

IN-PERSON WORSHIP BEGINS HOLY WEEK

DARREN BRANDON, SENIOR PASTOR

No one can deny the life-changing experience of COVID, which began a year ago. We all have stories of how friends and family have been impacted. Many of us have experienced the death of loved ones from COVID, including several faithful St. Paul members.

During Holy Week, we come face to face with a betrayed, denied, suffering Jesus. The resurrection proclaims that suffering never has the final word in our lives. On Easter, the grace "that makes all things new" dawns in a simple garden. It has been a long journey through the COVID experience, and we are not out of the woods yet.

Encouragement is on the horizon as more and more folks receive vaccinations and cases become fewer in our state and county. These new developments caused us to revisit our existing COVID policy. After conversations with staff, the church leadership team, and the Health and Wellness Team, we have decided to resume in-person worship on a limited basis. I am grateful for the collaboration of these teams and their continued guidance in navigating this complicated situation. Please know that online streaming of worship on Facebook will continue indefinitely.

The Plan:

Let me begin by saying that our value has always been our members and community's safety. While we are gradually resuming in-person worship, we know that everyone must consider their own risk factors as to whether this is the right time for you to be in person.

The plan includes indoor and outdoor services for Holy Week and Easter. (See below)

The indoor services are limited to 100 persons. It will help us greatly in our planning if you would use the links on page 4 to let us know if you plan to attend the Holy Week and Easter Services. You can also email genie@stpaulchurchky.org or call the church office at 502-459-1595. **You don't have to have a reservation to attend, but your response allows us to plan accordingly.**

We are providing overflow rooms to accommodate everyone interested in attending. Ushers and greeters will help facilitate this, if needed. Your choice to be at a service will not knock someone else out of being able to attend, so please let us know if you plan on coming.

We are preparing a more detailed plan, but here are



some guidelines. **Everyone is asked to wear masks and practice six feet social distancing. There will be one entrance and exit with allowances for those who will need the use of the elevators. Masks and sanitizing stations will be available. All services will include beautiful music but no congregational singing at the indoor services.**

The Schedule:

Holy Week Services (additional details on page 4):

Maundy Thursday Service: 7:00pm, April 1, 2021,
Inside: Sanctuary

Good Friday Service: 7:00pm, April 2, 2021, Outside:
Front Steps of Sanctuary

Sunday Services for Easter:

Easter Sunrise Service: 7:30am, April 4, 2021,
- Outside: Front Steps of Sanctuary

Easter Koinonia Service: 9:00am, April 4, 2021,
- Inside: Gym

Easter Traditional Service: 11:00am, April 4, 2021,
- Inside: Sanctuary

After Easter:

Each Sunday after Easter (beginning April 11th) we will have one in-person worship service at 10:00am, limited to 100 people. We'll continue with a blended service of traditional and Koinonia elements, alternating styles each week. Once the technology is in place, we also plan to alternate between the sanctuary and gym.

What I have appreciated most throughout this experience is your patience and grace. We know that changing plans has been confusing and may have inconvenienced you, but you hung in there and responded with grace and encouragement. Thank you. I can't imagine a better witness to God's love than to be gracious in moments of frustration. Someone recently emailed to say, "Do your best and trust the rest to God."

Hebrews 6:19 has encouraged me through this, "We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor for the soul." Yes, we do!

Grace and Peace,

Darren

