

Huntsville Christian Church: What to Expect for In-person Worship

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Huntsville Christian Church (HCC) staff and leadership has diligently sought ways to continue to worship and serve our Lord while keeping everyone safe. Streaming worship services have been the best answer available for HCC and this will continue. But as the risk of the disease has reached to “low” risk assessment for infection, a measured approach to in-person worship will be implemented. This approach has been discussed, prayed over and adopted by the staff and leaders. Your patience, flexibility and cooperation in adhering to these guidelines is appreciated.

Protocol for attending in-person worship at HCC:

1. Arrival.

- a. A volunteer will meet you to provide guidance for entering the building while maintaining a six foot social distance. You may have a momentary wait for receiving these instructions.
- b. Please keep family members together. There will be no Sunday School, nursery or children’s activities until further notice.

2. Entering the building.

- a. Exterior doors on the South side of the building will be open – no need to touch door handles. Doors will be opened at 10:45am.
- b. Hand sanitizer will be available. Please sanitize your hands.
- c. **Masks covering the nose and mouth are required for all individuals over the age of 2 years** (Parents accept the risk of the child being exposed to COVID-19 while not wearing a mask). Masks will be available for those that need one, while supplies last.
- d. Individual communion elements will be available as you enter the auditorium. Please take one for each person intending to partake. Masks may be removed momentarily while partaking in communion.
- e. **You are requested to refrain from wandering about or loitering within the building, including kitchen areas and classrooms.** There will be no coffee, refreshments, etc. available. If you need to speak with a staff member, a volunteer, or a church officer, you are asked to make an appointment or arrange to meet outside the building while maintaining social distancing.

3. Entering the auditorium/over-flow room.

- a. The doors will be open – no need to touch door handles.
- b. An usher will seat your household with the goal of maintaining social distance. Please cooperate as you may not be able to sit in your preferred seat and/or with your preferred family/friends. Only household members will be seated together.
- c. Seating will be from the front of the room towards the back.
- d. **Please do not put the ushers in an awkward position of asking you to move.** We are asking that you comply with our guidelines.

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4. During the Worship Service.

- a. Ideally, please remain seated during the entire time. Nature may call, and that's okay – just maintain social distance and keep your mask on at all times while inside the building.
- b. Collection receptacles will be near the entrance to the auditorium. Place your offering in the receptacle as offering plates will not be passed during the service.
- c. Bulletins will not be provided. Feel free to download and print the bulletin provided to you during the week.
- d. Congregants are to wear masks at all times. Only personnel leading the worship activity on stage may remove masks while on stage; masks will be worn off stage.

5. Departing the auditorium/over-flow room.

- a. An usher will dismiss your group from the back of the room towards the front of the room. Please remain seated until instructed by an usher.
- b. Gather all your belongings and leave the room immediately and proceed to the parking lot while maintaining social distancing.
- c. Please take your used communion package and place it in the trash can on your way out.
- d. You are requested to refrain from wandering about or loitering within the building. There will be no coffee, refreshments, etc. available. If you need to speak with a staff member, a volunteer, or a church officer, you are asked to make an appointment or arrange to meet outside the building while maintaining social distancing.
- e. The building will be closed 15 minutes after conclusion of the worship service.

6. Using the restroom.

- a. Access to both men and women's restroom will be permitted. Please observe social distancing and recommended protocols. You may have a short wait.
- b. Maintain social distancing while going to or returning from the restroom.

7. Not attending?

- a. At-risk individuals, including those with compromised health issues and the elderly, are asked to continue to view services on-line at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwWS2vKXoBW3dkbEtWx3i4g>

Notes:

Ushers will close and lock exterior doors 10 minutes after start of worship; unlock and open door 10 minutes prior to end of worship.

Communication to congregation with these guidelines will include a request that each congregant self-screen using the same protocol used for employees and volunteers outlined in the HCC COVID-19 Response Plan. The self-screening involves a negative response to all of the following questions:

- 1) Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- 2) Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath or sore throat?
- 3) Have you had a fever in the last 48 hours?
- 4) Have you experienced new loss of taste or smell?
- 5) Have you experienced vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?