

Hello everyone

Welcome to Online worship from the East church.

You've probably heard the exciting news that the East church will be open again next Sunday 20th September.

Sarah has produced a number of videos that will help you decide whether or not you want to join us and what to expect when you do come along.

We are taking part in the NHS test and protect scheme and so will be asking your for contact details when you come along.

To reduce queuing at the church door as much as possible, we have put together an online form which through which you can submit your contact details prior to coming to church.

Sarah has also produced a video describing this process to you in more detail. You'll find the videos on the home page of our website.

So take a look at what Sarah says or visit our returning to church page on the website which will be available from Monday.

Maybe you are wondering what will be in our 30 min service? I have produced a video to show what to expect and reassure you that all the expected parts of the service will still be going ahead even though the Scottish government regulations do not allow us to sing.

It's a first for us in other ways too.

The service is to be recorded and then will go our website and Facebook page as soon after the end of the service as possible. There will also be a DVD for you to take to people who do not have access to the website or facebook.

That phrase it's a first for us is a common one and also an appropriate theme for us today.

It's will be a new way of church for us next week, but remember there were many first in the history

of the church. I'm sure you can compile your own list fo church firsts.

But you wouldn't be the first to do so.

The Bible is full of people writing about firsts.

In the book of Acts there are several firsts picked out by Luke.

I mentioned one on Wednesday break. The first time Saul is called by the nickname Paul appears in Acts.

Today we are going to encounter a few others as we consider some stories from the early church.

And as we consider that idea of that's a first for us whether in the church or our everyday lives,

Remember what Paul writes to Timothy:

Take strength from the grace of God which is ours in Christ Jesus

Let us worship God.