



June 3, 2021

## Updated worship guidelines: a message from the rector

Dear all,

On Tuesday evening, I met with the vestry to begin our conversations about what steps we might take as a congregation to faithfully respond to the now three-week-old CDC guidelines and our bishops' affirmation of them.

As people committed to the way of Christ, all of what we decide must be centered on loving our neighbors as ourselves: from the children without access to the vaccine, to the people who are immuno-compromised, to the great many of you who *are* vaccinated and yearn to find the strength and solace of worshipping as a community in this historic and Spirit-filled place.

I think that's the result we ended up with: a few faithful steps that trust both science and the Spirit. Here's a summary:

- We're committed to streaming services into perpetuity. Our 9:00 a.m. service will be available every Sunday online.
- Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at all Sunday services. We'll have communion in one kind, bread only. As always, anyone who does not wish to receive communion may stay seated or come forward for a blessing instead.
- Masks will be optional for vaccinated people, but required for the unvaccinated.
- All pews will be available for seating and distancing will be done at one's own discretion. After nearly a year and a half of six-foot distance requirement, I'm sure it goes without saying that we ask you to respect the distance needed by your neighbor.
- At the 9:00 a.m., the parish hall will be reserved for those who would like to remain masked and distanced. The service will be streaming on the large television. I'll bring communion to anyone present in the parish hall after distributing in the nave.
- For those not ready to be indoors, we'll have a weekly 5:00 p.m. outdoor service of Holy Eucharist on the lawn.
- The fabled coffee hour will return! (following the 9:00 a.m. service.)

The bottom line is that we're making options available for folks while committing to the hope of this new time. Whatever your readiness for engagement, I hope you'll find a place in here that meets your particular comfort level. Most of all, I hope you'll find abundant grace and compassionate

consideration for whatever choices you're comfortable making in this transitional moment -- and more than that, that you will extend that same grace and consideration to those around you making different decisions.

You'll notice we focused on Sunday mornings here. We haven't yet begun conversations on congregational singing, the common cup, formation activities for all ages, or any of the other facets of ministry happening all around Christ Church. We have much to look forward to this summer as we expand the ways we're able to have formation, fellowship, and worship together.

Faithfully,  
Amber  
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