



Growing Together in God's Grace
3232 Washington Road + Augusta, Georgia 30907
Phone: 706-860-0439
Email: www.adventaugusta.org
Website: advluch@adventaugusta.org
Worship 9:30am Sunday Morning

Dear Advent Family,

We praise the Lord for the gift in announcing:

Sunday, June 13th, 2021, we will be returning to inside worship!

To do this safely and effectively, there will be some protocols that all of us will need to follow set forth by Advent's Council, Taskforce and Reopening Committee.

Inside Worship Protocols:

- 1. You will need to register for worship.** This will help us to know how many will be gathering inside the sanctuary at Advent. Once the sanctuary is at capacity, we will have an overflow room for worship in the fellowship hall. There will be a large TV with Zoom to broadcast the service to enable participation with those in the sanctuary. Registering for worship helps us with contact tracing in case there is a COVID case in worship.
- 2. Registration.** The Registration link for worship is: <https://rsvp.church/r/k9lnpkUJ> When registering, please register yourself and the number of persons in your household who will be worshipping with you. If you are not able to register online, you may have another member register you. You can also contact the church office by the Thursday before Worship, and we will register you. If there is not an answer at the Church, please leave a message and by Thursday evening you will be registered for worship.
- 3. New Household definition.** A household is defined as anyone living in your immediate household. A new extension of this definition based on the new CDC statement is: If you are fully vaccinated (Two weeks after last vaccination shot), you may sit with others of a different household who are also vaccinated. An example of this, but is not limited to it would be: two single persons who are from different households but are vaccinated, may sit together in worship.
- 4. You must wear a mask.** It is important that even if you are vaccinated, all persons inside Advent's building must wear a mask. We wear a mask for the safety and care for those who are not, or cannot be vaccinated. The recommendation from the Ecumenical Working Group on the CDC's update for COVID is: "Many congregations include people who are unvaccinated, including children, older persons who have not yet been able to be vaccinated, and some who have refused vaccination. Unvaccinated people of any age can get the virus and spread it to others who are unvaccinated. When we are among those who may be unvaccinated, we recommend being as the unvaccinated for the sake of the unvaccinated-- for their safety, and to avoid stigmatizing them." The Council, Taskforce and Reopening Committee uphold this recommendation. (The Pastors will remove their mask when presiding/preaching in the chancel area/pulpit while being six feet away from any seating areas.)

5. **Entering for Worship.** On Sunday morning, the doors to the building will open at 9am. To enter for worship, here are the steps to follow:
 - a. You will check in with the Greeters at the front door. Masks will be available for any who would need one or in case you forget yours.
 - b. Hand Sanitizer will be at the doors to sanitize before entering and when leaving.
 - c. Once inside the building, an Usher will direct you to a table with Individual Communion Cups, Bulletins and the Offering Plate. You will individually take what you need for your household/group.
 - d. An Usher will show you to your seat to help households/groups observe safe social distancing practices. (While good Lutherans like their usual worship seat, we ask that for the sake of others, we restrain from asking for a specific seat until the restrictions are lifted.)
 - e. During the service, we ask that your mask remain on with the exception of a brief time during the consumption of communion.
 - f. The worship service will be fully contained within the bulletin. There will be no hymn books or other items in the pews to help with sanitation.
 - g. There will be hymns during the service for which you are free to sing. However, we are requesting that everyone sings at a softer level to help contain the spread of contaminants in the air.

6. **Restrooms.** The two restrooms in the narthex will be available for those worshipping in the sanctuary. The bathroom by the choir room will be available for those worshipping in the Fellowship Hall. Only one person may be in the restroom at a time. There will be signs that flip over to show the bathroom is occupied. Please flip this sign upon entering and exiting. After you are finished using the restroom, we ask that you use one of the provided Clorox wipes to disinfect after use. If you have any questions, there will be signs and a sanitation person available to help guide you.

7. **Exiting Worship.** After the service is finished, it is important for all persons to exit the building promptly. This is to help prevent the spread of COVID.
 - a. The Pastors will lead the procession outdoors.
 - b. There will be a time to greet one another and the Pastors outdoors.
 - c. An Usher will come to the sanctuary/fellowship hall and dismiss your row to proceed outdoors.
 - d. Once outside of the building, mingle and fellowship freely, while still practicing social distancing.
 - e. There will be a table set up for coffee and a time for fellowship to follow.

We know that these steps are extreme. However, your Council, Taskforce and Reopening Committee take the health and safety of all who gather at Advent seriously. We are excited to begin the transition to worshipping indoors. We praise God this day has finally come. However, we also look forward to a day in the near future where many of these steps can be removed. Until then, this is the safest way to begin the reentry into the Sanctuary at Advent.

We are excited to worship together inside in person to praise God to the highest together, while doing it in the safest way possible. We look forward to seeing you on June 13th for inside worship.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Jason Peterson and Pastor Andrea Windsor-Peterson