



July 9, 2020

Dear congregation,

The session would like to thank you for your patience and prayers as we seek the Lord and his guidance for HPC. We have had many discussions about the recent COVID-19 proclamations and guidance from local and state authorities. Our aim is to honor the Lord, love our neighbors well (Matt 22:39) and be subject to governing authorities (Rom 13:1ff.). We look forward to the Lord's Day when the entire body assembles to worship our triune God at the HPC facility!

We know from extensive research and lengthy conversations among us that there are varying and quite divergent views on the severity of the pandemic, and the way government authorities are responding to the pandemic via proclamations and guidance. Our desire is not to take a position on these varying viewpoints, sincerely held as they are by wise and informed individuals. Even among us at HPC there is a diversity of opinions, and we encourage everyone not to allow this situation to divide the body of Christ. Our desire is, with his help, to do the Lord's will, and we do not at this time see the proclamations or guidance issued as compelling us to sin either by omission (not doing what God commands) or commission (doing what God forbids). While the situation is not ideal, and we greatly desire a return to normalcy, we do believe that we can honor our governing authorities in this matter without sin.

In keeping with the above commitments, the session has decided to resume public worship beginning July 12, 2020. The maximum indoor capacity in our facility for Phase 2 in King County is 58 persons. Any additional worshippers at our location will need to live stream from the parking lot. For those participating in this manner, please come in and get celebration cups for Holy Communion before the start of the worship service.

For the safety and health of those assembled for worship, the session believes it wise and prudent to follow the State Secretary of Health's order and the Governor's requirements for faith-based organizations (for reference see Secretary of Health Order 20-03, and "Phase 1, Modified Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3 Religious and Faith-based Organization COVID-19 Requirements" — these and other pertinent documents available online). ***Cloth face coverings, or masks, are required for in-person worship at HPC.***

For a variety of reasons, members of our Hope family will not be able to attend; among these are:

- The individual/family is among those deemed more at-risk for COVID-19 infection due to age or an underlying medical condition.
- The individual/family is self-quarantining due to actual or potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus.
- The individual/family has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- The individual/family is experiencing symptoms that may indicate COVID-19 infection.
- The individual/family is unable to wear a face covering for medical reasons.

The HPC session in accordance with the authorities' instructions, offers the following accommodations for those unable to worship in the HPC facility: ***i) Live stream the worship service from home; ii) If you are able to leave your home, live stream the worship service and participate in Holy Communion from the parking lot.***

In preparation for Sunday, the session is providing the following instructions for in-person worship:

1. In order to enter the HPC facility you must wear a cloth face covering, or mask. If you do not have a mask, we can provide one for you.
2. Remember to maintain 6-foot social distancing.
3. We will have a limited number of printed bulletins. You are strongly encouraged to use the emailed PDF bulletin on your smart phones and tablets.
4. Use the hand sanitizers provided and avoid high touch objects when possible.
5. The downstairs remains closed.
6. Members of an at-risk group because of an underlying condition (age group; medical condition, etc.) are encouraged to stream from home or from your vehicles.
7. Please do not come to church if you are currently self-quarantining due to actual or possible exposure to a COVID infected person, or sick or displaying signs that may be COVID-related.

The session is grateful to our Sovereign Lord who, in his providence, has given us these opportunities to worship him in these new and different ways. And to the congregation, even though there will be differences of perspective and opinion on the current responses to COVID-19, we want to thank you for the charity, love and understanding you have expressed.

For Christ and his kingdom,

*THE HPC SESSION*