

Information sheet for St. Georges Church Re-opening Plans beginning September 13, 9am

Note: This new way of worshipping will be new for everyone and may evolve as we experience it over a few weeks. Feel free to feedback to Karen or Debbie any suggestions or encouragements.

Planning to come

If you are planning to come to St. Georges for a worship service which will begin on September 13, it will be best if you register your intentions with the office. This will mean either an email to office@st-georges.org or a phone message at 514-866-7113. In every case, St. Georges will require contact information for everyone who is attending, so that in the event of anyone reporting a case of Covid-19, contact tracers will be able to contact you. This will mean either an email, (recorded with your email) or a phone number. A list will be prepared beforehand, and you will be checked-in at the door. If you are a visitor, or if you have been unable to register, we will collect your information at the door.

Bring a mask, as you will be required to wear it during the whole service. Children 5-12 are encouraged, but not required to wear a mask. (Greeters will have a few on hand if you have forgotten yours.) There will be no coffee hour or social time. A collection plate will be placed at the back of the church for your offering. Please use it as you leave.

As you enter

As you enter St. Georges (from the main front door only), you will be asked to use the hand sanitizer that will be right there. In addition, seating has been mapped out, and you will be told where you can sit, according to the order in which you enter. You will be asked to enter up the centre aisle and take the vacant seat nearest the front marked with a large green dot. Please follow the volunteer's directions, it will make everyone safer. There is room for one person at every green dot, though couples and very small groups (three or fewer) who live in the same household may be seated at the same green dot. You are asked not to move from your assigned seat and to stay close to the green dot. These dots have been placed so as to assure that distances are kept. Larger groups may need to sit at two or three different dots. The side aisle on the right may be preferred by families, though they will be permitted where they prefer. is reserved for families with children, but if they prefer, they may sit in the main part of the church. As the centre aisle fills, you will be directed to the right-side aisle, which have also been marked with green dots. We are going to use a screen at the right side, so the left side may not work for you.

During the Service

Initially, we will do a morning prayer service, and transition on a later Sunday to a Eucharist, as we get used to the new realities. In any event, we will have some music, we look forward to Philip, our organist, being able to offer a prelude, and a postlude and an interlude. Please note that you will be asked to remain seated until the postlude is over at the end of the service. In addition, we will eventually offer a vocal piece or two, performed from the sanctuary with appropriate social distancing. All musicians will be at least 4 metres from anyone in the congregation and distanced from each other. As we get used to the new reality, we will offer more music, and a more varied repertoire. In any event,

until the public health and the diocese change their recommendations, **there will be no congregational singing.**

We will not be handing out any books, neither service books nor hymn books. Neither will there be a bulletin. Fortunately, St. Georges has a projector and a screen, and everything that you will need will be projected on the screen, resembling our Zoom meetings. Prayer requests will be taken at the door, and if possible, they should come prepared in written form. We want as little lingering at the door as possible. There will also be a place during the prayers for you to offer up the names yourself, of those who you would like to pray for.

Several weeks into our new service offerings we will move into doing a **Eucharist**. This will also mean several changes from what we have come to see as the norm. Except for the presider, we will be offering this in the form of bread only. Please be assured of the fullness of the grace of the eucharist when it is offered in this way. The congregation will be asked to remain at their seats during the distribution of the bread, as the presider and lay administrant will move to the congregation, along the aisle, to administer communion. Rise with your mask on when they arrive at your pew and move towards the aisle to receive communion in your hand. Return to your seat to slip off your mask and consume the bread. As soon as feasible, replace your mask.

Bathroom breaks.

Sometimes, even with the most careful planning, we may need to use the bathroom during, or immediately before or after the service. Two bathrooms will be open in the hall, and there will be a monitor there to ensure that the bathroom is cleaned immediately after every use. A volunteer will direct you to the hall, and there, you will be asked to follow the arrows that are in place to assure one-way movement. Immediately after, please follow the arrows and return directly to your seat, or to the back door in the event that you are leaving. We appreciate the care you will need to take to maintain social distancing.

Leaving the church

At the end of the service, and after the postlude is finished, you will be asked to leave keeping the usual 2-metre distance. Again the St. Georges volunteer will assist an orderly departure, so please wait for their instructions. Those at the back will be asked to leave first, and those who are at the front will be last. This, of course, has biblical precedent (Matthew 20:16). This will assure that there is a minimum of close interaction between those who attend. We ask that you avoid lingering at the door.

A note of encouragement.

Many of these instructions for attending the worship services may seem quite strange, and they will take some getting used to. They are in place in order to keep everyone safe, so that worship services in person may continue. Our hope is that in time, they will come to feel more normal, especially as we realize that these practices are what is making worship face to face possible. In other words, our hope is that with these practices in place, we will continue to meet together for as long as it takes before we can safely return to our normal worship and sing and pray together without fear of causing sickness. And while everyone longs for that day, in the meantime, we can work together to make our worship as safe as humanly possible by following these simple restrictions.