



Dear Calvary Spokane Church Family,

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We miss you all deeply and are excited to see you at church soon.

First, we'd like to thank you for your witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in this world. As Christians we each play a vital role in the kingdom of God. As a team of ministry workers our responsibility is to encourage, equip, and strengthen you for works of service. We feel the effects of your prayers and witness in the community, as we trust you likewise feel the effects of our prayers and service to you.

Since the first days of the outbreak, our church has taken every effort to ensure the health and safety of our congregation. We respect the authorities and institutions that God has placed over us, and continually seek their wellbeing in prayer and in good deed.

On March 13, 2020 we decided to suspend in-person services out of an abundance of caution to (1) protect the health and welfare of our congregation and (2) to not overwhelm the local healthcare system.

The governor recently stated on June 3, 2020 in a press release that Washingtonians have a First Amendment right to peaceably assemble, as long as they practice wearing facemasks and physical distancing.

Therefore, we believe the risk to the spiritual health of our church for not meeting now exceeds the two healthcare risks mentioned previously. We are ready to **reopen services beginning Sunday, June 21** for 9:00am and 11:15am worship.

In Scriptures, the English word "church" is translated from the Greek *ekklesia*, which means "assembly, congregation, church." Gathering together as followers of Jesus Christ is a necessary part of our worship. Over the past few months, many of us have felt starved of this essential spiritual practice of fellowship. In Acts 2:42 the church devoted itself to fellowship. Later, the church encouraged their fellow Christians to continue meeting together even when it was difficult:

*"Let us not neglect meeting together, as some have made a habit, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."* - Hebrews 10:25

As we look forward to meeting together, we ask that you follow common-sense infectious disease preventative measures, like regular hand washing and staying home if you are ill from a contagious disease. We encourage you to wear personal protective equipment in attendance of service, such as masks. Church staff and volunteers will be wearing facemasks to assist the vulnerable.

If you are at risk to contagious maladies like COVID-19, listen to the recommendations of your family doctor. You may decide to stay home, and that is encouraged for those at risk. Some of you have occupations or family responsibilities that may be jeopardized by attending a large gathering. In any case, do not feel guilty if you or your family decides to stay home. Know that Sunday services will continue to be live streamed online at **[www.calvaryspokane.com](http://www.calvaryspokane.com)**.

You will notice a few differences at church on Sunday mornings to take note of. These are meant to help ensure the safety of congregants:

- **Door Greeters** – instead of shaking your hands upon entry into the church, door greeters will be waving “hi” to you instead.
- **Greeting Time** – during the greeting time we are not encouraging hand shaking.
- **Communion** – communion will be taken following the sermon. Prepackaged communion kits will be available for pickup upon entering the worship center. These kits will also be available down front during closing worship, where communion is normally distributed.
- **Offering** – we will not be passing a plate for offering. Instead there are mounted offering boxes on the back walls of the worship center for those wanting to give in person. Otherwise you can give online through our app or website.
- **Breakfast** – we will not be serving a cafeteria-style hot breakfast. Following first service, we will be providing a continental breakfast of pre-packaged foods and fruit with a peel.
- **Espresso** – the espresso bar will be closed. Instead, we will provide complimentary drip coffee.
- **Children’s Ministry** – Calvary Kids services will be offered at the **9:00am service only** throughout the summer. We will not be offering snacks to children in the children’s classrooms. Please do not bring children to church if they have had symptoms of an infectious disease in the past 48 hours.
- **Youth Ministry** – we will not be offering communal snacks to youth in the youth rooms, only pre-packaged snacks. Please do not bring youth to church if they have had symptoms of an infectious disease in the past 48 hours.
- **Hand Sanitizer** – we have installed additional hand sanitizer stations around the building for your convenience.
- **Physical Distancing** – you are encouraged to practice physical distancing. We have marked spacing in the pews and repositioned tables so you can maintain the appropriate physical spacing.
- **Masks** – you are encouraged to wear a mask.
- **Cleaning** – we have increased the cleaning schedule of the church, especially high-touch surfaces.

We are excited to worship together with you and pray for your safety and wellbeing.

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

See you at church this Father’s Day!

With Love from Christ,

Board of Elders,  
Calvary Spokane