

May 20, 2020

We are glad you are thinking about worshipping with First Baptist.

After many weeks on Facebook Live, we would like to invite you to worship with us in person starting Sunday, May 24 at 9:30am—as long as you are willing to be inconvenienced to keep your neighbors safe.

Going out of our way to protect others is right in light of what God has taught us:

John 15:12—“This is My commandment, that you **love one another**, just as I have loved you.”

Philippians 2:3—“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind **regard one another as more important than yourselves.**”

1 Corinthians 13:13—“But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; **but the greatest of these is love.**”

There are lots of differing opinions, but we have worked to put practices in place to protect each other.

First, two pleas:

- 1) If your immune system is compromised, if you have serious underlying health conditions (especially respiratory issues or diabetes), or if you take care of someone who does, please refrain from gathering with us at this time. You can watch the service at 9:30am at www.facebook.com/NewtonFirstBaptist.
- 2) If you have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days or have had any of the following symptoms in the previous 3 days, please stay home: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and/or new loss of taste or smell.

Now for an overview of the procedures we will be following that you can use as a checklist to prepare for worship:

Before You Come

- Please bring and wear a face mask. We have extras for those who don't have one. We will wear face masks even when we are singing. (We will leave it up to parents to decide about their children and masks. The American Academy of Pediatrics discourages masks on kids under 2).
- There will be no nursery, so please bring what you need for your small children during the service. Two mothers' rooms will be available; ask the ushers if you think you may need them. We have made up individual, non-reusable, “goodie” bags just in case.
- Please bring your own Bible, pen, and paper.

- The playground will not be available before or after worship.
- If it is calling for rain, please bring an umbrella in case you have to wait to enter the building.
- We will start at 9:30am. Because you will be seated by ushers, please plan to come early (coming at 9:10 should give you enough time).

When You Arrive

- Please enter through the main front door.
- Please wear your mask and practice social distancing while waiting to be seated by an usher.
- An usher will ask you, "Have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days? Have you had any of the following symptoms in the previous 3 days: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and/or new loss of taste or smell?" If so, you will be encouraged to wait until you are safe before attending.
- You will be seated at a safe distance from others (with two empty pews and at least 6 feet between you and those not in your family).
- If the room fills to capacity, we have several areas besides the sanctuary equipped with screens so you can participate in worship with others. The ushers will guide you to an overflow room if needed.

During the Service

- Please wear your mask—even as we sing.
- Try to touch as little as possible. If you can avoid using the restroom, please do so.

Following the Service

- Please remain in your seat. The ushers will direct you when to exit the sanctuary or the overflow rooms.
- As you leave, remember to leave the concrete area outside the front doors free and clear for those leaving.

Lord willing, we will see you soon!

Pastor Tommy