

Winterthur, August 27, 2020

## **«Mask on» in church service**

After a longer phase with very low infection rates, the situation has unfortunately worsened again in the last few days. As of 27 August 2020, the Zurich cantonal government has therefore decided to take additional protective measures for heavily frequented locations and events involving more than 100 people. In many places, masks are now mandatory in indoor public areas, for example when shopping. These changes explicitly affect church services as well.

After careful consideration, the Leadership of GvC Winterthur has decided that from Thursday 27 August 2020 a mask will be compulsory for church services. This means that all worshipers aged 12 and over must wear a mask during the time they are in a building. The mask may be taken off when the person is seated in the numbered and appropriately spaced seats, but must be put on for singing. In consultation with the cantonal authorities, any quarantine can be avoided by wearing the protective mask continuously. For smaller groups such as small groups, ministry teams, etc., different regulations may apply. These are communicated individually by the respective responsible persons.

We are aware that this change is a strong interference in the way we celebrate our services. However, the mask obligation serves to protect our health and enables us to continue to celebrate our services together. In this way, we want to enable as many people as possible to encounter God in our events and thus to come to blossom.