

COVID-19 Worship Adjustments at Gloria Dei

June 5, 2020

*I rejoiced with those who said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”*

– Psalm 122:1

This verse is one of two that you see every time you step inside the Narthex at Gloria Dei. David’s words express the joy of a child of God when he enters the Lord’s house.

For most of us it has been way too long since we have been able to do that. Instead, we had to stay at home and watch worship via Facebook Live or not at all.

We have missed you. Many have asked, “When can we come back?” “When will Governor Whitmer lift the Stay Safer at Home Order?” “When can we just get back to normal?”

Your Church Council met last night and have made the following recommendations so that many of you might be able to return to worship on Sunday mornings in the House of the Lord. We admit that our recommendations are not perfect, nor will they please everyone. However, they have been put together with much prayer, discussion, concern, and love. We pray that you receive them in a way that is meant to serve as many people as possible at this time.

We will continue to broadcast each Sunday worship service on Facebook Live – [facebook.com/gloriadeigrandblanc](https://www.facebook.com/gloriadeigrandblanc). We will continue to share online worship bulletins. Each Sunday’s sermon will be available on our www.GloriaDeiGB.com page in an audio file.

Your Church Council has set the following regulations for those able to return for worship during this time of COVID-19. Please read these carefully.

- For **social distancing** we will operate at a **50% capacity**. Every other pew is roped off.
- **All are required to wear a mask when you enter and leave worship**. Masks will be available if needed. Masks are recommended for service. For those unable to wear a mask during worship, we insist that you sit in the front. Please be sensitive to one another in this matter.
- **Hand sanitizers** will be placed in various places for your use. Please feel free to bring your own.
- There will be no official **Greeters** at this time.
- **Ushers** will wear a mask throughout the service. After the worship service they will usher from the back to the front for dismissal.
- **Offering plates** will be placed in the Narthex and not passed during this time. Please feel free to mail your offerings to the church (**5005 McCandlish Rd, Grand Blanc, MI 48439**).
- **Communion** will be modified. We will do continuous distribution rather than groups at the communion rail. Please wait to be dismissed by the usher to allow for proper spacing. Those distributing the bread and the wine will use hand sanitizer and gloves.
- We encourage you to **socialize outside** after worship rather than in the Narthex. If it is raining, we recommend the use of the Fellowship Hall with social distancing.

- As there is currently no organized **fellowship** planned, no food or drink will be served at this time.
- For those still willing to serve as **counters**, please do so after service as usual.
- We encourage **outdoor activities** for Youth Group, Summer for Kids, etc.
- **Finally, we encourage you to be kind and compassionate, forgiving one another just as God has forgiven you in Christ Jesus.**

First, we would love to have EVERYONE back at Gloria Dei as soon as possible. However, we are painfully aware that not EVERYONE should return to Gloria Dei at this time. Those with COVID-19 symptoms or who are physically sick (*even not feeling quite right*) please stay home until you know that you are healthy. (*We understand that this is allergy season and those who suffer from allergies are not in the same category of those who are sick.*) Those with underlying health conditions you may choose to wait much longer. Those who are not comfortable for any reason, we trust your judgement to stay home a little longer. However, for the rest we encourage you to return as soon as possible.

We are delighted that more people can return to worship. We completely understand that some cannot at this time. We are concerned about everyone's physical health while we serve everyone's spiritual health. We pray that these recommendations will allow us to worship our great and glorious Lord, whether in person or via Facebook Live streaming.

If you have any questions or concerns, we would love to hear from you. It is a joy and a privilege to try our best to serve the needs of you and your family.

As new information is shared by our Governor and state regulations are relaxed allowing more things to open, we plan to adjust accordingly.

We have scheduled a **Voters' Meeting on Sunday, June 28**, after worship. By then we hope to have new information to share.

To God be the glory!

Pastor Himm

Gloria Dei Church Council

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- Allen Mortimer, Treasurer
- John Kritzman, Financial Secretary
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