



## Sunday Morning Indoor Worship

### Health and Safety

The physical worship environment is one of close contact among many households for a prolonged period in a confined space. In addition, group speaking and singing increase airborne aerosols and thus a higher risk of disease transmission. Therefore, for the mutual love, respect, and safety of GSLC's members and staff, the initial phase of in-person worship will be under conditions of a modified order of worship, strict social distancing, and personal protection measures.

During this initial phase, the indoor worship experience will be significantly different from what we were accustomed to prior to the pandemic. Public health guidelines dictate that we limit the number of people such that safe distancing (6 feet) for unrelated people or households can be maintained within the worship space. A sign-up process will be used to manage attendance at each service.

Controlled entry and exit procedures and signs will be used to direct the flow of people and minimize close contact at the doors and common areas. Ushers will assist with seating and departure and will monitor for safe distancing. Loose materials such as hymnals, welcome cards, pew envelopes, pens, and children's bags will be removed from the sanctuary. News and Announcements will continue to be available on GSLC's website. No assisted listening devices will be available.

Within the building, only the worship area, its main doors, and nearby restrooms will be open. Weather permitting, exterior doors will be propped open. If exterior doors cannot be propped open, they will be handled by a gloved and masked person. Hand sanitizer will be readily available near the doors and in or near the restrooms. Use of restrooms will be limited to one person at a time (except for a person in need of assistance), and each person should thoroughly wash their hands and wipe down any surface they touch with disinfectant wipes before they exit. The Nursery will not be open. Going forward, the Board may consider making available a limited number of areas for a family member to care for their children and listen to the service via FM radio.

Anyone showing symptoms that could be from COVID-19 is strongly encouraged to worship through our virtual worship services. See [the GSLC COVID-19 Health Guidelines](#) for full details regarding indoor worship attendance for high risk and increased risk people, for those who may have symptoms or may have been exposed to COVID-19, and for those who have recovered from COVID-19.

In accordance with health and safety guidelines, anyone attending an indoor worship service will be required to wear a mask that covers their mouth and nose while in the building. The Pastor and other officiants will not wear masks for most of the service, but will attempt to maintain a safe distance, wear face shields, and/or remain behind a protective barrier. Those not comfortable with following the guidelines may attend our outdoor services or virtual services.

For contact tracing purposes and to help us maintain social distancing for these services, all worship participants will sign up for each indoor service using an online registration form. A link to the form will be emailed in advance of the service. The online form will ask for each worshipper's name, as well as the email and phone number for each group (individual worshipper or family group). This information will not be shared but will be used for check-in purposes and, if necessary, for contact tracing.

We encourage everyone to use the online welcome card on the GSLC website to submit prayer requests ([www.gslcva.org/welcome-card](http://www.gslcva.org/welcome-card)). A limited number of welcome cards will be available at the check-in station for those who cannot complete the form online. You may leave your prayer request in a basket in the entry area as you depart from the building after the service.

Anyone who becomes ill with COVID-19 after attending an indoor worship service should notify the Pastor or the church office so that other people who were present at that service can be notified that they were potentially exposed. The confidentiality of the person who became ill will be maintained.

### Worship Experience

There will be changes in how the worship service is conducted. There will be no procession of the cross, and acolytes will not be used. The "meet and greet" welcome will be discontinued. Due to the heightened risk associated with singing, the cantor(s) will sing the hymns. The liturgy (including responses), the Lord's Prayer, and the Creed will be lifted up to our Lord by the Pastor, on our behalf. Music will be limited to a small number of singers or will be prerecorded.

Online, electronic, or text offering collection will be encouraged. A collection basket will be present at the door for those who wish to contribute in that manner. Communion will use sealed, disposable communion packs.

The worship area will be cleaned prior to each service with emphasis on disinfecting touch surfaces such as pews, pew backs, door handles, etc.

A greeter will be present to welcome people from a safe distance with a wave and a smile. The Pastor will not greet people as they exit to avoid creating a bottleneck. Coffee and fellowship following the service will not be available. Everyone will leave the building after the service, as directed by the ushers, in a distanced manner and without holding conversations until they are in the parking lot.