

Good afternoon,

As we mentioned over the last couple of weeks, we are preparing to reopen for public services starting next **Sunday, June 21**. We will be in compliance with the Alberta Health Services guidelines for Places of Worship. As such, public services will look somewhat different than before COVID-19. Specifically, families and family cohort groups must maintain 2 metre social distancing and so we have set up the chairs in the Sanctuary to accommodate this requirement. Secondly, congregational singing is strongly discouraged as at this point as there is evidence that singing is more effective at spreading infection if someone who is ill is present. We will still have music in our services to lead us into worship and we will have an opportunity to explore some other forms of worship to lead us into God's presence as well.

As we figure out over this next 5 week evaluation period how this will work for us, we want give you as much information as we can. So, here is what you can expect starting next week:

1. We will **offer 2 services on Sunday morning** starting June 21 **at 9:30am and 11am** due to reduced seating capacity. For the first 2 weeks we will have no Ridge Kids ministry and invite our children to join us in the sanctuary. You can expect a worship service length of about 45 minutes as we adjust our worship time and sermon length to account for the guidelines and presence of children. We will livestream the 9:30am service and it will also be available to access at 11am online if you are not yet ready, for any reason, to attend in person. We will provide more information on the livestream link next week, or you can always go to our website, [www.grchurch.ca](http://www.grchurch.ca), and you will be able to access it next Sunday.
2. We are planning on **restarting Ridge Kids** for age 3 to 10 on July 5 following the AHS guidance for Day Camps as allowed for in the Place of Worship guidelines. AHS does not allow nursery services (age 0-2) at this time. More details will follow in the coming weeks.
3. We have made a **short video** so you can see **what to expect** when you arrive next week. Please use this link to view: [GRC Reopening - What To Expect](#).
4. Also, as our seating capacity is limited, we are asking you to **acquire free "tickets"** from Eventbrite so we can manage our attendance to the number

of seats available. Please use this link: [GRC Eventbrite Tickets](#) and click on “Select A Time” to register for the service you will attend and the number of “tickets” you require.

5. As we reopen **we invite any and all feedback** and suggestions over these next several weeks. Feel free to call, email or even to drop by the GRC building this week and have a look around – we would love to have you stop in!

We trust that God will grant us patience and grace in rich abundance as we proceed to reopen. We know that perspectives and feelings on reopening vary widely in our communities and in our congregation and some may feel we are being too restrictive and others may feel we are not being restrictive enough. We wouldn't want reopening to cause division in our church or even within families. Please know that whether you choose to return to public services right away or choose not to return just yet (for any reason), your decision is good. We will take our instruction from 1 Corinthians 8 that we be careful not to exercise our “rights” to the detriment of others.

Please join us online tomorrow as we worship together. We will be looking at Jesus washing His disciples feet and how that instructs us on living in these times of racism and division. We will begin a new series on June 21 on Great Stories as we trace God's work and plan through some of the great stories of the Old Testament. Looking forward to seeing you virtually tomorrow.

May God's richest blessings rest upon each of you!

Pastor Cam and Pastor Eric

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