

Calvin Church Reopening: A guide to what worshipping together will look like

Worship is an important part of the church's life together in community. However, even in worship we must be considerate in our constant care for each other. That also means being patient with each other as we work through new ways of having to do things.

The following is a brief guide to some of the changes one should expect when returning to worship. Please take the time to read through them carefully and prayerfully.

Worship Times

- Worship will resume on Sunday Aug. 23, 2020.
- Times of worship will be at **9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.** (both services will adhere to the same format, and are expected to be approximately 45 minutes in length, with cleaning done in between services)
- It is currently the intent to record and/or stream portions of these service as to make them available online.

Prior to Worship

- People will be asked to pre-book their worship time. (this will enable us to create more accurate contact tracing information, and we'd invite you please watch for further details in the coming weeks.)
- Using the attached COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire (which will also be posted at entry points to the building) to assist them, those planning to attend worship services will be expected to consider their health for any a.) possible symptoms of COVID-19 not related to previously diagnosed conditions, or b.) for any contact that might have placed them at risk of exposure to COVID-19.
 - Those who are not feeling well, or have answered 'yes' to any one of the items on the questionnaire are asked to please remain home.
- Attendees will be encouraged to arrive earlier than usual to allow extra time for entry and seating.

Upon Arrival

- At this time, **all attendees will be required to wear non-medical masks** to further reduce the risk of transmission. If you don't have one, or have forgotten yours, masks will be made available at the door.
- To help further reduce the risk of transmission, people will also be encouraged to make use of the hand sanitizer stations found in the lobby, and Narthex areas.
- People will also be required to maintain a social distance of 2 meters as able, to refrain from physical contact such as shaking hands, hugging, touching, or passing items between people not of the same family or bubble group, and to practice proper respiratory etiquette (i.e. coughing and sneezing into the elbow or a tissue, discarding tissues into a lined garbage bin, and washing hands afterwards)
- Duty elders will be taking attendance (this will include recording the names and necessary contact info of visitors), and monitoring seating capacity, so please be sure to make sure your name is added to the list.
- Soft-surfaced furniture in the lobby and Narthex will be replaced with hard-surface chairs for easier cleaning.
- Plastic wrapped seat cushions will be available in the Narthex for those wishing one. Cushions are to be left in the pews after worship to be collected and appropriately cleaned.
- Please note any follow directional floor markings as appropriate.

Elevator

- For those requiring the use of the elevator, please note that the elevator will only be operated by appropriately trained and appointed individual(s), with those operators being required to wear a non-surgical mask.
- The elevator will only be operated using its external controls (i.e. appointed operators are not to board the elevator with passengers)
- Elevator use will be restricted to only one individual or family/bubble group at a time.

Entering the Sanctuary

- Sanctuary pews will be marked to ensure physical distancing between individuals who are not of the same household or bubble group. (seating will be at either end, or every second pew as marked.)
- For entering the sanctuary, Duty elders will help direct those arriving to available seating.
 - Seating before worship will be done with pews to be filled from the front rows to the back.
 - Those seating on the aisle end of marked pews will be asked to use the central aisle for entering and exiting the sanctuary.
 - Those seated on the window end of marked pews will be asked to use the respective outside aisles for entering and exiting the sanctuary.
- For exiting the sanctuary after worship is over:
 - The Duty elder will be responsible for opening the sanctuary doors
 - Exiting will begin with those seated adjoining the central aisle, beginning with those seated furthest toward the back.
 - Following the central aisle, those seated in adjoining the outside aisles will be invited to exit beginning with those seated furthest toward the back.

Changes to worship

Bulletins

- There will be no printed bulletins at this time (weekly announcements will be emailed to those on our congregational email list, with limited paper copies of announcements being made available to those without internet access)

Passing of the Peace

- At this time, the Passing of Christ's peace through physical contact will be discouraged. (Instead, should the opportunity present itself, people may be invited to share the Peace of Christ at a distance via such means as a smile, wave, bow, bringing their hands together in a praying posture, using sign language, or even text messaging, etc.)

Pew Books (and accessories)

- All items (including Bibles, Hymn Books, Living Faith, pew cards, pencils, etc.) will be removed from the pews to help facilitate the cleaning and sanitizing processes.

Scripture readings

- At this time people are invited to bring their own bibles to and from worship with them for use, but scripture readings will continue to be projected on the screens.

Music

- As congregational singing is considered a high-risk activity, congregational singing will be discouraged at this time. However, music will still include:
 - Instrumental music (with which the congregation is invited to hum along)
 - Soloists (who will be located at the back of the chancel, and at distance from the congregation)
 - Soloists, groups (pre-prepared audio and/or video recordings to be projected on the screens during worship)

Offering

- At this time, the offering plates will not be passed during services of worship. Instead:
 - Offering plates will be located inside, and to either side of the back doors of the sanctuary
 - Offering envelopes, or other donations (i.e. cash, cheques, etc.) may be placed into the plates as people leave from worship
- Those counting the offering will maintain social distancing as able and ensure that their hands are washed afterwards
- People will be invited to consider electronic forms or giving (i.e. Pre-Authorized Remittance, giving on-line, etc.)

Sunday School & Nursery

- At this time, the nursery (for children under 5) will be closed. Parents are invited to keep their children with them during worship, with the assurance that their presence will be welcome should they be there.
- At this time, Sunday School (for children 5 and up) will resume no earlier than Oct. 1, 2020. Parents are invited to keep their children with them during worship, with the assurance that their presence will be welcome should they be there.
- When Sunday School resumes, it will be in accordance with guidelines provided by the Nova Scotia provincial government Public Health regarding education & childcare.

Fellowship Time

- At present, we will not be hosting a fellowship time following services of worship. Instead people will be encouraged to exit the building, and to mingle with respect to social distancing in the parking lot.
- At this time, the kitchen will be closed, and is not to be used for the preparation or serving of food and/or beverages.

Celebrating the Sacraments

An important part of our communal congregational life are the celebration of the sacraments. Below are proposed ways of celebrating the sacraments, should the occasion arise.

Baptisms

- The Session may elect to allow for baptism during a time of public worship should such a request be received.
- Social distancing, and the use of masks, will be observed as best able throughout the sacrament.
- Families/parents will be asked to hold any small children and/or infants receiving baptism throughout the sacrament.
- The minister will lead in the liturgy of baptism, and place water on the person being baptized
- The minister will ensure their hands are sanitized before and after administering the sacrament.

Communion

- The Session may elect to celebrate Holy Communion during a time of public worship
- Notice of such a celebration would be given 3-4 weeks in advance (i.e. via announcements, emails, phone calls, etc.)
- At this time, those planning to attend would be encouraged to prepare and to bring their own elements from home (with no sharing of those pre-prepared elements with those outside their immediate family, or identified social bubble)
- Efforts will be made to live-stream communion services to allow for the participation of those at home

COVID-19 Screening Questionnaire

		Yes	No
Do you have any of the following possible symptoms related to COVID-19?	Fever or chills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Cough or worsening chronic cough	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Difficulty breathing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Flu like symptoms (headache, sore throat, runny nose)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Unusual muscle or body aches	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Atypical headache	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	New loss of taste or smell	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Nausea or vomiting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	Diarrhea	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have you travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days?		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have you been in contact with someone who is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Have you been advised by your physician or Public Health professional to be in self-isolation (currently or within the last 14 days)?		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>