



CHURCH REOPENING UPDATE: In Person Worship Service

May 20, 2020

Aloha and a Blessed Friday morning to one and all. God is good and always faithful to them who trust and depends on His promises. COVID-19 have come to disrupt our way of life in a way that changed the way we think, the way we live our lives, in fellowship/gatherings, in our prayer, in worship and praise and even in our giving. It is our hope that the interruptions it brought about in our lives will set us up for greater things for the duration of year 2020.

While we had prayed for a perfect year 2020, it practically set us back in ways we could never imagine. COVID19 attempted to destroy everything that we are living for, lives were taken by the thousands, families losing love ones, the continued division of political parties became more irreconcilable, our constitutional rights infringed, jobs lost, while our thriving economy were on its way down to the worst recession. Individual lives took its toll for the worst, many more people resorted to suicidal attempt due to worries and life's uncertainties. It is sad, that the people of God can become stagnant and becomes complacent at times such as these desperate times. While it may be true what Scriptures says in **John 10:10 "The enemy come to steal, kill and destroy..."**. **"But greater is He that is in us than He that is in this world."** Perhaps the church needs change. Perhaps, God wanted to see in us a hunger and thirst that have been lost along our Christian journey as in the call to "return to our first love." In essence, this interruption of our lives will cause us to seek God more and be more aware of His presence and call upon our lives.

This is not the first time; the church has been turned upside down due to unforeseen and unimaginable circumstances. I do not remember a time when a pandemic worst than what we are facing now closed the doors of the house of God. No one warned us about COVID19, either. It simply came knocking one day and our daily lives became at a standstill. The world was devastated by a virus that could have been prevented. Nevertheless, there is good that came out of shutting down our churches. Church is a living, breathing, divine organism. **"No gates of hell shall prevail against it....." (Matt 16:18)** Though, forced to seek alternative measures to preach the Word of God, we reached far more listeners than we could ever expected. The enemy thought that he could shut down the Lord's church, but he was mistaken. There are more people who came to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ than a regular Sunday Worship Service. People from every walks of life, began to search and turn to God on their knees. There has not been any pandemic that got people to praying, wailing and calling on God upon their knees. We have also discovered gifts that we thought we never had. Through our Media Department our Worship Services, Bible Studies and Prayer meetings were broadcast live streaming on fb, which reach out to more people. It brought about the best in all of us.

March 22, 2020 marks the last Sunday of worship for the churches in Hawaii. As operational expenses and other expenses heightened, God continued to show forth His grace. We are always thankful to God, to those who remained faithful in their giving. The giving of God's people showed an extraordinary increase from preCOVID days. We pray that it will continue to increase as we see through the end of this crisis and help us move forward.

Therefore, there is GREAT NEWS as of today, May 21, 2020. **OUR CHURCH WILL OPEN ON SUNDAY, MAY 23, 2020** with its morning service at **10:30am and evening worship service at 6:00pm**. We give praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. In person spiritual worship services will be allowed beginning this Saturday, as long as we will follow the guidelines given, ie: social distancing and wear mask. For the last two months, there has been a roller coaster of change daily within the City and County and the State regulations.

There were many confusing turns of events and conflicting predictions made by science and those in authority that brought about fear. The media continues to propagate false information, that would make people remain "in house arrest". In his speech, Mayor Caldwell has said, **"Religious services can be a key resource to help many of us get through these tough times."** Praise be to God, he finally recognized the necessity of the church as essential to the wellbeing of people. Quiet petition and obedience overruled the extended lockdown set forth for June 30. The church is an asset to the community as they are given the responsibility to pray and give hope to those who are confuse and fearful. The community have been starving spiritually and in desperate need of guidance. While the church has been silent and compliant to the law in order of "staying in place", we thank God for your continued fervent prayers. JESUS ONCE AGAIN WON THE VICTORY! Amen....

PLEASE TAKE TIME TO REVIEW OUR CHURCH IN PERSON SPIRITUAL WORSHIP SERVICE'S PLANS AND INSTRUCTION FOR OUR OWN SAFETY MEASURES:

- Any person known to have had any contact with COVID-19 confirmed cases should not be allowed to attend the worship services. **PLEASE STAY HOME UNTIL YOU ARE CONFIRMED COVID FREE or obtain written note from your doctor.**
- Prior to and following any in-person service, the facility/church will be sanitized at its best.
- Attendance will be limited to regular adult attendees with no known COVID case.
- Please try to take your temperature at home, including all family members that plans to attend church.
- Any person who will have a fever will be sent home and stay home until fever is gone.
- High-risk individuals are advised to stay home and not attend the in-person services.
- Attendees may be advised not to engage in hand shaking, Aloha hugs and kissing and any other physical contact, however we can love on each other with the biggest smiles.
- Hand sanitizer is available in various place within the church or bring your own...
- Chairs in designated sitting areas such as the lounge area and the café, should be marked to keep non cohabitating congregants at least 6ft apart.
- People who live together may sit closer together but otherwise social distancing should be in place.
- Doors will be opened by ushers to prevent the need for congregants to touch doors while entering and exiting the church and sanctuary.
- Attendees must constantly wash their hands with soap for at least 20 seconds at a time.
- Elderly, pre existing condition and children are likely the victim of COVID19, we apologetically request that you stay home until the situation is confirmed safe.
- Wear Mask: AT ALL TIMES!
- DEFINITELY DO NOT CONGREGATE IN VISIBLE AREAS.

Pastor Melle and I are super excited to seeing you, worshipping with you again. Come bring a heart of praise and worship unto the Lord. This is our time to stand by and watch what only our God can do – making a way where we thought there was no way. He is the Way Maker, Miracle Worker, Light in the Darkness HE IS OUR GOD! Come and Worship with Us!

In His Awesome Service,

Eddie & Melle S. Aguinaldo

Eddie and Melle Aguinaldo
LotWM's Senior Pastors

cc: file

