



Worship Both Online and at Hubbard Park Bandshell This Weekend (Weather Permitting)

PLEASE READ below for precautions and other information.

July 2, 2020

Dear Friends,

I miss you very much! And particularly those of you whom I haven't seen, but only spoken to over the telephone! I won't say things are "going back to normal," but we're beginning in-person worship this weekend. For this Sunday, July 5th, and then July 12th and 19th, we'll be gathering for worship in Hubbard Park at the Bandshell at 9 am (999 W. Main St. Meriden, in case you're unfamiliar). We'll have Morning Prayer and sermon there. **BRING A LAWNCHAIR OR BLANKET.** In the event of rain, we may have to cancel. Whatever the weather brings, there will still be an online service available Sunday morning. We'll inform you of any changes.

For those who are unable, or who **SHOULDN'T** attend, there will also be a YouTube version of the service. (Much like the ones we've been doing the past few months.) **AFTER** this weekend, the YouTube/online version of worship will be a livestream of the regular worship service, which will also then be available as a recording. This will be standard for us going forward: we're going to maintain and grow our online presence even as we return to in-person Sunday services.

Some important guidelines to follow while attending worship in person, even outdoors:

1. Bring your mask. Particularly when you are in close proximity to your friends and neighbors, this is an important caution and courtesy. The guideline is to wear the mask within six feet of others.
2. Attempt to maintain at least six feet of space between you and those who are not part of your immediate household. (“Social distancing.”)
3. Bring hand sanitizer. While we will not exchange the peace during Morning Prayer, regular hand washing (or sanitizing, when soap and water aren’t available) is important to reduce transmission of COVID19.
4. Please don’t make physical contact with other worshipers. Yes, I know we’re a friendly bunch, but right now, we need to be cautious about HOW we’re friendly. So don’t hug or shake hands while attending worship.
5. If you have a fever, or COVID19 symptoms, please stay home. If you have recently traveled outside of New England or NY/NJ, please stay home until two weeks have elapsed since your return.
6. If you are over 65, please consider staying home. We can’t mandate this, but age is a risk category. Speaking of which, if you are high risk for any other reason, please consider staying home.
7. If you have been exposed to someone with COVID19 within the last two weeks, even if you’re asymptomatic, please stay home.
8. We’ve been advised, as you are no doubt aware, that congregational singing and choirs are a potential means of transmission. For our outdoor worship services, there will be no music. When we return to the sanctuary, there will be no choir or congregational singing.

There are other guidelines we’ll convey to you over the next few days, particularly around building use and indoor worship, but these are the first, essential ones for our initial outdoor gatherings. I know this is all very strange to have to take precautions in order to gather with our friends to worship God. However, these are the times and circumstances that our generation of the church is facing, and I pray that we’ll continue to have the faith, strength, and love to thrive and grow in our generation as our ancestors did in generations past.

Blessings, peace, and the love of Jesus Christ be with you all,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Fr. Mark", written in dark ink on a light-colored background.