

## **“Offline” Sunday Service at the International Free Church of Cologne**

**Announcement of the necessary safety rules:**

**June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Finally the time has come! On Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, for the first time in several weeks, the International Free Church of Cologne is inviting you to an “offline” regular worship service at our church at Salierring 25, 50677 Cologne. Service starts at 4 p.m. as usual. We are grateful and full of joy that we are able to worship together in our church again. As a church we are aware of our great responsibility in times like these and have developed a safety concept that we will apply with care, because service at our church should provide the building of faith and strength and not physical risk for infection.

According to security measures given by the city of Cologne and the state of North Rhine-Westphalia to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we have set up our own precautionary measures.

### **The following rules apply to worship services:**

- **The distance between two people must be more than 1,5 - 2 meters in each direction. This means seats inside the church are pre-placed and are not to be moved around. People who form one household in daily life can sit/stand closer to each other.**
- **Because of the before mentioned reasons the number of seats and the maximum number of people inside the church is reduced to 30 !! A registration before Sunday via (cell-)phone, WhatsApp or email is strongly recommended. Otherwise the participation in the service is not guaranteed.**
- **Entering and leaving the church building is managed by brothers and sisters from the church. Please follow their instructions and keep an appropriate distance at all times.**
- **Visitors must disinfect their hands before entering the church, disinfectant is provided in the entrance area.**
- **To keep track of possible infection chains, visitors need to be registered with the help of a visitor list. This list will be archived for 14 days and discarded after 14 days if no infection incident has occurred.**
- **Visitors have to wear face masks at all times to enter the church. Unfortunately entrance will be denied to people without masks.**
- **Physical contact such as: hugging, touching, shaking hands are strictly prohibited.**
- **Food and drinks are no longer offered after service. Neither are bibles and books. We recommended to bring you own bibles.**
- **Collection/financial offering can be given when leaving the church. Please follow instructions of our helpers.**
- **Singing out loud/Worshipping the Lord poses special risks for infection and is therefore not permitted during service.**
- **The Lord’s supper (communion) is currently suspended due to the high risk for infection.**
- **Entrance to the church to sick visitors and people with any sort of COVID-19 symptoms (coughing, fever, runny nose [except hay fever]) must be denied. In case of doubt stay at home for your own and everybody’s safety!**
- **It is not recommended for high-risk individuals (people with chronic diseases like heart or lung disease, immune suppression, people who are 60 years of age and older and also preschool children) to attend the service at church. We highly recommend the online service to those people.**

**Thank You all for your support!**

International Free Church Cologne (IFC-Cologne) Salierring 25, 50677 Cologne

A lot of things we do in our church right now will seem unusual. Some of them will look and feel strange and unfamiliar. But, we are confident that even under these special circumstances we can come together joyfully and thoughtfully to receive consolation and strength and to praise and thank our almighty God.

The possibility of online participation to our worship service via YouTube live stream will be offered as usual. It is proven that people can also come together to worship via the Internet. And with this new possibility developed in times of need and desperation, we are reaching not less, but more people around us and even around the world.

Further information on the online service are published at our website [www.ifk-koeln.de](http://www.ifk-koeln.de) every week!