

Hello Family of Believers!

The first letter Pastor Koglin wrote when we had to close our in person and in the building worship was a heavy one. Since that time, we have learned the truth of these words:

*First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. <sup>9</sup> God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you <sup>10</sup> in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you. <sup>11</sup> I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— <sup>12</sup> that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. <sup>13</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you.*

Romans 1:8-13

Since that time, we have had the desire of this Psalm growing in our hearts.

*O LORD, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.* Psalm 26:8

Since that time, we have been reminded that church is bigger than a building and that faith development in our homes is CRUCIAL!

*<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.* Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Or as Joshua says, "As for me and my house....we will serve the Lord!"

God has reminded us to never take worshipping TOGETHER for granted. We have been reminded of just how important it is to us and we are reminded to keep this a priority in our schedules as all of life starts to begin again.

We now want to make you aware of our Three Phase plan for worshipping together!!!! Please note these phases are for worship only. Our focus now is first priorities -- which is worship. Spaces for other use will come later. Right now – let's focus on worshipping together!

### **Phase 1: Livestream Only**

Our proclamation of the Gospel through Phase 1 and Livestream Only reached more people per weekend than any in person service ever has! **We connected online with over 90% of our congregation** plus many of us had neighbors, friends, family, coworkers join us! We added communion, and on Father's Day communed over 162 people in the parking lot. Plus: High Fives, Elders calling zones, Stephen Ministers calling, and our calling tree for anyone we knew who was not participating online!

### **Phase 2: Livestream + Outdoor Worship (Begins July 16<sup>th</sup> and July 19<sup>th</sup>)**

We are now excited to enter phase 2! We will continue the high quality of our livestream at 8 am every Sunday Morning. In addition, we will add 30 minute Communion Services in our Parking Lot on **Thursdays at 6 pm** and **Sunday Mornings at 10am!**

As Communion now is again becoming a part of the service, starting July 6 we will be **DISCONTINUING individual drive-through communion** in the parking lot on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays. Our Pastors and Elders will reassess if this Outdoor Worship option meets our communion needs sometime in August once Pastor Koglin is back from paternity leave and Pastor Loos is back from vacation.

There are three comfort levels in this plan: Livestream for those not comfortable coming out yet; twenty two (22!) spots in the parking lot designated for those comfortable coming out but wanting to stay in their cars; and fifty five (55!) socially distanced areas marked for those comfortable sitting on your lawn chairs! All comfort levels are valued, cared for by the Lord and a part of our Family of Believers. This is a great picture of us coming together and supporting each other. *Note: If you stay in your car you will have less contact with others than at the drive-through communion.*

***Please review the attached document that explains how to take part, enter, exit, and the different components of this Outdoor Worship option.***

### **Phase 3: Livestream + Outdoor + Indoor**

We are also currently working hard to safely enter Phase 3 and add an indoor option!!!! Right now we are working on setting up for social distancing, getting the help we need to make this happen, finalizing all our safety measures, and getting the full picture of the adequacy of ventilation in our building. All of these together are critical to opening our church to worship and with you feeling comfortable and safe doing so.

As we prepare for Phase 3, know that we **will stay committed to our Livestream option at 8 am every Sunday** and the Outdoor Worship option potentially moving to Thursday evenings at 6pm only. To help us best gauge the interest in gathering in the building for worship, please answer the survey included with this letter. If able, the easiest way to answer is on our website ([www.redeemer-rochester.com](http://www.redeemer-rochester.com)). Simply click the link. This will help us better understand the number of services and times of those service options on Sunday Mornings.

As you do, please consider what indoor worship will mean: social distancing (overflow would be sent to our South Fellowship Hall to watch on screen); wearing of masks for anyone 2+; there would be minimal to no congregational singing (at least at first); no shaking of hands or hugs; self-checking of symptoms and staying home if sick; and an encouragement for anyone at high risk of serious complications, not comfortable, or 65+ to consider continuing to use our Livestream option. We feel your understanding of these expectations may be helpful as you consider your answers to this survey.

That is heavy to write as a staff and transition team, and hard to read as a member. These words from Haggai come to mind:

*“On the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: <sup>2</sup>“Speak to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people. Ask them, <sup>3</sup>‘Who of you is left who saw this house in its former glory? How does it look to you now? Does it not seem to you like nothing?’ <sup>4</sup>But now be strong, Zerubbabel,’ declares the LORD. ‘Be strong, Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land,’ declares the LORD, ‘and work. For I am with you,’ declares the LORD Almighty. <sup>5</sup>‘This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear.”* Haggai 2:1-5 see also Ezra 3:10-13

It will be different for a time, but we will be together! It will be different for a time, but Jesus remains the same. It will be different for a time, but God is good and his steadfast love remains forever!

God’s Blessings!

Pastor Koglin, Pastor Loos, Michael Harvey, April Beckman, Josh Heirigs, Chris Tjosaas, Randy Kautz, Bill Cochran, Grant Wilson, Tim Kanne, Aaron Peter, Ric Thieke, Connie Scheid, Lowell Dale, Delores McGillivray.

Redeemer is currently entering into Phase 2 of our Worship Plan. Livestream + Outdoor and we are working towards Phase 3 which would include an indoor option on Sunday Mornings. To help us plan we ask that you please answer this one question! Survey is best to be fillout out online. See our website or facebook. If you cannot fill out electronically simply send this sheet back to the church office.

When Redeemer enters into Phase 3 for worship in the near future which of the three worship options would you most likely attend?

\_\_\_\_\_ Livestream Only 8am Sunday Morning

\_\_\_\_\_ Outdoor Worship 6pm Thursday

\_\_\_\_\_ Indoor Worship Sunday Morning

Anything on your heart you feel you would like to share with our Transition Team?

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