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RE: Re-opening CTR on July 5, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ:

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and I hope this finds you doing well. I know we have all missed being together in worship and fellowship and I look forward to seeing you soon. Please receive this letter as an outline of expectations upon our return, which are listed below. Also, there are a few things for us to keep in mind in advance:

- Our cleaning company is doing a deep clean on Friday, July 3rd.
- As we know, cases of COVID are still on the rise, so we may find that we need to return to live-streaming only. We will keep you posted as things progress.

EXPECTATIONS FOR RE-OPENING

- **High-risk groups are still encouraged to stay home.** Again, I don't like saying this, but it's the best advice from the medical community. High-risk has been defined by the CDC as those who are over 65, those who have underlying at-risk health conditions, and those who are presently ill. Also, if you have traveled - especially out of the country - in the last 2 weeks, have been exposed to COVID-19, and/or are experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19, please also remain home for the time being.
- **We will open the building at 10:00 a.m.** Please do not try and enter before-hand. The service will begin at 10:30.
- **We will enter and exit through the two emergency exits, located at the back of the nave ONLY.** Someone will greet you at the door so that you don't have to touch the doors. They will also have face-masks, in case you forgot yours. Please maintain a distance of 6 feet from one another as you enter.
- **Hand sanitizer will be available at the door.** Please feel free to refresh, as needed.
- **Facemasks will be worn throughout the service.** None of us likes this, but it is the best advice from the medical community, so we will do our part to love our neighbor as ourselves in this way. As you already know, churches are especially vulnerable because we are larger gatherings and we sing. If you do not want to wear a mask, please continue to watch the service online and we will bring Communion to you, at your request. Please also note the following two items related to this:

- We will keep the air a little cooler to try and make it as comfortable as possible, so you may want to bring a sweater, just in case.
 - The celebrant/preacher will not wear a mask, so everyone can hear and understand what is being said. To clarify, the celebrant/preacher will be the same person each Sunday, so that only one person in the room will not be wearing a mask. While not wearing a mask, he will be socially distant from all other persons. He will wear his mask during the distribution of Communion and other times, per suggested medical community guidelines.
- **Seating will be spread out in the nave.** To be clear, you can sit with your family. YOU WILL NEED TO LEAVE 3 SEATS BETWEEN YOU AND THE NEXT GROUP OF PEOPLE IN YOUR ROW.
 - **We will remain socially distant during the peace.** Feel free to nod and wave at each other. I will make a pastoral concession to allow the “thumbs up” sign to be given, provided we all understand that this is in no way to be interpreted as a “Gig ‘Em Aggies” sign :)
 - **We will not take up the offering during the Offertory.** Instead, offering baskets will be in the back of the church. Please bring your offering in an envelope. You can place it in the basket when you arrive or when you leave. Otherwise, you can continue to send it in by mail, or online. And, thank you for all you’re doing to support CTR during this time.
 - **We will bring Communion to you.** There should be no reason for you to get up out of your seat, except to use the restroom, to refresh hand sanitizer, and to exit. While there is no standard practice, per se, concerning the distribution of Holy Communion, I have researched what several churches have done and tried to implement best practices.
 - **The bathrooms and the parish hall will be accessible.** We will live-stream into the parish hall, in case you need to watch from in there. However, please do not roam the building.
 - **We will not be serving snacks and coffee.** This should be an obvious one, but go ahead and get your caffeine fix before you get here.
 - **We will not congregate in the building.** Once the service is over, we will be dismissed by row, starting from the back to the front. Please maintain the required 6 feet social distancing at all times.

While this is all so very strange and difficult, we continue to thank you for your patience, your persistence, and your prayers. I look forward to seeing you Sunday, as we join together in worship of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Fr. Chris Culpepper+
Rector, Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church

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