



All Saints Presbyterian Church

Beloved Saints,

Many of you will know well the opening words of Psalm 122:

*'I joyed when to the house of GOD,
Go up, they said to me.'*

Psalm 122 (Scottish Psalter)

Now is our opportunity to embrace this divinely inspired declaration as never before in our lives. We no longer go up to a physical temple but the people of God are that dwelling place of God by the Spirit (Eph. 2:21-22) as we gather together, at our appointed time and place for worship. Yet, for the past few months we have been kept from doing this very thing. While we have given thanks for the livestream and the opportunities for evangelism associated with it, we have been mourning the loss of physical, corporate worship. Therefore, it is with great joy and thanksgiving that we ought to be looking forward to many of us gathering again for worship on the 5th of July.

At the same time, we also recognised that there are different viewpoints within the congregation on the risks involved in re-assembling and that some of us may not be able to return immediately due to underlying health concerns and the consequent vulnerability to Covid-19. We also know that many of us have questions and perhaps concerns about what it will look like to reopen the church. With this in mind - and to supplement what was said in our recent congregational meeting - we want to provide you with a written copy of the procedures the session has approved to help us regather responsibly and in a way that glorifies God. In planning for our return to physical corporate worship, we have sought to take into account as many of your questions and concerns as we were aware of but we continue to invite you to speak with us about anything in this document you find difficult or on which you need clarification.

We know that we are all united in our love for our God and our desire to worship Him. Therefore, differences of perspective on risks and related matters can be opportunities for us to bear with one another, to look out for the interest of others, to be patient and kind and to assume the best of one another. It has been the aim of the elders and deacons that we would have such an attitude in forming these plans, and we pray that God may grant us all the grace to move forward together - in love and unity.

Amidst all the practical details of returning to physical corporate worship, let us remember the great purpose for which we have been made - the glory of God. The coming weeks will involve inconvenience for all of us (whether we return immediately or have to wait a little longer for health reasons) but let us not forget why we are returning. We want to bring honour and glory to our God, and we want to enjoy Him together.

Your servants in Christ,
Bill, Benjamin and Florian

Reassembling Procedures

Before Coming to Church

1. **Inform us you wish to come.** This can be done via the provided google form or personally to Peter Lawley or Benjamin Wontrop, particularly tell us if your responses change from what you have told us already.

You will then receive instruction as to which door to attend:

Entrance:	Zone:
Accessible entrance (from graveyard)	Marble Zone
Main entrance (big steps)	Pew Zone
Side entrance (small steps)	Gallery Zone

2. **If you have not let us know you are coming; you can still come.** We will always seek to accommodate everyone, including visitors - it just helps us immensely if we know in advance. If you have not been pre-assigned a zone, come to the main entrance and a steward will assign you to one.
3. **What to bring with you:**
 - A Bible
 - Your own hymn books/psalm books or an app.
 - A face-covering
 - Alcohol gel & disinfectant wipes (these will be provided at the first service which you attend)

(If you don't have any of these items, they will be provided on arrival.)

4. **Symptoms suggestive of Covid-19:**
 - Cough
 - Fever
 - Shortness of breath
 - Loss of sense of taste or smell

If you, or anyone in your household, has any of these symptoms, please join the livestream of worship rather than attending church physically. You should also obtain medical advice regarding testing and track and trace. Please also inform Benjamin Wontrop so he can coordinate the pastoral response to this.

When You Arrive

1. **Upon Arrival:** You will be greeted by a steward who will
 - Provide you with (disposable) **face-coverings**, if you have not brought your own.
 - Check that you have what you need for your **hand hygiene/cleaning** needs and help ensure hand hygiene is as effective as possible, thus reducing the risk of transmission to congregants.

On the first Lord's Day back, each family unit will be provided with a pack of disinfectant wipes and a bottle of alcohol hand gel. You are asked to take these home with you and bring them to each service you attend (we would suggest that you leave it in your car).

- If you do not have access to a **hymnal, psalm book or Bible**, these can be provided by the steward and this copy will become yours for the duration of the current pandemic. It may be sensible to lightly pencil your names or initials in the front of the books for the duration. Please bring those books to any other services you attend subsequently (again, you may wish to leave it in your car).
2. **Put on Your Face-Covering:** This should be worn at all times when you are in the building. This only applies to those aged 11 and over. Face-coverings for children aged 0-10 will be left to the discretion of parents. If you have specific concerns about this policy please discuss them with Peter Lawley in advance of the service.
 3. **Seat Yourself:** You will then be asked to take a seat as directed by a steward, in general filling up the seats furthest from the entrances first. You may also want to wipe down your pew upon arrival with the wipes provided. (If you are in the Gallery Zone please always ascend/descend the stairs to and from the gallery by the left-most set of steps.)

During The Service

1. **Children:** Children must remain within their family units at all times.
2. **Face-coverings:** We are asking congregants (expecting those aged 0-10) to wear face-coverings at all times (except when eating the bread or drinking the wine/juice in the Lord's Supper).
3. **Social Distancing:** Please keep 2m away from other family units at all times. We do not anticipate the need for any family unit to come within 2m of another, except in the case of an elder serving the Lord's Supper, therefore the 1m+ advice will not apply, this is only for situations where 2m distances cannot be maintained.
4. **Symptoms:** If you develop symptoms suggestive of Covid-19 during the service, please leave immediately with your family unit and inform Peter Lawley via telephone.
5. **Toilets, Baby-Changing and Cry-Room:**
 - **Toilets:**

The Accessible Toilet: This will be reserved for the use of those seated in the **Marble Zone only** (those with accessibility needs will always be seated in the Marble Zone), this is a further measure to reduce the risk to our most vulnerable members.

Regular Toilets: The regular toilets will be for the use of those in the **Pew and Gallery Zones**. Access to the toilets from the Gallery Zone is best achieved by exiting the building completely through the side door and re-entering via the main entrance to avoid moving through the Pew Zone. Access to the toilets from the Pew Zone or Marble Zone should be via the marble ramp as normal.

'One Family at a Time' and Cleaning After Use: If you require the toilet, please observe scrupulous hand-hygiene by hand washing using soap and water before and after using the facilities. Please also wipe down all touch-points with the disinfectant wipes provided. Children should be supervised in the toilets by a parent or guardian. Toilets should operate on a 'one family unit at a time policy' to ensure social distancing. Any queues for the facilities should also observe 2m distancing. Please leave the external doors to the Regular Toilets propped open at all times.
 - **Baby Changing:** The baby-changing facility has been relocated to the old cry-room.
 - **Cry Room:** The service will be relayed to the vestry and this will become the new cry-room for the time being.
6. **Kitchen:** Please do not use the kitchen for any purpose other than access to the new baby-changing facility - the sinks are not to be used for hand-washing.

7. **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper:**

- Two deacons will prepare the table together, to ensure that cleaning and hygiene rules have been scrupulously followed in preparation.
- No 'pressure' will be placed on communicants to receive the Supper, given any health concerns they may have.
- The elements will be served from the empty pew/row in front of where the communicants are seated. **The bread** will be *dropped* into their hands. The communicants should fully reach out their arms and open their hands flat to receive the bread. Under no circumstances must a communicant serve him or herself from the basket. Larger than usual gaps will be left between glasses of **wine and juice** to avoid the risk of communicants touching any glass other than the one they take. As was the case previously, the glasses in the middle of the tray will be grape juice rather than wine. The grape juice is usually a lighter colour.
- Communicants will leave their face-coverings on while the elements are being served and will remove them when invited to partake by the minister.
- The bread will be pre-cut into small pieces. One elder will serve each zone.
- The minister and elders will sanitise their hands before touching the elements. It is suggested that Communicants do the same.
- Communicants are kindly asked to return their own empty glasses to the trays by the door they use to exit the building. Please do not touch other glasses in the process.

8. **Sacrament of Baptism:** The session is passionate about the continuance of baptism through this period. Plans have been made for the celebration of baptism, when required. If this is relevant to you, please contact one of the ministers.

During The Fellowship Time After The Service

1. **Tea & Coffee:** Regrettably, we will not be able to serve tea and coffee after the services, for the time being.
2. **Zones:** Please do not leave your assigned zone for any reason except to access the toilets or baby changing room, as necessary. However, feel free to move within your zone to socialise at a 2m distance. Alternatively, there is plenty of space immediately outside the building to interact with other congregants.

Please do not linger within aisles, gangways or corridors which will be marked with 2m tape, use these areas to move around the zone but do not stop and chat in them, so others are free to move around too. A good rule of thumb is keep to your left if passing others when transiting.

3. **Children:** Children are to remain in their family units at all times and adhere to the 2m social distancing rule. If this becomes a problem then parents are free to take children outside and have them play there but always under direct supervision.
4. **Social Distancing & Face-Coverings:** Please continue to observe 2m social distancing and to wear face-covering during this time.
5. **Symptoms:** After the service if you develop symptoms suggestive of Covid-19 or are contact-traced, please inform Peter Lawley (by telephone) as a matter of priority.
6. **Cleaning Your Seat After The Service:** After the service and before you vacate your pew or chairs, we would ask that you briefly clean your seat. This is not a substitute for the ordinary cleaning of the church during the week (which is being enhanced) but is an extra layer of cleaning to ensure we are keeping the building as clean as possible.

Online-Services Continuing:

Both the live-streaming of services and the zoom fellowship (after the morning service) will be continuing during this period of regathering for those who do not feel able to attend church because of health concerns.