

Outdoor Worship Questions and Answers

When will we begin? We will begin weekly worship on Sunday, October 25, at 9:30 am. It is Reformation Sunday, so you may wear red if you want to.

How long will the service be? We will be moving things along since the more time spent around other people increases a person's risk of Covid (if someone nearby is infected). We are planning on a 30-40 minute service.

What about the weather? If it is raining worship outside will be cancelled that day and we will try again the next week. It could be hot and sunny, so please bring a hat to wear and sunglasses.

What if I don't think it is safe to attend at all? Then, please, stay home. The *Worship In The Home* video will still be made available so that those who do not think it is safe to be in a large-group gathering.

What if I have someone in my vehicle who has trouble walking long distances? If you have someone in your vehicle that cannot walk a long distance, pull over to the left as you enter the parking lot and let your passenger out, then go park your car. An usher will check in your passenger there and lead them to an open spot in the parking lot. You will need to check in before entering the breezeway.

What will I need to bring? Please bring your own lawn chair (if you are sitting on the parking lot) or blanket (if you are sitting on the grass). If you do not have one there will be a limited number of chairs from the fellowship hall to use.

What if I need to use a restroom? We are trying to limit the use of the bathrooms. Please go ahead of time so that you do not need to use one. This limits the possibility of exposure to others who may have Covid-19, but may be asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic.

Will we be able to sing? We hope so. If we worship outside and it is relatively still, then, yes, we will sing. If it is windy, then we may have Cantor Brian sing. If we were to worship inside, then absolutely not. Singing is one of the most dangerous things we can do during this pandemic.

Will there be Holy Communion? Initially, no. We want to be able to see how this goes before we decide what is the safest way to distribute communion. But it is our goal to work toward making our worship outdoors as full and rich as possible, including communion.

Why can't we greet people we haven't seen in months and months with a hug? You cannot keep proper physical distancing and hug people, too. For their health and yours, just don't.

What are 'layers of protection' that we are applying? Nothing is absolutely safe right now, but think about layers of protection. Being outside rather than inside is one layer. Physically distancing from others is another layer. Washing our hands, or sanitizing our hands, is another layer. Wearing masks over both our mouths and our noses is another layer. Each layer reduces the risk of contracting Covid, but it doesn't eliminate the risk.

Why do we need to ask questions when we attend? We want to be a responsible party in the love and care for our neighbors. This means that we gather the names of those in attendance so that should someone inform us that they have tested positive for Covid-19 that we can inform all those who may have been in attendance that day. It may also mean that we halt outdoor worship for a couple weeks, too. Contact tracing is one tool that health professionals use to guide us through the pandemic.

What will happen to those who do not bring a mask? One will be provided for you.

What will happen to those who are not willing to wear a mask? They will be asked to leave.

What happens if they refuse to leave? The worship service will be done and we will all go home.

What happens if they say that they have a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask? Then they shouldn't be there. If their health is so fragile that they cannot wear a mask then they should not be in a large group gathering, like worship. Mask wearing, and wearing it properly, is mandatory, not optional.

I want to talk with Pastor Tim or thank Cantor Brian for sharing his musical gifts, what can I do? Give them a telephone call later that day, or the next day, or the next week. They would gladly talk with you, but they are trying to limit their exposure too.

What about the Zoom Coffee Hour and the Book Study group? Pastor Tim will conclude the worship service and then make his way to the office where he will connect with others via Zoom. The Zoom Coffee Hour will be moved back to 10:30 am and the Book Study will start at 11:00 am (its normal time).

What does Trinity need? We are having a challenging time procuring rolls of paper towels and isopropyl alcohol for cleaning purposes. If you can help, please bring those items with you and we will make sure our custodian gets them.

Why does Trinity need those items when we are outside? This is to help us prepare for when we can start to have meetings in the fellowship hall. As of right now (end of October 2020) the numbers are rising again. It may be some time before it is safe for us to gather indoors, but with the additional supplies, we will be ready when the time comes.