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September 13, 2020

Dear CCR family,

Back on May 24 I shared with you how the Lord was leading us as a church by reminding us of how God led Israel in a way that no one in the nation was left behind. Also, God led Israel into the Promised Land driving out the enemy “little by little”. Out of these scriptures we were instructed to leave no one behind and follow the Lord step by step. We saw God lead us another step in mid-June when we were blessed to be able to open the sanctuary for Wednesday night live services and Thursday evening live prayer. God has been faithful in blessing those times of gathering. Today we rejoice as God gives us another step as we look to resume live Sunday services on this coming Sunday, September 20. As we leaders have waited on the Lord for this next step He has, in His own time, shown us and encouraged us through speaking scripturally, with His “still small voice”, through circumstances and in the Godly desires of our hearts. The scriptures that He has given us have been in the following areas:

As to waiting for His timing:

Genesis 8:8-12

*8He [Noah] also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground. 9But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot, and she returned into the ark to him, for the waters were on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself. 10And he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out from the ark. 11Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth. 12So he waited yet another seven days and sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.*

As to regathering:

Isaiah 41

*I “Keep silence before Me, O coastlands, And let the people renew their strength! Let them come near, then let them speak; Let us come near together for judgment.*

*10Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’*

As to the continued assurance of His presence and protection:

Psalm 62

*1Truly my soul silently waits for God; From Him comes my salvation. 2He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.*

*5My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him. 6He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved. 7In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God. 8Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah*

This regathering for live Sunday services is just the next step. We may need to step back – as the Lord leads. We may be able to soon take additional steps forward: children’s ministry, indoor fellowship time, removal of social distancing, removal of mask use – as the Lord leads. For now, those steps are yet future.

Thank you to all of you who have prayed for our fellowship and prayed for us as leaders as we have sought and heard from the Lord. Also, praise God for those of you who have sought the Lord for yourselves as to how to use these recent months to individually grow stronger in the Lord, rested in Him, and been at peace in the comfort of your Christian walk and relationship with Jesus. Thank you to all of you who adapted and joined us virtually for prayer and Bible study. God has been working powerfully in all of these ways.

(Continued on reverse)

As we look forward to coming back together for live Sunday services there are a few details that we will be observing. Please familiarize yourself with them and if you have questions, leadership continues to be here to serve you.

### **Face masks**

All attendees over the age of 2 must wear a face mask when entering and exiting the building. Face masks may be removed once you are seated and will need to be put on again when you leave your seat.

Philippians 2:3

*Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.*

### **Seating**

Upon entering the sanctuary ushers will be available to help you be seated and socially distanced from those who are not a part of your household. Every other row of seating has been removed and we ask that you keep 3 or 4 seats between your family and others in your row that are not of your family. The children's ministry room will be used for overflow distanced seating with viewing provided on a large screen monitor.

### **Children**

At this step, children's ministry will not be open. Children will sit with their parents/guardians. Service time will be shortened to approximately 60 minutes to accommodate those with shorter attention spans.

### **Restrooms**

To maximize social distancing, we ask that you utilize your restrooms at home before coming to church. At church, restrooms will be open on the sanctuary level and the basement level to accommodate distancing.

### **Sanitation**

We are taking precautions to sanitize surfaces/doors to the best of our ability. Hand sanitizer is available in multiple locations.

### **Attendance parameters**

Before prayerfully considering attending a service please ask the following questions on behalf of your group:

- Are we showing any flu like symptoms?
- Have any of us had a fever of 100.4 or higher in the past 14 days?
- Have we had any unprotected exposure to someone who has tested positive for Covid-19?
- Is there any medical reason that we should not be out in public?

If you answer 'yes' to any of these questions we strongly encourage you to attend the livestream service at this time.

### **One last consideration**

Elderly individuals with co-morbidities (obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, immunosuppressant conditions, etc) are the most vulnerable to suffer from a Covid-19 infection. You may want to minimize your exposure to a congregational setting for a little while longer.

Even as we would all agree that these are unique and challenging days, we should also all be able to agree that we have seen God's faithfulness in our lives over these recent months. 2 Timothy 2:13 reminds us that *"If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself."* That is a blessed promise and assurance. As we prayerfully look forward to coming together again soon, as a body, to worship let us ask God to prepare our hearts for the unexpected, to be quick to be merciful, bountiful in grace, and never tiring in our love for Jesus and for each other.

*"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."* 1 Cor. 13: 13

Grace and peace to you,

Pastor Tom with John Ayers and Steve Skalandis  
Ps. 40:10