

Members and Friends of Grace,

The relaunch of in person worship at Grace will begin on Sunday, August 9, 2020. The Relaunch Guide Team has worked very hard to create a worship setting that will be safe for all who choose to attend. Please know that the online worship experience will continue to be available for those whose personal or health situations make remaining at home the best choice for them.

As in the past, there will be two services, a 9am Contemporary Worship service in TFEC and an 11am Traditional Worship service in the main Sanctuary. Other than the familiar times, there will be much that is unfamiliar. Hopefully this notice will give you a clear picture of what to expect should you decide to attend.

Let's walk together through a Sunday morning, starting at home and ending with your exit from the church after worship has ended.

### **Before Coming to Church.**

1. The sanctuary and TFEC have been set up for social distancing. Seating is limited to 120 in TFEC and to 100 in the sanctuary.
2. In order to be sure there is a place for you, please reserve a space online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DADA828A7FBC52-grace1> for the contemporary service or <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DADA828A7FBC52-grace2> for the traditional service. You can also reserve a space by calling the church office at 941-488-1374. Please include your name, email address and the number of seats you would like to reserve. The information you provide will help us to prepare our worship spaces and provide you with pertinent information in the event that someone from a particular service tests positive for COVID-19. The deadline for making reservations is midnight on Saturday. Guests and visitors are always welcome. A number of seats in each worship services will be reserved for first-time guests and visitors.
3. We continue to encourage persons who are 65+ and those who have an underlying health conditions to avoid crowds and to take measures to limit exposure. **Worship will continue to be available online at our church website at [graceontheisland.com](http://graceontheisland.com).**
4. Everyone should perform a self-check assessment at home before coming to worship. Please stay home if you have any of the following: signs of a fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
5. Face coverings are required for everyone attending worship. Should you forget to bring one to church, one will be provided for you.
6. Please note, all bibles, hymnals and attendance cards have been removed from TFEC and the sanctuary. If you wish to have a bible in church, please bring one from home. Scriptures will be projected on screen.
7. We ask everyone to refrain from greeting others with hugs or handshakes for now. A nod of the head or a simple gesture like praying hands works *almost* as well, both before the service and during the passing of the peace.
8. No food or drink will be available or allowed as eating or drinking would require removing a face covering.
9. Our practice of celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month will continue, however the distribution of elements will be modified.

### **Arriving at Church.**

1. Access to TFEC (Contemporary worship) will be through the entrance doors under the portico. Members of our Community Wellness Team will be present to hold the door open, greet you and direct you.
2. Access to the sanctuary will be through the entrance doors under the portico or the main doors facing Field Avenue. Access to the sanctuary will be through the doors from the lobby. The doors in the hallway to the music wing will not be opened. Members of our Wellness Team will be present to hold the door open, greet you and direct you.

3. When you arrive, you will be checked in, and an usher or wellness team member will guide you to your seat.
4. In TFEC, seats are arranged for social distancing. Seats furthest from the entrance doors will be filled first and seats nearest the entrance will be filled last. An usher or wellness team member will escort you to your seat.

In the sanctuary, seating will be from the front to the rear. Those entering from Field Avenue will be ushered to seats on the Field Avenue side of the sanctuary. Those entering from the portico doors will be ushered to seats on that side of the sanctuary. Those needing the hearing loop in the rear of the sanctuary will be accommodated. This pattern of seating allows for social distancing while worshipers are seated. The seat you are ushered to will depend in part on when you arrive for worship and how many have been seated ahead of you. It will not be possible for you to select your own seat for worship.

5. Blue decals on the outside walkways and inside the buildings are there to assist with social distancing and to prevent congregating as people arrive for worship.
6. Hand sanitizing stations will be available in the entrance areas as well as in the worship areas.
7. Restrooms will be adapted to limit points of physical contact and ensure social distancing.
8. Offering boxes will be attached to pillars in the sanctuary where worshipers will enter and exit. In TFEC they will be near the entrance and exit doors. Worshipers are invited to drop their offering in the boxes when entering or exiting the service. If you prefer, you may make your contribution by using the link available on our website at [graceontheisland.com/give](http://graceontheisland.com/give)

### **The Worship Experience.**

1. Sunday School, Children's Church, and the Nursery will not be offered at this time. Children attending worship with their parents will remain with parents for the service. In TFEC, tables have been set up at the back to accommodate family seating and groups of more than 4.
2. The quiet room in TFEC will be limited to one family.
3. Printed bulletins will not be used at this time. Information normally found in a printed bulletin will be displayed on the large screens in each worship space.
4. Worship will be shorter than usual. We will include a variety of music but not live congregational singing. It is well known that singing is one of the most effective ways of spreading the virus. It is not yet known how effective face coverings are in preventing the spread from singers. Therefore, until more is known about singing and face masks, the Relaunch Guide Team, has opted to exclude congregational singing from worship.

### **Following Worship.**

1. Worshipers in TFEC will leave worship when directed to do so by the ushers, exiting through the doors furthest from the entrance, walking back down the classroom hallway to the main entrance area, and exiting the building through the portico doors. The exit doors on the east side of TFEC will not be opened.
2. Worshipers in the sanctuary will leave worship from the back to the front, when directed to do so by the ushers, exiting a row at a time.
3. Worshipers are asked to not congregate in groups following worship but to leave the building, maintaining social distancing.
4. Showing care and concern for one another is everyone's responsibility, For the sake of all who gather for worship and work at the church, please call the church office and inform us if you have come into contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or if you become ill after attending a worship service or activity at church.

We believe our worship is an act of love and devotion toward God and that following these guidelines is an act of love toward our neighbors and others who may be more at risk or who are caring for someone who is at risk. So, let us continue to love God and love one another well.

Blessings,

Pastor Robin and The Relaunch Guide Team