if you are very uncomfortable, but please make every attempt to have your mask on if you feel a cough or sneeze coming on. Children younger than 2 should not wear face masks.

- Please do not shake hands or otherwise make contact with others.
- Please maintain the standard recommended social distance of 6 feet from persons not in your family.
- The restrooms will be open, but we ask you to kindly refrain from having more than one or two in a restroom at one time. Please do not crowd the doors while you are waiting.

The purpose of the next section is to facilitate a constant traffic pattern in and out of the sanctuary in order to prevent close contact. Our primary goal is to have people passing through the main doors of the sanctuary in only one direction for a given time period. In other words, we are trying to avoid two-way traffic through the doors which would make social distancing impossible.

- Before and during the service, enter the Sanctuary through main doors in the Narthex and exit through gym doors. You should follow this pattern if you need to exit the Sanctuary during the service. Please exit through the gym doors and re-enter through the Narthex.
- At the conclusion of the service, please exit through the main doors. Anyone needing to re-enter the Sanctuary after the service should re-enter through the gym doors to prevent passing people exiting the Sanctuary through the Narthex.
- When you arrive at the church, please proceed directly into the Sanctuary and be seated.
- When selecting your seat in the sanctuary please observe the following:
  - ◆ Please do not sit directly in front of or behind others not in your family.
  - ◆ Please try to keep six feet between families.
  - ◆ When exiting, the people in the back rows should exit first and promptly. The exit process should proceed from back to front. Please do not crowd others while exiting.
- Please do not congregate in the Narthex as the space is too confined to allow others to pass with adequate spacing.
- At the end of the service, please pass directly out of the Sanctuary and the Narthex. If you pause to visit in Lloyd Hall, please do not stand near the doorways.