

## OUTDOOR WORSHIP AT ADVENT

The following outdoor worship guidelines are part of our plan for safe reopening at Advent. Please read all of the points below and make sure all members of your family are informed of expectations and procedures. These guidelines are presented not out of fear, but to protect the safety of all our worshippers and to comply with state and local authorities.

Please be patient with us as we begin to worship in person again and extend grace toward one other as we navigate the guidelines we need to employ to keep us all safe. This is a starting point in the process of worshipping together in person and it is subject to change.

Worship will be different than before the pandemic . Here's what you can expect:

- A service that lasts approximately 30 minutes
- Music, scripture reading, prayer, a brief message
- The smiling eyes of all who are happy to see and be with you
- Face coverings worn at all times, with the exception of worship leaders who are speaking
- No singing.
- No passing the peace, hugging, or any kind of physical contact with those outside your household group
- No Holy Communion, for now.

### WORSHIP TIMES

Our Outdoor Prayer Service will meet outdoors and begin promptly at 10:00 Please arrive 30 minutes early so ushers have time to direct traffic and facilitate seating arrangements.

Our online worship will be live @ 10 am from the outdoor service. Zoom Holy Communion continues on the second and fourth Sunday of each month.

In the event of inclement weather, the service will be cancelled. Inclement weather decisions will be made 2 hours prior to service. Check the church website when in doubt. If our service is cancelled, the live stream will move indoors (without congregants.)

Traffic through our parking lot will be one-way: enter from Mark Twain Blvd. and exit to Sandburg Ave.

### ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

Those who are comfortable meeting in person are welcome to attend. However, no one should feel pressured to return before they are ready.

Individuals in high-risk categories should continue to follow stricter protocols. High-risk categories include:

- older adults, nursing home/ long term care facility resident;
- anyone with chronic lung disease or moderate/ severe asthma;
- anyone with a serious heart condition;
- anyone with severe obesity;
- anyone who is immunocompromised;
- anyone with liver disease;
- anyone with kidney disease on dialysis.

Individuals who work or live with persons in high-risk categories should also follow stricter guidance.

Please be mindful of the risks involved as you make the safest judgment for yourself and those you care for.

***As always, please stay home if you feel ill.***

If you have come in contact with someone who is suspected, or confirmed, to have COVID-19, please do not attend unless you have tested negative after contact or completed a 14 day quarantine.

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## THINGS TO BRING TO WORSHIP INCLUDE:

- your face coverings;
- **your own chair** or blanket (to minimize contact and areas to clean, Advent will not be providing chairs;)
- Pop-up tents, if desired, for households living together or umbrellas for individual sun protection;
- Hand sanitizer, bug repellent and any other items you may need;
- No food or drink, besides water, please.

Dress however you will be most comfortable.

## GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

We will be meeting in the grassy area in front of the cross with worshipers seated in chairs or on blankets. Pop up tents can be set up 6' apart, 6' off the main sidewalk. Our goal is to conduct this in such a way that minimizes contact with others and maintains the public health guidelines for social distancing.

For those with mobility challenges, we will reserve seating in front of the handicap parking spaces on the University Blvd side of the grassy area.

People who wish to remain in their cars can park in the remaining parking spaces around the grassy area. However, if you must leave your car running, please park in the spaces closest to University Blvd.

## SOCIAL DISTANCING

Help us all maintain a **minimum of 6 feet** for social distancing during worship, as well as when you enter and depart the church grounds, by avoiding contact with other attendees or households. Our ability to protect one another and continue worshipping together depends upon safe social distancing.

Please make sure all members of your household maintain safe social distancing guidelines.

## FACE COVERINGS

We ask that you wear a face covering from the time you exit your vehicle to the time you return to your vehicle. The purpose of the face covering is to protect others from you. Please be considerate concerning the health and safety of others. (If you forget, we will provide!)

## YOUR OFFERINGS

No offering plates will be passed from person to person. We will have **containers to receive offerings** as you enter and exit. During this time, we continue to encourage online or mailed offerings as the safest options.

## BUILDING ACCESS

The church building will be open for emergencies only. Please plan accordingly. Our aim is to minimize the area of space that needs deep, thorough cleaning each week.

## AFTER WORSHIP

Worshipers keep a safe social distance as they move out of the worship area to return to your cars. Gatherings on the grounds and in the parking lot are discouraged.

**Thank you for helping keep one another safe as we meet together again.**