



Mission Springs Church of God
3705 Mission Springs Drive, Kelowna, BC

Returning to Church

Exhortation, Guidelines & Etiquette

As of July 1st, 2021

“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”

COLOSSIANS 3:12-15

PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER

First of all, you should know that all Public Health Orders with regards to faith gatherings have been rescinded as of July 1st, 2021. We are allowed to gather without hindrance or restriction.

MASKS & VACCINATION

There is still a **recommendation** that masks be worn indoors – especially for those who are not vaccinated. This is a recommendation, not an order, and will be left up to each individual. We will not ask for proof of vaccination.

SEATING

You may sit where you please anywhere in the main sanctuary or in the balcony. See point 3 below.

SINGING

You are permitted to sing.

March 8th, 2020 was the last time we gathered together as a whole church fellowship. That's 68 Sundays ago.

While it is exciting to finally be able to gather again, there are a few things we ask you to consider.

Please remember that everyone's experience with COVID-19 has been different. You do not know the story behind people's choices and you are not owed an explanation. If ever there has been a time to show grace and Christian love, this is it. Let's make the most of this opportunity!

“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” JOHN 13:35

We will be easing back into church life at Mission Springs Church of God, beginning with Sunday Morning Worship Services (10:30 a.m. – NOTE the new start time) and Wednesday evening prayer meeting (7:00 p.m.)

The online services will continue to be broadcast as we have become accustomed to these past 16 months: Sunday morning livestream, with the service posted later to “Audio and Video Sermons”; Wednesday evening Midweek Devotional.

As we are able to assess our people resources, we will be making plans to reintroduce ministries that were formerly in place as well as add new ministries. Please be patient with the process. And please prayerfully consider how you can do your part in this fellowship. Each of us has a role to play and you are needed!

POST-COVID 19 GUIDELINES AND ETIQUETTE

As we come back together, we want Mission Springs Church of God to be a place where people feel welcomed, loved, accepted and safe – no matter their opinions on COVID-19. As such, we are strongly suggesting the following while we ease back into ‘normal.’

1. If you are not feeling well, please stay home. This is just common courtesy and a way to show love to your church family.
2. Hand sanitizer will be available. Please feel free to use it, use your own hand sanitizer, or wash your hands with warm water and soap in the washrooms. Hand hygiene is a habit that should never go away.
3. Maintain your distance. We have become accustomed to having space around us. While this will probably

change over time, it may take more time for some than for others to feel comfortable being crowded. Allow people their space in the church benches, in the foyer and in the washrooms.

4. To begin with, refrain from shaking hands and certainly from hugging until you are certain that the other person is okay with this form of physical touch. Do not pressure anyone. It doesn’t hurt to ask, “May I shake your hand?” And do not take offense if people choose not to extend their hand. A smile, a wave and an elbow bump have all become perfectly acceptable ways of greeting. Accept them as such.

Opinions: We all have them. We feel strongly about them. We would like those around us to agree with us. When it comes to COVID-19 topics, opinions are many and varied. The church setting is not the place for you to exercise your debating and persuasive skills. Instead, after a 16 month absence from this place, let our gatherings be filled with testimonies about God’s faithfulness. We respectfully request that you:

5. do not ask a person if he/she has been vaccinated or to what degree he or she is vaccinated. Vaccination is a personal health matter. Just like we would not ask a person what he/she weighs, we have no right to ask a person’s vaccination status;
6. do not ask a person to explain his/her decision to wear or not to wear a mask. This is also a personal health decision;
7. avoid controversial topics in the church setting.

J was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

Ps. 122:1