

Trinity Church Reopening Plan for In-Person Services

Dear Trinity Church,

Happy New Year! We hope the Holiday season, while perhaps not ideal for everyone, was nonetheless a blessing to you as we celebrated the birth of Jesus and the coming of a new year. As you know, the pandemic has created major disruptions for many over the past several months. We encourage you now more than ever to really lean on God and His Truth during this time.

This letter is to inform you that we will begin offering an option to attend in-person services starting Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 10am. This in-person option will be complemented by a continuation of our online livestream. We expect to offer both options for the foreseeable future and encourage you to choose the best option for you and your family. Of course, this is all subject to change based on guidance from health officials and government guidelines.

The in-person option will look different from services we held prior to the pandemic. The outline below will provide the framework for those key differences. We encourage a “no shame” environment with reopening and each person and family should do what they are comfortable with regarding a return to in-person services. Let’s all use common sense and brotherly love.

Prior to Sunday

1. If you have symptoms, have been around someone who has tested positive, or have traveled to a hot spot area, please quarantine for the recommended time period.
2. If you are in the clear, pre-register for each service at tri.church/register
3. Receive your registration confirmation. You will be required to show your reservation to gain entrance to the building.
4. Each service will be limited to 50 people, inclusive of volunteers.
5. The church building will be cleaned each week prior to Sunday.
6. Hand sanitizer will be provided throughout the building.
7. We will start with one service at 10am, and seek to expand to two services when the timing is right.

Arriving At The Church Building

1. Wear a mask at all times if you are over the age of 2. You will not be allowed into the building without one. We will have masks on hand if you forget yours.
2. Form a line along Thorndale Avenue starting at the main entrance going west.
3. Maintain 6 feet of distance between you and others.
4. Wait until you are given the “green light” to enter the building. You will be queued into the building by an usher to ensure time and space for physical distancing.
5. Kids church will not be offered at this time, but families are welcome to bring their kids into the main service. We will provide activity packets for kids upon request.

Entering The Church Building

1. Show your Service Registration Confirmation to the Usher.
2. Ushers will administer a zero contact temperature check. If you have a temperature, you will unfortunately need to return home.
3. Head directly into the Auditorium and an usher will direct you/your group to sit in a designated seating spot.
4. Seating spots will be distanced at least 6 feet apart in all directions.
5. Wipes will be provided upon entry so you can wipe down your seat if you choose.

During Service

1. Windows will be opened to allow fresh air to circulate, depending on the outside air temperature.
2. Bibles and books will be removed from pews to avoid sharing of common objects.
3. Singing will occur, which is inline with other Chicago churches that are holding in-person services.
4. Worship leaders and speakers will not have masks on while they are on stage.
5. If you need to visit the restroom, please maintain 6 feet. Please use paper towels that are provided to operate the door handle as you enter and exit the bathroom.
6. Bathrooms will have a one way traffic flow. Walk down the stairs using the narrow stairs by the lobby. Return to the main floor via the Thorndale stairwell. Signs will be posted to help remind you.

After Service

1. Exit your seating area only when dismissed by the usher.
2. Self-serve communion cups with juice and crackers will be offered on the way out.
3. Exit using the Magnolia Avenue Exit.

Finally, in the unfortunate event that someone who attended a church service does test positive for COVID-19, we will notify all attendees from that Sunday and encourage them to take appropriate steps such as isolating for the recommended period.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement at Trinity Church during this difficult season. We look forward to holding in-person services starting January 10th while also continuing the option for a livestream service. We have faith that God will continue to build His church. We encourage you to pray for our church, our city, and our world as we continue to face this health crisis. Blessings to you.

Peace,

Matt Sweetman, Andy Tommelleo, Kyle Van Someren