

GUIDANCE FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 1, 2020

“I rejoice with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

Psalm 122:1

The words of Psalm 122 were spoken by travelers as they made their way to the temple in Jerusalem for one of the three special festivals. They REJOICED as they went to the house of the LORD! We also REJOICE that we can finally start to gather for in-person worship at Reformation again starting on the weekend of June 7. While we have waited patiently on the Lord, I know that many of us have been waiting in eager expectation to gather for worship again! The specific worship times each Sunday, starting on Sunday, June 7, are as follows:

- 8:00 AM – outdoor worship on the turf area
- 10:30 AM – indoor worship in the sanctuary

It is important to note that our worship will be different and that not everyone should return or be expected to return to in-person worship right away. While we cannot eliminate entirely the risk of infection, we plan to take specific measures to mitigate the risk and we will be asking all of you to take certain steps as to do your part to help make the level of risk as low as possible. You should be aware that there are specific risks to gathering for worship in an enclosed sanctuary compared to going out in public to go to the grocery store or to run other errands. Typically, while running errand we are on-the-move and do not have prolonged exposure to others. Current studies indicate your risk of infection in such environments is low. Worshipping together in a sanctuary, however, means spending an extended amount of time interacting with the same people in an enclosed space. This has been shown to increase the risk of either becoming infected or infecting others. For this reason, we will offer an option for worship that will be held outside in addition to an option for worship indoors. We will also make changes to the way we conduct our worship indoors to ensure the safety of all those who attend. Following California state guidelines, we will take specific measures to ensure that worship can be held in a safe and comfortable environment for all.

Please remember that the coronavirus threat has not been eliminated yet and there will likely be times when it will spread throughout various communities. The last thing the elders, pastors and leaders of Reformation want is to somehow contribute to an increased spread of the virus. Therefore, we will use our God-given gift of reason to make wise decisions and follow guidelines given by local, state and federal authorities while at the same time putting our trust in the Lord to take care of us. For this reason, we ask that you please carefully read through the instructions and information provided in this document. Though some aspects of our worship will change, we can still REJOICE because our God and his grace never changes! Thank you for your understanding, patience, and support during these unusual and trying times.



GENERAL GUIDELINES

- **Individuals who have symptoms of any illness should worship from home.** Please regularly self-screen yourself and your family members at home. If anyone in your household has a temperature, shortness of breath, sore throat, cough, diarrhea, headache, or anything else that would be assumed to be an illness, the whole family should not come to worship at Reformation and instead worship at home.
- **Individuals at high risk should strongly consider worshipping from home for now.** Those who are 65 and older or are considered high risk for complications from the coronavirus should consider worshipping from home.
- **According to current regulations, face coverings are mandatory when indoors at church. When outside and more than 6' apart, masks are not required but recommended.** We would ask everyone to have one available so they can mask up when moving around the campus. We will have masks available if you need one.
- **Practice social distancing as a family unit.** State and local guidelines call for us to keep a minimum of 6' of separation from those outside our family unit. This will be applied to our seating arrangements both indoors and outdoors. Additionally, please be extra vigilant in washing hands when present on campus.
- **Consider attending the outdoor service.** One recent study indicated that the risk of infection is as much as 19 times lower outdoors than indoors. If you are concerned about your risk but would really like to join together in public worship, this might be a good option for you. Currently, we plan to offer one outdoor service at 8:00 AM on Sundays.
- **Be loving towards others.** As Scripture says, "Love always trust" (1 Cor 13:7). Situations in which there are a great number of conflicting perspectives gives us a unique opportunity to put Christian charity and love into practice. Be sensitive to the concerns of others and guard your words and actions. Worship is for spiritual edification and the building up of each other, not belittling concerns or sharing opinions that might be offensive.



FACILITY GUIDELINES

- **Our capacity is currently limited to 25% of our capacity due to current regulations.** This means that we can only allow up to 81 worshippers at a time. We are asking everyone to register in advance for worship. This will help to ensure that we have spots reserved for those who want to come while ensuring that we do not end up needing to turn anyone away.

If you would like to sign-up for the 8:00AM service, please click here:

<https://calendly.com/pastorjameswerner/8-00am-outdoor-worship>

If you would like to sign-up for the 10:30AM service, please click here:

<https://calendly.com/pastorjameswerner/1030am-indoor-worship>

Note: Please be sure to sign up each person individually rather than by family so that the count is accurate.

- **Entry doors and gates will be propped open.** For at least 15 minutes prior to worship, entry doors will be open and will remain open for the first 10 minutes of worship. They will then be opened again at the conclusion of worship and remain open until everyone has exited the building.
- **Congregants/visitors will be screened before entering.** You will be screened for temperature upon arrival for worship. It is vital that if you or any member of your family has symptoms of any illness, please stay home and join us for worship online.
- **We encourage you to bring your own seating for the 8:00AM outdoor service.** This is one more way to limit contact and needed cleaning. However, for those who do not have or are not able to bring their own chairs, we will have folding chairs available.
- **Hand sanitizer and wipes will be readily available.** We will place hand sanitizer stations in several locations throughout the building and around campus. Look for the social distancing markers throughout the campus to designate 6' of distance. We will need everyone's help and cooperation to ensure that we follow the social distancing requirements for anyone who is not part of your family.
- **Practice Extra sanitization and cleaning will be done.** In addition to the weekly facility cleaning, a detailed sanitation checklist will be followed prior to and following worship, including:
 - Wiping down all high touch surfaces (doorknobs, switches, pews, etc.)
 - Deep cleaning bathrooms (stall doors, toilets, faucets, doorknobs, etc.)
 - Emptying of all trash bins promptly following worship



WORSHIP GUIDELINES

- **Reformation will still offer online worship.** If you are not able or not yet comfortable attending in-person worship, the online worship service will be streamed on our church YouTube channel on Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM ([Reformation's YouTube Channel](#)). We also plan to send the link to the service out later using our congregational emails as we have been doing throughout the stay-at-home order. If you are not receiving those emails, please contact the Church Office at officemanager@refsd.org.
- **Practice social distancing by sitting according to family units.** This will require no more than 2 family units per pew/row (depending on family size). This will also require using every other pew/row. We have created a diagram to help picture how this plan will look (see the attachment at the end of this document). Families should enter as a unit, and avoid entering the church individually to assist with our compliance to the social distancing requirements. Instead of handshakes or hugs, we are encouraging simple waves and smiles.
- **Service folders and bulletins will be single use.** Please take them home for personal use or recycle them immediately. For the indoor services, we plan to put all elements of the service on the screens.

- **Kids4Christ Sunday school and Adult Bible Class will not be offered in-person yet at this time.** Families will worship together as a family unit. Children should remain in the care of the those in their household unit and if possible, not interact with other children. We encourage you to bring your own activity bag for your child.
- **The offering will not be gathered in normal fashion.** Online giving is encouraged and available at <http://www.reformationsandiego.org/give/>. If individuals desire to give with check or cash, a clearly marked box will be made available at each service.
- **Holy Communion will continue to be offered via appointment by family unit.** To begin with, we will not celebrate Holy Communion in the worship services for the first few weeks. Instead, we ask that you schedule an appointment with one of our pastors during the times they have set aside for it. Scheduling is simple and easy and is handled through this link: <https://calendly.com/pastorjameswerner/meeting-with-pastor-werner> Simply pick a day to see the available time slots, pick an open time slot and confirm your appointment. The app will automatically put the event on pastor's calendar.
- **Refreshments and fellowship following worship will not be offered at this time.** Upon the conclusion of worship everyone will be asked to practice social distancing when exiting the sanctuary. There will be no refreshments for now. If you would like to socialize with others, we encourage you to do so outside following worship.

- Diagram to visualize seating plan and traffic flow for campus:

