

Hi everybody,

We are excited to gather together this Sunday as God's people in God's presence. There is really nothing better in this life and in eternity than to worship and enjoy God as his gathered people. The Psalms capture this so well:

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

Psalm 122:1

“As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?”

Psalm 42:1-2

We know this is your heart. But we also know that there are many challenges to meeting indoors for us in this season: wearing masks, not seeing whole faces, sitting in groups 6 ft. apart, fear of getting sick, no children's ministry during worship, feeling controlled by the government, etc.. We, as your pastors, feel many of the same things with you.

Even so, we want to encourage you to make every effort to gather with us this Sunday. Right now, in countries like North Korea, Iran, and Indonesia, our brothers and sisters will risk death to gather together in caves, the woods, or behind drawn curtains. They will sing in whispers so as not to be heard; they will retrieve their bibles from holes in the ground.¹ While it is certainly uncomfortable and inconvenient for us to wear masks in church, they are a minor barrier compared to what others must endure to worship together. Let us view the worship challenges in this season as a reminder of just how precious our weekly worship is. Let us gather together with joy for the privilege of meeting as God's beloved people.



¹ Read more here: <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/stories/the-secret-and-surprising-ways-christians-worship-in-north-korea/>

We must always err on the side of being gracious and patient with each other in all this. We must remember that there are those who, for health reasons, cannot meet in person. But it is important to remember that our online Livestream is a provision for those who cannot make it for health or other unavoidable reasons. It is not meant as an alternative for those who can make it to the church building. We are compelled to gather in person because of the weight of biblical principles and the tremendous benefit of being with each other in God's presence.² Because we as elders are called to love you and lead you in following Jesus, we believe it is important to encourage you with this note.

Please know we are open to any questions or comments you have. We love you dearly and are eager to enjoy all the blessings God has for us as his people.

We are excited to enjoy with you the benefits God has in store for us as we gather this Sunday!

With much love and gratitude,



Pastor Jeff



Pastor Paul



Pastor Toby,

The Elders of King of Grace Church

² "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." (Matthew 18:20, ESV)

"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." (Acts 2:42-47, ESV)

"When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus," (1 Corinthians 5:4, ESV)

"What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up." (1 Corinthians 14:26, ESV)

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:24-25, ESV)